Saussurean Structuralism: Considerations Regarding the Value of the Linguistic Sign
Saussurian Structuralism: Considerations About The Value Of The Linguistic Sign

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Summary

This work aims to discuss the main concepts developed by Ferdinand de Saussure in the field of structuralist linguistics, especially regarding the degree of value of the linguistic sign, which, broadly speaking, is conceptualized as the basic unit of language composed of two inseparable parts: the signified (or concept) and the signifier (or acoustic image). For the linguist, the linguistic sign is crucial for understanding the structure and functioning of language, in addition to having profound implications for human communication and the construction of meanings within a society. This study focuses predominantly on the reflections of Saussure (2006). The research also incorporates contributions from Neumann and Garcia dos Anjos (2018), Fiorin (2017), Neves (2005), Martelotta (2012), among others. The research presented here is characterized as bibliographic, which, according to (Severino, 2013 apud Sakamoto and Silveira, 2014), consists of the review and critical analysis of existing literature on a given research topic or problem, not limited to the simple collection of references, but involving a deep investigation of the ideas, theories, methodologies, and discoveries presented by various authors in relation to the studied topic; here, in particular, the main material analyzed is the "Course in General Linguistics".
Keywords: Ferdinand de Saussure. Structuralism. Linguistic sign.

Abstract

This paper aims to discuss the main concepts developed by Ferdinand de Saussure in the field of structuralist linguistics, especially regarding the degree of value of the linguistic sign, which is roughly conceptualized as the basic unit of language made up of two inseparable parts: the signified (or concept) and the signifier (or acoustic image). For linguists, the linguistic sign is crucial for understanding the structure and functioning of language, as well as having profound implications for human communication and the construction of meanings within a society. This study focuses predominantly on the reflections of Saussure (2006). The research includes contributions from Neumann and Garcia dos Anjos (2018), Fiorin (2017), Neves (2005), Martelotta (2012), among others. The research in question is characterized as bibliographical, which for (Severino, 2013 apud Sakamoto and Silveira, 2014) consists of the review and critical analysis of existing literature on a particular topic or research problem, not limited to the simple collection of references, but involving a deep investigation of the ideas, theories, methodologies and discoveries presented by various authors in relation to the subject studied, here in particular, the main material analyzed is the "Course of General Linguistics".

Keywords: Ferdinand Saussure. Structuralism. Linguistic sign.

1. Introduction: Saussure and his reflections on the linguistic sign

The work of the Swiss linguist and philosopher Ferdinand de Saussure, as presented in the Course on Linguistics.

General (hereinafter CLG) influenced much of the linguistic thought that preceded it. Therefore,

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His importance becomes undeniable, given that the concepts and approaches he brought were...

responsible for establishing linguistics as a science and for its peak, in structuralist theory.

The linguist is known for his fundamental contribution to linguistic structuralism.

especially because of its dichotomies that help to structure and understand language and its

functioning within linguistic systems. We present below the main dichotomies.

Saussurean.

Signifier and Signified: the author distinguishes between the signifier, which is the physical or sound form.

of a linguistic sign (such as the letters and sounds that make up a word), and the meaning, which is the

concept or idea associated with that sign. For Saussure (2006, p. 80): "The linguistic sign unites not

One thing is a name, but a concept and an acoustic image are also different. These two elements are...

Intimately united, they call upon one another. Together, they form a unity, like the two sides.

"From a sheet of paper." In other words, these two elements are inseparable and together form the sign.

linguistic, which will be the subject of our study in this work.

Synchrony and Diachrony: Saussure (2006) proposed a distinction between synchronic linguistics and

Diachronic. For the linguist, synchrony studies the structure and elements of a language in a diachronic context.

a specific point in time, without considering its historical evolution. On the other hand, diachrony

It investigates the changes and developments of a language over time.

Language and Speech: (Langue and Parrole): The Swiss master differentiates between *langue* (language), which is the

An abstract and structured system of rules and conventions that enables communication within a

linguistic community, and *parole* (speech), which refers to the individual and concrete application of these rules.

in everyday communicative practice. Furthermore, according to Neumann and Garcia dos Anjos (2018), the

Language is a semiological convention, as it is a set of signs that designate various notions.

In this sense, the Genevan linguist states that it is acceptable to understand this science as semiology.

since it studies signs in social life.

We can say that these dichotomies are central to Saussure's linguistic theory and have

have been fundamental not only for the structural study of language, but also for the

development of areas such as semiotics and literary theory. They help to elucidate the complex

Relationships between linguistic elements and the dynamics of language as a communicative system.

