

## SYMBOLS AND GLOSSARY

### 1. SYMBOLS

The standard symbols shown in the table below are used to distinguish between (1) the sign (the word or lexia) "concrete"; (2) the signified that it conveys, 'concrete'; (3) the signifier associated with this sign, *concrete*, which is composed of the phonemes *k-o-n-k-r-E-t* and the letters *c-o-n-c-r-e-t-e*; (4) the seme /concrete/ (in 'knife', for example) or (5) the isotopy /concrete/ (in "steel knife", for example); and (7) the semantic class //concrete// (which contains the signifieds 'house', 'cat' and 'wind', for example).

#### Symbols used

	ELEMENT	SYMBOL	EXAMPLE
01	sign	"sign"	"water"
02	signifier	<i>signifier</i>	<i>water</i>
03	signified	'signified'	'water'
04	seme and isotopy	/seme/ and /isotopy/	/light/
05	case	(CASE)	(ERG)
06	semic molecule (when the relations between semes are not specified by cases)	/seme/ + /seme/	/dark/ + /negative/
07	class (semantic class, to be specific)	//class//	//times of day// (day and night)
08	interpretive rewriting	[rewriting] or source element →   rewriting]	<i>rite</i> → <i>[right]</i> "draft" (current of air) → ["draft"] (military conscription) 'eagle' →  United States of America
09	opposition	A / B	day / night
10	homologation	A : B :: C : D (A is to B as C is to D)	day: night:: light: darkness

### 2. GLOSSARY

In this short glossary we have included technical terms that are frequently used in this book, for the most part. We have also included a few terms that are secondary, but related to an important term in the glossary (such as "contradiction", which is related to "opposition"). The index can be used to find quite a number of other terms that are defined in the text of our book, especially those terms that are specific to a particular chapter (e.g., the terminology of the actantial model).

**Actualized:** the presential status of a seme when it is present and activated. For example, the seme /black/ is actualized in the signified 'crow' in "The crow is flying low". Antonym: Virtualized.

**Alterity:** a comparative relation between two different elements. Antonym: Identity. → Comparability.

**Analysis:** 1. An intellectual process that consists of breaking a unit down into its constituent elements. → Decomposition. 2. A text that presents the results of an analysis.

**Assumption:** 1. The act of assuming or taking on a logical proposition. 2. Assumptive: the status of a unit associated with the relative truth of a semiotic act (e.g., a text). Antonym: reference. → Reference.

**Case (semantic):** a relation defined between semes. Cases and semes correspond to the relations and the terms, respectively, of a semantic structure. For example, the ergative is a case linking the agent of an action to that action. Cases are written as uppercase abbreviations in parentheses, such as (ERG) for the ergative.

**Categorical:** the status of an element that does not admit gradations. Antonym: Incremental. For example, there are some oppositions that are generally viewed as categorical (life/death) and others that are viewed as incremental (hot/cold, rich/poor).

**Class:** a set of elements grouped together by virtue of one or more shared features. → Classification. The double forward slashes indicate a class, particularly a semantic class (a class of interdefined signifieds) (//class//).

**Classification:** 1. A set-related operation by which an element is indexed to a class. 2. A structure made up of classes and classified elements (e.g., scientific taxonomies, such as vertebrate / invertebrate for animals). 3. The set relation between a class and an element within the class. This element can represent a class itself: for example, the class //words// contains the class //verbs// (a class within a class) and the latter contains the verb "to like" (an element of a class).

**Comparability:** a comparative relation of partial identity/alterity between two terms. → Identity, Alterity.

**Contradiction:** one of two kinds of opposition, along with contrariety. Contradiction is the relation between an element and its negation, such as rich and not-rich.

**Contrariety:** one of two kinds of opposition, along with contradiction. The relation between black and white, or life and death, is one of contrariety.

**Correlation:** in the broad sense, the relation that holds between two terms (or correlates) when at least one of the terms varies as a function of the other. For example, a changing a sign's signifier causes a change in its signified (e.g., changing *moose* to *noose*), unless the two are synonymous. In the narrow sense, the

quantitative relation between two terms whose degree of presence varies as a function of one another. The correlation is said to be converse, or direct, if (1) an increase in one of the two terms is accompanied by an increase in the other and (2) a decrease in one term leads to a decrease in the other. The correlation is said to be inverse if an increase in one of the two terms is accompanied by a decrease in the other, and vice versa. Converse and inverse correlation can be compared to reciprocal presupposition and mutual exclusion, respectively.

