

*ANNOTATION:*

## Sign Meaning and Social Context

(Submitted to fulfill the requirement of Language in Use assignment)

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## Foreword

Formerly, semiotics is stated as science of sign. What studied in semiotics is the meaning of sign (lately the meaning of sign is studied in several subjects such as semantics and pragmatics). However, meaning of the sign is not embedded to the sign itself. The meaning giving is depended to the context, either social context or psychological context. Simply, social context of a sign expressed/impressed is about (1) the way of the speaker (signifier) expresses an utterance (sign), (2) what situation and theme the speaker and the hearer interact each other, (3) the culture and norms the speaker and hearer believe. Meanwhile, some writers emphasize mental aspects as the basic of sign expression, thus psychological factors are considered. However, human psyche is also affected on the social environment. The following notes are focused on the social context of the meaning. All notes are taken from journals and article in different sources in internet and are available accessed.

**Miyata. "On Husserl's Theory of Language"**. Meaning is related to sign because meaning is always indicated by sign. Edmund Husserl stated that every sign is sign for something, but not every sign has meaning. In this case, Husserl defines significant (meaningful) and insignificant (does not have meaning) sign. A sign is meaningful if it is in sense and has indicative function (a sign that indicate something). *Published in a journal site with title Husserl's Theory of Language, accessed in: <http://hw001.gate01.com/miya33x/paper9.html>*

**Swam, Michael. "Grammar, Meaning and Pragmatics: Sorting Out the Muddle"**. A sign, whether it is word or something else will be more meaningful when it exists contextually. In his article, Swam states that Hymes (1971) meaning is not only understood in grammar or dictionary (Because - as we are constantly reminded - the dictionary/grammar meaning of any utterance underdetermines its meaning in context: its "value", or the role it plays in the ongoing communication) but also the rules that determine the appropriateness or otherwise of utterances in context. *This article was published in teaching English second language journal and can be accessed in: <http://tesl-ej.org/ej42/a4.html>*

**Ajdukiewiz. "Ajdukiewiz's Theory of Meaning"**. To understand (to interpret) a meaning of sign or term contextually, we have to know the way of in which the users of the language determine the referent of the term, then our observations seem to lead to the assertion that effective communication need not at all demand from speakers an identical understanding of the terms

used by term (giving them the same meaning). It is enough if they ascribe to them the same referents. *This article was published in The Second Summer School for Theory of Knowledge and can be accessed in: [http://come.to/summer\\_school](http://come.to/summer_school)*

**Dale, Russell Elliot. "The Theory of Meaning".** The meaning of a sign (word) is agreed by language user (language society); meaning is not "embedded" to the sign (word). As what Dale state, by quoting Welby (Victoria Welby 1837-1912) that words are conventional signs. They mean what they are intended to mean by the speaker and understood to mean by the hearer. *This Scientific writing can be accessed in: [www.russelldale.com/dissertation/](http://www.russelldale.com/dissertation/)*

**Wilensky, Robert. "A Framework for a Theory of Meaning"** Meaning consists of three types: literal meaning, sentence meaning and speaker's meaning. Independently, every sentence has meaning as combination of the words' meaning. The word "cut" in every sentence is same, but its contribution in communicated meaning completely different. This article was published in: <http://www.aclweb.org/anthology-new/T/T87/T87-1021.pdf>

**Menant, Cristophe. "Introduction to a Systemic Theory of Meaning".** Menant tends to link "meaning" to "human mind". Meaning is the information processed by human. A meaning is meaningful information that is created by a system submitted to a constraint when it receives external information that has a connection with the constraint. The meaning is formed of the connection existing between the received information and the constraint of the system. The function of the meaningful information is to participate to the determination of an action that will be implemented in order to satisfy the constraint of the system. *This article was accessed in: <http://www.afscet.asso.fr/resSystemica/Crete02/Menant.pdf>*

**Boucher, Andrew. "A Theory of Meaning".** Boucher defines meaning in two terms: Personal meaning and community meaning. Personal meaning of a word is build by believes, memories, lifestyle, experiences, and the manner in which he or she learned the word. Meanwhile, community means a word a *community* meaning. The two depend on one another. Community meanings are in part a function of the personal meanings of the individuals making up the community. The personal meanings develop in large part because of an individual's interaction with the community and his assimilation of the community meaning. *This article was accessed in: <http://www.andrewboucher.com/papers/meaning.pdf>*

**Laird & Byrne. "Conditionals: A Theory of Meaning, Pragmatics, and Inference".** Meaning here is still related to the context (situation) of which the sentence, or word or sign is used or is communicated. They assume that the meaning of a sentence when it is used in a particular context functions to refer to a situation or to a set of situations. Most sentences, however, can be used to express many different meanings, depending on their context. *This journal was published in Psychological Review year 2002 Vol.109. No. 4, 646-678 and can be accessed in: <http://www.sfu.ca/~jeffpell/Cogs300/J-LByrneConditionals.pdf>*

**Fail, Lie. "Corpus Linguistics: Meaning in Context"**. In this article, Fail stated that Language was determined as a mental process, but social factors should be included in the linguistics analysis. Language should not be analyzed separately from both mental construction and social factors. Although they are completely different in a few science fields. Fail divides meaning resources in two terms: traditional resources (e.g. Dictionary) are primarily word-focused and pragmatical context. By quoting Lindquist With the emergence of computer tools for translators, texts have become increasingly useful as a rich source of lexical data that enable translators not only to identify appropriate collocations but also to interpret lexical items in their pragmatic and linguistic contexts. *This article was published and accessed in:* <http://www.proz.com/translation-articles/articles/50/1/Corpus-Linguistics:-Meaning-in-Context>

**Syrett & Kennedy & Lidz. "Meaning and Context in Children's Understanding of Gradable Adjectives"**. Understanding of relationship between meaning and context where the meaning is communicated is a significant part considered in interpreting expression or sign expressed. As what they stated A significant part of becoming a competent language user requires understanding the relation between context and meaning. *This journal was published and accessed in:* <http://www.ling.umd.edu/labs/acquisition/papers/syrettkennedylidz07.pdf>