We recognize the importance of all of them; however, here we will focus on the meaning of x.

Significant, since the intention is to reflect on the importance of the value of the linguistic sign.

Saussure highlighted the importance of the value of the sign, that is, the relationship between the signifier (the

physical or sound form of the sign, such as a written or spoken word) and the meaning (the image

acoustics, the concept or idea that the sign represents). This relationship is arbitrary, that is, "the sign

Linguistic meaning is unmotivated, since there is nothing in the nature of the signifier that necessarily links it.

to meaning" (Saussure, 2006, p. 101). Thus, there is no natural connection between the word and

the object it represents. Therefore, understanding the value of the sign is central to understanding how the

Language works and how meaning is constructed in the minds of speakers.

Language, in turn, the object of study of Linguistics as defined by Saussure, can

to be understood as a system of signs. Therefore, the linguistic sign or linguistic unit is

"a double thing, constituted by the union of two terms" (Saussure, 2006, p. 79), both psychic and

united, in the brains of speakers, by an associative link:

> The linguistic sign unites not a thing and a word, but a concept and an acoustic image. This is not the material sound, a purely physical thing, but the psychic impression of that sound, the representation given to us by the testimony of our senses; such an image is sensory and, if we come to call it "material," it is only in this sense, and in opposition to the other term of the association, the concept, which is generally more abstract (Saussure, 2006, p. 80).

We understand that such consideration insightfully illustrates the arbitrary and relational nature

of language, using an analogy with the game of chess proposed by Saussure. The comparison

The comparison between chess pieces and linguistic units highlights the value assigned to each of them.

It is not intrinsically linked to its materiality, but rather to the relationships and oppositions that it establishes.

within the system, as Fiorin (2017, p. 27) argues: "linguistic signs have no value in

They are not inherent in themselves, but they acquire value based on the relationships they establish with other signs within the...

system."

This statement highlights the arbitrary and dual nature of the sign, composed of a concept and a...

Acoustic image. Saussure emphasizes that the acoustic image does not refer to the physical sound itself, but rather...

to the psychic impression that this sound generates in our senses. This image is sensory and, although it is

Called "material," this only occurs in contrast to the concept, which is generally more...

abstract.

This reflection demonstrates the complexity of Saussure's view of the linguistic sign.

Although he highlights the distinction between the physical and mental aspects of the sign, the question of

Arbitrariness is not as simple as it seems. For example, while Saussure emphasizes the

arbitrariness of the link between the signifier (the acoustic image) and the signified (the concept), some

Critics argue that this relationship is not entirely arbitrary, but rather conventional, a

since there is a certain regularity within a linguistic community.

Furthermore, Saussure's emphasis on the dichotomy between the material and the mental can be seen

as a limitation, since it does not fully consider the dynamic interaction between these elements. Or

To put it better, changes in how a word is pronounced can affect perception.

its meaning over time, which suggests a more complex relationship between materiality

of sound and the mental representation it evokes. In this context, while Saussure's perspective...

It offers valuable insights into the nature of the linguistic sign; it is also important to consider

its limitations and explore broader approaches that take into account the complexity of the relationship.

between sound, meaning, and linguistic context.

Saussurean theory posits that, in order to study the facts of language, one must attribute to...

Language plays an essential role, since it is the object that constitutes the linguistic unit. Language is

considered as a closed system of signs that express ideas, existing as a union of

Meanings and acoustic images. This union between a concept (meaning) and an image.

The acoustic element (signifier) is called a linguistic sign.

With regard to the theory of the linguistic sign, Saussurean studies view the sign as being...

a psychic entity, formed by two interdependent aspects that, at the same time,

inseparable. The theory of the linguistic sign, proposed by Saussure's structuralism (2006), defines

that the sign is the union of a concept and an acoustic image, that is, of a meaning and a

significant.

Considering language as a system of signs, Saussure (2006) clarifies that meaning

The intelligible concept of a word is the signifier. The signifier, in turn, is the perceptible part of the sign.

Therefore, the constitution of the linguistic sign is geared towards the union of a signifier (image)

(acoustic) and of a concept, an idea, that is, of meaning. The signifier is to the phonic matter

just as meaning relates to ideas, it relates to concepts. This is one of the dichotomies.

established in the General Linguistics Course, by the aforementioned author.

It is also worth emphasizing that, for Saussure, the sign is arbitrary in relation to its meaning.