**Decidable:** the status of a subject (the thing we are talking about) – particularly a proposition or a modal category – to which at least one predicate (what we say about it) out of the class of target predicates may be attributed; for example, *the earth rotates* (subject) is a decidable proposition with respect to veridictory status (the class of target predicates), that is, truth / falseness, because one can say that it is true (predicate), and therefore, its veridictory status is decidable. If the predicate cannot be assigned a status, the subject is said to be undecidable. If the predicate has not (yet) been assigned a status, the subject is said to be undecided; for instance, as long as the jury has not come to a decision, the guilt of the person charged is undecided.

**Decomposition:** 1. A mereological operation (relating to wholes and their parts) by which a unit is broken down into its constituent elements. Synonym: Analysis 1. 2. The mereological relation between an element and its constituent parts, such as the relation between a word and the letters that compose it. Synonym: Breakdown.

**Directionality:** the state of an element that operates in a specific direction. A relation may be directional or non-directional; if directional, it may operate in one direction or in both directions. For example, the relation between subject and object is oriented in both directions, in that the two are interdefined; and since the subject is directed toward its object, and not vice versa, there is also a unidirectional relation between them.

**Grapheme:** a unit of the graphic linguistic signifier that corresponds to a letter (*a, b, c*, etc.). The grapheme is to the graphic linguistic signifier what the phoneme is to the phonic linguistic signifier. "Grapheme" can also designate a letter or a group of letters corresponding to a phoneme (for example, the group *c + h*, corresponding to the phoneme [k] in *chaos*).

**Homologation:** a relation between (at least) two pairs of opposite elements, such that for two oppositions A/B and C/D, one can say that (usually or always) A is to B as C is to D. The formal notation of a homology is written in the following manner: A : B :: C : D. For example, in our culture, white : black :: life : death :: positive : negative (white is to black as life is to death, as positive is to negative).

**Identity:** a comparative relation between elements that have exactly the same characteristics. Antonym: Alterity.  
→ Comparability.

**Inclusive relation** → Classification, Decomposition.

**Incremental** → Categorial.

**Isotopic bundle** → Semic molecule.

**Isotopy:** a unit created by the recurrence of one seme in different signifieds. For example, in "There was a fine ship, carved from solid gold / With azure reaching masts, on seas unknown" (Émile Nelligan, "The Golden Ship"), an isotopy /navigation/ is created through the repetition of the seme /navigation/ in the words "ship", "masts" and "seas". Isotopies are represented by using forward slashes, as are the semes that define them (/isotopy/).

**Lexia:** a stable grouping of morphemes. The morphemes in the group can occupy multiple morphemic signifiers ("return", "bakery", "horsepower", "wear out") or only one morphemic signifier ("sheep", "went") in a case of syncretism; they can include multiple words ("wear out", "basket case") or just one ("bakery", "climber").

**Mereological** → Decomposition.

**Modality, modal category, modal status:** highly general evaluative characteristics attributed by an observing subject to an object being observed. We make a distinction between the modal categories, which are classes of characteristics (veridictory category, ontological category, thymic category) and modal statuses or values, which are specific characteristics belonging to these classes (veridictory status: true, false; thymic value: euphoric, dysphoric). Each modal category has a very limited inventory of specific values. Rastier (1997, p. 53) adopts all of the following modal categories without favoring any particular one (the specific values associated with each category are in parentheses): ontological (the modes of being: actual (real), counterfactual (unreal or impossible), and possible); veridictory (true, false, etc.); alethic (necessity, possibility, impossibility, contingency); epistemic (certain, established, demonstrated, excluded, plausible, contestable, uncertain, known, unknown, etc.); deontic (required, permitted, prohibited, optional); buletic (optative notions, such as desires, wishes, and will); thymic (euphoric, dysphoric, etc.); and semiotic (such as *de re, de dicto*, which concern the "thing" versus the utterance).