Definition constitutes one of the fundamental principles contained in the Course of General Linguistics, namely:

the arbitrariness of the sign. Saussure's argument to explain this first principle states

That a word, a meaning, can have multiple signifiers.

To prove his point, Saussure argues about the existence of

different languages, giving an example with the word "boi," which in Portuguese means

In English, it means an animal, and in the English language it means a boy or lad. The linguist also clarifies that

Although the linguistic sign is arbitrary, this does not mean that the meaning of a word is arbitrary.

It depends on each speaker's individual choice.

In fact, arbitrariness refers to the fact that the relationship between the signifier (the form of the

The word) and its meaning (the concept it represents) are not natural or logical, but rather conventional.

and established by the linguistic community. In other words, for the Genevan scientist, social convention is

What determines the meaning of words, in other words, is the community of speakers themselves.

which assigns meaning to words, and not to each individual in isolation. The author states that the

The signifier is unmotivated, that is, arbitrary in relation to the signified, having no relation to it.

natural in relation to reality.

Another principle that is also linked to studies on the linguistic sign is that of linearity.

of the signifier. For Saussure (2006, p. 142), "terms establish between themselves, by virtue of their

"Chaining, relationships based on the linear nature of language." In other words, acoustic signifiers are

represented by an extension. The material part of the sign is made up of elements that are

successive words, forming a linear chain, means that we cannot utter two words at once.

At the same time, but rather to emit one phoneme at a time in the speech chain.

Therefore, arbitrariness refers to the fact that there is no natural relationship between the form of a

Words and their meaning. Thus, words are conventional and their meaning is assigned by...

society. Linearity, on the other hand, refers to the organization of words in a linear sequence.

Forming sentences and expressing meaning means that word order in a sentence is crucial.

for understanding its meaning. These concepts are fundamental to understanding how the

Language works. However, the concept that interests us most in this article is that of *"value of*

"linguistic sign," a concept that we will see next so that we can understand its importance for

Saussurean structuralism.

2. Value and Meaning in Ferdinand de Saussure's Linguistic Theory

Ferdinand de Saussure, a pioneer of structural linguistics, introduced fundamental concepts.

which revolutionized the understanding of language and linguistic structure. Central to his theory

The distinction lies between "value" and "meaning," essential elements that delineate both the structure.

internal workings of signs as well as their use in human communication.

Saussure defines the "value" of the linguistic sign as an emergent structural property.

of the differential relationships within a linguistic system. According to the linguist (2006), language is

composed of signs that communicate thoughts. This definition implies that the meaning of a

A sign does not reside in its form in isolation, but in the relationship it maintains with other signs in

system. Thus, the value of a sign is defined by the position it occupies within the system of

contrasts that make up language, as Saussure (2006) states.

On the other hand, "signification" refers to the dynamic process of assigning meaning.

during the use of language. According to Saussure (2006), the value of the sign remains stable,

while meaning can vary. This concept highlights that the meaning of a sign is constructed

through discursive practice and social conventions, varying according to the communicative context and

the intentions of the speakers.

The distinction between value and meaning is not merely semantic; it underlies the analysis.

The structural aspects of language and their theoretical implications. As Saussure (2006) observes, in the CLG, the value

The characteristic of a sign consists of the opposition that separates one expression from the others within a system.

A structural approach allows for an understanding of language not as a collection of words.

isolated, but as an organized system of differential relationships.

According to Saussure (2006), the study of value and meaning is not limited to the static analysis of

linguistic elements, but it extends to the dynamics of human communication. He argues that the

Language is a result of social interactions, suggesting that both value and meaning are...

constructed through collective and cultural relationships. For Voloshinov (2013), language arises from

collective activity of human beings, mirroring and modifying in its elements the organization

economic and sociopolitical context of the society that created it. This perspective implies that language does not

It not only reflects, but also constitutes social structures and forms of knowledge.

The influence of Saussurean concepts of value and meaning extends beyond...

Structural linguistics, encompassing fields such as semiotics, anthropology, and cultural studies. From

According to Saussure (2006), the meaning of linguistic signs is not exclusively confined to...

whether it is a social or individual phenomenon, it occupies a complex intermediate position. This view

It highlights the complexity of linguistic interpretation and the interaction between sign systems and practices.

social.

In summary, Saussure's theory of value and meaning offers a conceptual framework.

powerful for the analysis of human language and communication. By distinguishing between the structure

The internal structure of signs (value) and the process of assigning meaning (signification) provide insights.

in-depth insights into the nature of language as a symbolic and socially constructed system.

For Dubois:

> Linguistic value is the meaning of a unit defined by the relative positions of that unit in the linguistic system. Value is opposed to meaning defined by reference to the material world (substance). Thus, coins, "notes," and checks are different manifestations of one and the same value; similarly, linguistic units remain the same, regardless of the sounds that represent them; they retain the same value, whether realized phonetically or graphically. Saussure used the image of the game of chess to illustrate the notion of linguistic value; a piece in the game, the queen, for example, is essentially defined by its position in the rules of the game; this "value" can be assumed by diverse material forms (Dubois, 1978, p. 609).

According to the author, we perceive, in fact, that there is a well-defined opposition between value and

significance. Dubois' analogy with coins, banknotes, and checks illustrates this distinction. All of these

Different material forms represent the same economic or symbolic value. Similarly,

Linguistic units (such as words or phonemes) can be realized in different ways.

(phonetically or graphically), but they retain the same linguistic value within the system.

structural aspects of language. For example, the word "house" has the same linguistic value,

regardless of how it is pronounced or written, because its meaning is determined by

its position and function within the structure of the language.

In summary, Saussure's theory of value and meaning offers a robust theoretical foundation.

for the analysis of human language and communication. By distinguishing between value and meaning, Saussure

It not only profoundly influenced the field of linguistics, but also provided vast...

knowledge that was fundamental to understanding cultural and social dynamics.

associated with language. Finally, Dubois evokes Ferdinand de Saussure with the image of the game of

chess, to focus more precisely on issues related to linguistic value, a point of

The interest of this study, which will be presented below.

3. The value of the linguistic sign and the analogy of the game of chess.

The value of the linguistic sign is extremely important, as it is related to the ability to...

communication and understanding between speakers of a language. According to Saussure (2006), in language,

In addition to a connection of meaning between the sign and the object, there is, primarily, a relationship of

value among the signs themselves. Thus, value lies in their ability to represent concepts and

objects, allowing people to express themselves and understand each other. For Bouquet (1997),

Linguistic signs have an inherent value and are self-referential, that is, they are structured in

a linguistic system that possesses intrinsic value, since they are arbitrary and grounded

at conventions.

Within the linguistic system, therefore, the value of the sign is determined by the relationship between the

The signifier (the form of the word) and the signified (the concept it represents). This relationship is crucial.

for the effective transmission of information and for the construction of shared meanings within

of a linguistic community. In this conception, understanding the value of the linguistic sign helps us

to understand how words function as vehicles of meaning and how language

It plays a fundamental role in our daily lives.

To better understand the concept of the linguistic sign, as proposed by Ferdinand de

Saussure, let us examine the analogical relationship of the sign with the "game of chess," as shown by the linguist of

various ways. For him, it's like in chess, where each piece has a meaning and a function.

Specifically within the game, words, in a linguistic sign, have specific meanings and functions.

within a language. Furthermore, just like in chess, where the pieces have specific movements.

Just as words are governed by rules, they also have grammatical rules that determine how they are used.

They can be combined in certain orders to form meaningful sentences.

To exemplify this concept, let's look at the sentence: *"the boy fell off his bicycle,"* we notice that

Here, there is a sequence of words combined to form a comprehensible statement. Seen from

Alternatively, if we move these same words to other positions in the sentence, the meaning can be...

harmed, as in the example: *"boy's bicycle fell off".* If we analyze, in this example, the

The words don't combine in a way that makes the sentence comprehensible, which hinders our understanding.

understanding.

Saussure (2006) makes an interesting comparison between language and the game of chess. He

He argues that, just like in chess, the pieces have specific movements and rules that determine them.

How can they move on the board? It's the same with words. There are rules.

which must be followed in the language so that sentences and statements are understood by their

speakers. In the game of chess, for example, the *knight* 's movement is quite distinct: it moves in

an "L" pattern, which distinguishes it from other pieces and defines how it can be used.

Strategically. If we move the *knight* in any other way, we are not playing accordingly.

The rules of the game. In language, something similar happens with words and their functions. That was

observed in the example in the previous paragraph. Therefore, this analogy helps to illustrate how...

A linguistic system operates based on defined rules, structures, and models.