**Morpheme:** the minimal linguistic sign. For example, "retropropulsion" includes five morphemes.

**Mutual exclusion:** the relation between two elements that cannot appear together. This type of relation can be described as "either ... or ..." (either one term or the other). Synonym: Incompatibility (strong). For example, in reality, a single element cannot be simultaneously alive and dead, which does not necessarily apply to a semiotic act (such as a fantasy story). We can represent mutual exclusion by using two arrows that face each other (A →← B) or two arrows separated by a line (A ←|→ B). Antonym: Presupposition.

**Opposition:** the comparative relation between elements that are more or less incompatible. → Mutual exclusion. We distinguish two kinds of opposition: contrariety (e.g., true / false) and contradiction (e.g., true / not-true). A forward slash represents an oppositional relation between terms, such as life/death.

**Pheme:** the minimal unit of the signifier. In the context of phonic linguistic signifiers, the pheme is a phonological feature (a phoneme being the sum of its phonological features); in the context of written linguistic signifiers, the pheme is a graphemic feature (e.g., the vertical line and the dot are the two phemes that make up an *i*). The pheme is to the signifier as the seme is to the signified.

**Phoneme:** a distinct sound of the phonic linguistic signifier. For example, the French word *bateau* includes four phonemes. The French language has 36 phonemes (16 oral vowels and 20 oral consonants). Brackets are used to represent phonemes (for example, the phoneme [f] in French corresponds to the letters *-ch*, as in *cheval*).

**Predicate** → Subject.

**Presential relation** → Mutual exclusion, Presupposition.

**Presupposition:** a relation in which the presence of one term (the presupposing term) implies the presence of another term (the presupposed term). This type of relation can be described as "both ... and ..." (both one term and the other). Simple presupposition is a unidirectional relation (A presupposes B, but not the reverse); for example, the presence of a wolf presupposes the presence of a mammal (since the wolf is a mammal), but the presence of a mammal does not presuppose the presence of a wolf (since the mammal could be a dog, for instance). Reciprocal presupposition is a bidirectional relation (A presupposes B and B presupposes A); for example, the back side of a sheet of paper presupposes the front, and vice versa. As with mutual exclusion, the terms of a presuppositional relation can be simultaneous (the examples of the wolf and the sheet of paper) or successive (as in this simple presupposition: the act of stealing presupposes the idea of stealing, but the idea does not necessarily presuppose the act). We can represent simple presupposition by an arrow (A presupposes B:  $A \rightarrow B$ , or  $B \leftarrow A$ ) and reciprocal presupposition by a bidirectional arrow ( $A \leftrightarrow B$ ). Antonym of reciprocal presupposition: Mutual exclusion.

**Proposition:** 1. In syntax, a unit expressed by a verbal group (obvious or implied). A sentence includes one or more propositions. 2. In logic, a proposition (attributive) is broken down into a subject (the thing we are talking about) and a predicate (what we say about it).

**Prototype:** → Type.

**Reference:** 1. A relation whose target term is a referent. 2. The referent itself. 3. The status of a unit, especially a proposition, that is associated with the absolute truth of a semiotic act. An assumptive unit, which is associated with relative truth, maybe contradicted by the corresponding reference unit. For example, in a fantasy text, "Ghosts exist" is (1) a true reference proposition; (2) a true or false assumptive proposition for a specific character at a specific time. Antonym: Assumptive → Assumption.

**Referent:** in the triadic conception of the sign, the referent is the third term of the sign. It is the thing to which the sign refers. The "thing to which the sign refers" is generally considered to be the element that this sign designates in the world. Depending on the theory, the referent of the sign "apple", can be an apple, a particular apple that one may have in mind, or the set of all apples. → Reference.

**Reflexivity:** the property of a relation in which a term is linked to itself. Adjective: reflexive. Antonym: Transitivity.