For Martelotta, (2012 p. 114), for example:

> This model presents language as an articulated system, much like in a game of chess
> (an analogy frequently used by Saussure). The value of each piece is not determined
> by its materiality; it exists in itself, but is instituted within the game. If we replace the
> material of the pieces, this will affect the system, since the value of each piece depends
> solely on the relationships, the oppositions, between the units. For example, we can use
> a simple bottle cap as if it were worth the rook in our game. For this, it is only necessary
> that the value assigned to this cap does not correspond to the value of the pawn, the
> bishop, the queen, or any other unit of the chess system. In relation to and in opposition
> to all other units, our bottle cap must be worth a rook.

We understand that such consideration insightfully illustrates the arbitrary and relational nature.

of language, using an analogy with the game of chess proposed by Saussure. The comparison

The comparison between chess pieces and linguistic units highlights the value assigned to each of them.

It is not intrinsically linked to its materiality, but rather to the relationships and oppositions that it establishes.

within the system.

That being said, when mentioning, for example, the possibility of replacing the material of the parts with

Using a simple bottle cap, the author highlights the flexibility and interdependence of the units.

Linguistics are interconnected in relation to the context and system in which they are embedded. Therefore, this substitution does not...

This would affect the system's operation, provided the value assigned to the cap does not match the value.

from other pieces, thus maintaining the relationships and oppositions necessary for understanding the game.

of chess. In this way, Martelotta (2012) highlights the importance of the relationships and oppositions between the

linguistic units for the construction of meaning, reinforcing the structuralist view of language.

as a system of interdependent and arbitrary elements.

According to Neves (2005, p. 134): "Linguistic signs construct meaning through

from a complex game of differential relationships, where each unit acquires value through the position it occupies.

"occupies." From this perspective, we emphasize that the value of a sign is not absolute, but rather relative and

constructed within the linguistic system, through the mutual differentiation between the elements that comprise it.

They compose. In this way, the relationships of difference not only facilitate distinction and communication,

but they are also essential to the complex network of meanings that permeates linguistic practices.

and human cultural practices.

The analogy of the game of chess, made by Saussure and discussed here, plays a role.

significant in Saussurean structuralism in illustrating the relational and arbitrary nature of signs.

Linguistic. We can highlight some of the reasons why this analogy is important.

Initially, it becomes relevant due to the relational nature of language, since, just as...

Chess pieces gain their value and meaning through the relationships they maintain with one another.

On the chessboard, linguistic units also derive their meaning from the relationships they establish.

within the linguistic system. Thus, each chess piece has a specific role and value in

in relation to others, in the same way that each word in a language has a relative meaning.

within the linguistic system.

Furthermore, it is important because of the arbitrariness of the sign, as it highlights the arbitrariness of

The value assigned to linguistic units. Just as a *tower* or a *knight* has no intrinsic value.

In chess, words have specific values assigned within the game, unlike words in a language.

They have intrinsic meaning, but they gain meaning through the conventions established within the

linguistic system.

Just as new pieces can be introduced into a game of chess and still...

while maintaining their relative relationships with the other pieces, new words can be created or

borrowed from a language without compromising the structure of the linguistic system as a whole, since

They demonstrate the flexibility and adaptability of the linguistic system.

Furthermore, due to its structure and organization, since when comparing language to a game of

In chess, Saussure emphasizes the idea that language is a structured and organized system, in which

Each element plays a specific role and contributes to the cohesion and functioning of the system.

as a whole.

In short, since each piece on the board has a unique role and its value is determined by...

Through interaction with other elements, linguistic signs acquire meaning not only through their

their own characteristics, but also by the position they occupy within the linguistic system. This

The analogy illustrates how language is structured by a set of rules and possibilities that

They allow for the creation and transmission of meaning, reflecting complexity and interdependence.

of linguistic elements in human communication.

Given these considerations, this analogy is important for Saussurean structuralism.

because it helps to illustrate fundamental concepts such as the relational and arbitrary nature of signs.

linguistic features, as well as the structure and organization of the linguistic system as a whole.

4. Methodological aspects of the research

This study adopts a qualitative methodology, focusing on bibliographic analysis, to

To investigate Saussurean structuralism and its considerations on the value of the linguistic sign.

According to Paiva (2019), the qualitative approach is chosen for its interpretative nature, which allows

a deep and critical understanding of the theoretical concepts in question, rather than a mere

data quantification. In this sense, the objective is to explore how the ideas of Ferdinand de Saussure

They are articulated and influence contemporary linguistic studies, offering a perspective.

detailed information about the value of the sign in the linguistic system.

Bibliographic research, according to Paiva (2019), consists of identifying, selecting and

analysis of relevant sources that discuss the proposed topic. For the construction of this study, it was

He made particular use of Ferdinand de Saussure's "Course in General Linguistics," as well as critical works.

and analytical approaches that interpret and discuss Saussurean thought. The selection of sources was based on

based on criteria of relevance, authenticity, and theoretical contribution, aiming for a comprehensive overview.

from discussions about the value of the linguistic sign within the framework of structuralism.

The qualitative nature of the research allows us to go beyond a simple literature review.

since, according to Larsen & Lony (1991 *apud.* Santos, 1999, p. 67), it "is marked by observation

"naturalistic and not controlled by the process and the existence of real, valid, rich and in-depth data."

The focus is on the critical interpretation and synthesis of the ideas presented in the consulted works.

seeking to identify the main concepts and theories that underpin Saussurean argumentation. This

The analysis of bibliographic sources aims to clarify how the value of the linguistic sign is understood and

applied within the context of structuralist theory, as well as examining its repercussions for linguistics.

structuralist.

The process of selecting sources involved a search of bibliographic references on the subject.

of the topic in question. The primary source was the "Course in General Linguistics," which provided the foundation for the

A direct understanding of Saussure's thoughts. Additionally, studies were chosen.

Critical analyses and theoretical reviews that support the construction of this research.

The analysis of the sources was carried out through reading and interpreting the selected texts.

The analysis focuses on identifying key concepts, such as the dichotomy between meaning.

and significant, the arbitrariness of the sign and, above all, the notion of the value of the linguistic sign. The

The method of analysis includes the theoretical contextualization of the General Linguistics Course, allowing for a

A broader understanding of the impact of his ideas on the development of linguistics.

The choice of a qualitative, bibliographical methodology is justified, as

Paiva (2019), due to the theoretical nature of the topic addressed, which requires an in-depth analysis of the concepts.

fundamental linguistic aspects. The qualitative approach allows for a detailed and critical exploration of

Saussure's ideas, highlighting his contributions to linguistics and their implications for...

Understanding the sign as a central element in the linguistic system.

This methodology is also suitable for the objective of this study, which is to offer an analysis.

Regarding the importance of the value of the linguistic sign for Saussurean structuralism. By adopting this

This approach seeks not only to revisit Saussure's ideas, but also to situate them within the context of the present day.

within the broader context of linguistic studies, contributing to the understanding of linguistics.

structuralist.

5. Final Considerations

Given the considerations discussed so far, it is clear that in Saussurean structuralism, the

The concept of the value of the linguistic sign plays a central role in understanding the nature of...

language and the structure of linguistic relations. In particular, when we refer to the value of

A sign referring to the relationship that a linguistic unit (signifier) establishes with others.

Units within a linguistic system, determining its meaning (significance).

The importance of the sign's value, therefore, in Saussure's approach can be highlighted.

in several dimensions, such as: in the arbitrariness of the sign, when the author argues that the relationship

The relationship between the signifier and the signified is essentially arbitrary; that is, there is no natural connection.

between the linguistic form and the concept it represents. The value of the sign, therefore, resides in the

differential relationships that a linguistic unit maintains with other units in the system, and not in

any intrinsic quality.

Other dimensions include relationality, stability, and variation. The first being based on...

that the value of a sign is determined by the relationships that a linguistic unit establishes with others

units within the linguistic system, each unit being derived from its meaning, not from its form.

isolated, but in relation to the other units of the system, these relationships being crucial for the

Structuring and understanding language.

The second and third, however, are based on the concept of the sign's value being stable within

a specific linguistic system, providing a consistent frame of reference for the

communication. However, this stability does not prevent linguistic variation, since different

Linguistic systems can assign different values to the same signs. Variation is, therefore,

a natural characteristic of linguistic diversity.

There is also the dimension relating to the system of oppositions, highlighted by Saussure in how

The value of a sign is determined by the oppositions that exist within the linguistic system. In other words,

Each linguistic unit is defined by its difference from other units. Therefore, these...

Oppositions structure language and provide the basis for communication and the production of

meaning.

Given these approaches, for Saussurean structuralism, the value of the sign is crucial for

to understand how language operates as a structured system of differential relations, that is,

It provides the theoretical basis for the analysis of language as a structured phenomenon and

systematic, contributing to a deeper understanding of the nature of human language.

That being said, we emphasize, in accordance with the considerations listed so far, that the value of the linguistic sign

It contributes significantly to Saussurean structuralism, given that it offers a

understanding language as a structured system of differential relations, highlighting the

arbitrariness, relationality, stability and variation of linguistic units, etc. within this

system.

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