**Relation:** a link between elements known as terms or *relata* (*relatum* in the singular). Some relations are correlations. → Correlation. Relations can be interpreted from a categorial (absolute) or an incremental (relative) perspective. From a categorial standpoint, for example, there is a mutually exclusive relation between two terms if and only if each time one of the terms appears, the other term is absent and vice versa; from an incremental standpoint, there is mutual exclusion if this situation applies in at least half of the cases plus one. To give another example, from an absolute perspective, no material object is identical to another (under a microscope, every sheet of paper is different from every other sheet). A relation can be described using various criteria. It may be non-directional, unidirectional (where one element and is directed toward another, but not the reverse) or bidirectional (reciprocal); it may be monadic, dyadic, triadic, and so on.

**Represented:** 1. In the broad sense, the status of an element of semiotic content (the signified) and/or cognitive content (a concept), as opposed to the same element in reality. Antonym: Real. The opposition represented/real is used to distinguish between represented time (e.g., the thematized time in "Once upon a time" stories) and real time. 2. In the narrow sense, "represented" applies to an element of cognitive and thematized content, an element of semiotic content (signifieds). In simple terms, we say that an element is thematized if at least one seme of the same name is actualized. For instance, fear is thematized in a text if the seme /fear/ is actualized in it at least once.

**Rhythm:** the effect of an element's recurrence in a different temporal position. For example, in "Red sky at morning, sailors take warning; Red sky at night, sailors delight", the semes /red/, /sky/, /sailors/, and /emotion/ in the first segment recur in the second segment, in the same order. In order to describe a rhythmic pattern, one should identify (1) the number of units in the grouping (even and odd structures, two-count and three-count patterns, etc.); (2) the number of units that can occupy each position (e.g., two in a chiasmus); (3) the arrangement of the pattern (e.g., a four-count two-pulse rhythm can be inverted (A-B-B-A), alternating (A-B-A-B) or paired (A-A-B-B)); rhythms can be cyclical or non-cyclical); (4) the kind of unit involved (semes, phonemes, images, etc.) and (5) the specific units involved (a specific seme, a specific phoneme, etc.). → Time, Succession.

**Semantics:** the study and theory of signs, especially linguistic signs, from the perspective of their signifieds.

- Seme: a signified is broken down into semes, which are the smallest units of signification defined by the analysis. For example, the signified "fork" is the sum of its semes, including /food/, /for piercing/, and others. A seme is written between forward slashes, such as /black/.
- Sememe: the signified of a morpheme. → Semia.
- Semia: the signified of a lexia. → Sememe.
- Semic molecule: a cluster of at least two co-recurring semes (appearing together in at least two different semantic units, such as two words). There is necessarily a group of isotopies (an isotopic bundle) corresponding to the molecule, and it indexes more or less the same signifieds. For example, in "*L'aube allume la source*" ["Dawn lights up the spring"] (Paul Éluard), there is a molecule composed of the semes /process/ and /beginning/ (and other semes), which appears in the verb and in each of the two nouns.
- Semiotics: the study and theory of signs and systems of signification (including, but not restricted to language).
- Set → Classification.
- Sign: a sign may be recognized by the presence of its constituent elements (or by its function, since it is something used in the place of something else). In Saussure's dyadic formulation of the sign, the two parts are: the signifier, which is the "perceptible" part of the sign (for example, the letters in "ship") and the signified, which is the understandable part of the sign, the semantic content or meaning associated with the signifier. We use quotation marks to indicate a sign, such as "tomato". A sign may be classified according to various criteria. In terms of its scope, for example, we distinguish the minimal sign and the maximal sign; in linguistics these are the morpheme and the complete text (oral or written) (and Hjelmslev even includes the complete works of an author as a sign). → Referent.
- Signified: the understandable part of the sign, which is broken down into semes (or features of meaning). For example, the signified of the sign "crow" is the sum of the semes /bird/, /black/, and so on. The signified is represented in single quotation marks: 'crow'. Antonym: Signifier. → Referent.
- Signifier: the "perceptible" part of the sign. The linguistic sign includes a phonic signifier (composed of phonemes) and a graphic signifier (composed of letters or graphemes). In actuality, the signifier and the signified are both mental constructs, but signifiers (e.g., phonemes, the subject of phonology) have direct correlates in the physical world (e.g., when phonemes take form as particular sounds, which is the subject of phonetics), and as such, are part of perception. The physical correlates of a given signifier can be called stimuli. The signifier is represented in italics: *boat* is the signifier of the sign "boat". Antonym: Signified. → Referent.
- Simultaneity: the relation between terms associated with the same initial and final temporal positions, and thus with the same temporal range (duration). Synonym: Concomitance. Antonym: Succession. A distinction can be made between (1) strict simultaneity (addressed in our definition) and the following kinds of (2) partial simultaneity: (2.1) inclusive simultaneity (the duration of one term remains completely within the duration of the other, and is exceeded by it); (2.1.1) inclusive simultaneity in which the initial positions coincide; (2.1.2) inclusive simultaneity in which the final positions coincide; (2.1.3) inclusive simultaneity in which the initial and final positions do not coincide; (2.2) simultaneity-succession (partial simultaneity and succession). → Succession.
- Stimulus → Signifier.
- Structure: an element composed of at least two terms with at least one relation specified between them.
- Subject: 1. In logic, the first term of a proposition (an attributive one), which corresponds to the thing we are talking about. Antonym: Predicate. → Proposition. 2. Element whose focus is directed toward an object. Antonym: Object. Observing subject: a subject who performs an interpretation. The observing subject may be the analyst or a represented subject (e.g., a character).
- Succession: the relation between terms in which the final temporal position of one term precedes the initial position of the other term. Synonym: Consecution. Antonym: Simultaneity. In immediate succession, the initial position of the second term comes immediately after the final position of the first term; otherwise succession is said to be mediate or delayed. A distinction can also be made between strict succession (addressed in the preceding definitions) and simultaneity-succession, a form of partial simultaneity and succession. → Simultaneity.
- Temporal relation → Simultaneity, Succession.
- Term: 1. A designation composed of one or more words that belongs to a specific terminology. A term is thus a notion (or concept) associated with a given signifier. For example, "signified" is a term from semiotics. 2. An element joined to some other element by a relation. Synonyms: *Relatum*, *Relata* (plural).
- Thematized: → Represented.
- Time: 1. The substrate in which simultaneity and succession take place. → Simultaneity, Succession. 2. The result of a succession of units. 3. A reference point (either relative or absolute, precise or imprecise) associated with one or more units (initial and final positions and duration, which is the time interval between the two positions). We distinguish between three fundamental kinds of time: (1) thematized time, which relates to the chronology of the states and events of the story related in a semiotic act (perhaps with only minimal indications such as a single verb like "will marry", which tells a mini-story); (2) what we call tactical time (from the Greek "*taktikhê*", "the art of ordering or arranging"), which is created by the sequencing of the "real" units of the semiotic act (signs, signifiers or signifieds; e.g., for signs we have words, syntagms, sentences, groups of sentences, etc.); this sequencing may be strongly constrained (in a movie) or weakly constrained (in a painting). These two kinds of time may or may not coincide (for instance, the second event

in the story may be presented in the first sentence and the first event in the second sentence). Fictitious time is a simulacrum of (3) real time.

Token → Type.

Transformation: 1. The process by which some relation other than identity becomes established between what a term was and what it has become. 2. The result of this process. Transformation may be represented by an apostrophe, where *O'* indicates the transformation of an object *O*, for instance.

Transitivity: the property of a relation in which a term is linked to some term other than itself. Antonym: Reflexivity.

Type: a type is an abstract unit that is manifested to varying degrees through its tokens (its occurrences or replicas). Antonym: Token. For example, independent of context (at the level of *langue*), the signified "water" is a type, manifested by its various usages in context, in particular expressions (e.g., "firewater") and utterances ("I like the muddy water in this river"). Strictly speaking, a type is not a class, because it does not *contain* the token units governed by it. However, as a model that possesses the defining features of a class, a type may be associated with a class. The element that is judged as most representative of a class is known as a prototype (e.g., the goldfish is the prototype for the class //aquarium fish//); the other elements of the class differ to some degree from the prototype.

Undecidable → Decidable.

Undecided → Decidable.

Virtualized: the presential status of a seme when it is present, but neutralized. For example, the seme /black/ is virtualized in the signified 'crow' in "The albino crow is flying low". Antonym: Actualized.

Word: a cluster of completely integrated morphemes whose units cannot be separated by a space or a hyphen in written form ("strongest", "election", "women"). → Lexia.