

# An In-Depth Understanding of Signs and Symbols in English Language

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## Abstract

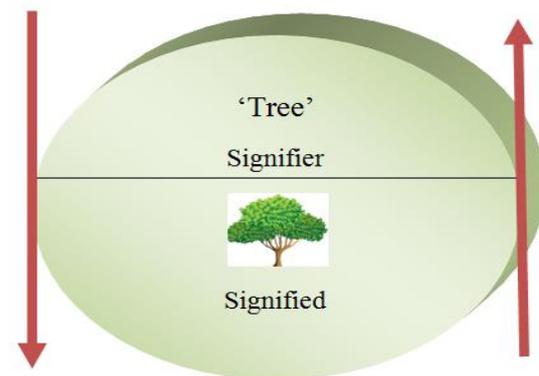
Overall study is based on evaluation of an understanding of signs and symbols in the English language. This study mainly highlights linguistic approach in language and usage of signs and symbols in language has been mentioned. This gives an idea about the ancient to modern periodical signs and symbols in the English language. This article mainly states the idea of two components of signs such as signifier and signified which make an idea about usage of signs in English language. Moreover, Roland Barthes made a clear idea on signs and symbols in the English language. This article is conducted on the basis of secondary qualitative method and many secondary data has been taken from authentic peer-review journals which are published after 2015. This study has also described aspects of linguistics' symbols and characteristics and linguistic innovation to describe major trends of the English language which make an idea on sign and symbol use in the English language.

## Keywords

English language, linguistic, signified, signifier, signs, symbols.

## INTRODUCTION

Language is essential elementary in society and this has a great impact in society. Language and literature both are closely and directly related as literature uses languages as an instrument or a medium to demonstrate the feelings. A linguistic sign can not only be described as the link within things and the name, but at the same time it is a link within ideas (signified) and a well found pattern (signifier) [1]. The well found pattern is something that can be called structured as this is something physical. A sound or well found pattern is the psychological impression of an impression of a sound. This well found pattern can also be called as a material aspect or element and in that scenario it can be represented as the sensory impressions. Therefore, the sound pattern can be differentiated from other aspects related to this in the case of linguistic signs. It is evident that linguistic signs are random but sometimes it is easier to find a trust than to give it to its appropriate place. There are different signs and symbols and both have different aspects. Signs are usually informative, regulatory, configuring whereas symbol is the type or form of a sign that possesses deeper meaning [2]. Saussure has mentioned that sign has two components such as signifier and signified and according to Saussure both the elements are psychological.



**Figure 1:** Saussure theory  
(Source: Self developed)

The above image shows the example of signifier and signified, the word 'tree' is considered as signifier and the image of the 'tree' is signified. Saussure states that sign is arbitrary and all the signs that have been used by Saussure have only random ascribed meanings. In simple words symbols and signs are interrelated and help the individuals to understand the word that has been said to the individuals. Symbol is also considered as one of the essential elements of every language as it helps in the communication process without the requirement of verbal response [3]. There are several symbols that are used in the English language in order to express feelings. Question mark, exclamation point, colon, comma, hyphen, apostrophe are some common examples of symbols. Charles sanders piece is a famous pragmatic doctrine, and has given a basic theory of signs by the writings and the texts that has been gathered and compiled after the death of Charles. This theory differs from Saussure's theory, and has proposed the term 'semiotic' that is the synonym with the concept of logic that prioritises on the thinking

procedure of human individuals. Charles has put together his own model related to semeiotic and the taxonomies of signs. Both the aspects facilitate a seamless way to understand the English language effectively and successfully.

### **METHODOLOGY**

Methodology in this study has been done with the help of qualitative strategy based on in-depth understanding of signs and symbols in the English language. Secondary data has been gathered to gain a detailed understanding of usage of signs and symbols in the English language. Secondary qualitative analysis allows in-depth observation to gain potential knowledge on a particular topic [4]. This article has evaluated secondary data which has been taken from relevant sources and various peer-reviewed journals. Secondary qualitative approach in this study mainly allows developing ideas from various books, magazines which are relevant for getting information about signs and symbols in the English language. This study has showcased various themes based on signs and symbols to evaluate overall research analysis.

The reliability and validity in this study is measured on the basis of certain inclusion and exclusion criteria on qualitative methods. Study can be ethically approved with the help of proper justification of reliability and validity [5]. This research has highlighted thematic analysis to prove the main aim and scope of study. In addition, all the information has been taken from authentic journals which have been published after 2015. These help make a clear justification of the entire study. Moreover, the themes such as: Aspects of linguistics symbols and characteristics and linguistic innovation to describe major trends of English language have made a clear understanding of the main subject. In addition, the importance of English as a global view of the English lexicon- size and symbol of language and sounds and fury of symbolism that create modernism have made standard justification of major topics. Ethical consideration has also been maintained through authentic usage of information and reliable theory of Saussure.

### **RESULTS**

#### **Aspects of linguistics symbols and characteristics**

Transformation of worlds is mainly reflected in language which so far develops society through proper connections. The word lexicography refers to the cultural features that are vital in modern linguistics [6]. This is really necessary to make out the main scope of words in language which is the majority in the way of societal establishment. German scholar Humboldt has proved manifestation of language in which this scholar has highlighted to peculiarity of language comes from cultural differentiation. There is a huge difference between culture and language in which there are high possibilities of mixture of various languages along with certain peculiarity. The symbols and characteristics of different languages are determined by the appearance of lexicography.

A symbolic linguistic representation is the usage of different symbols to show detailed value and information on linguistic culture in the formation of language. Phonetics, morphology and phonology, semantics or syntax are the main symbols of linguistics in language [7]. These symbols especially allow people to create connections between different cultural people. This also helps in reducing the communication gap and helps in gaining several experiences. The cultural differences mainly give knowledge on different kinds of languages. There are several categories of language signs which help to make out languages of different cultures. This category of signs is: indexical signs, symbols and Iconic signs. Iconic signs are based on understanding any things through investigations and proper observation from the environment. This determines similarity as well as major appearance. In this way the language sign has been divided into two parts such as: “signified” and “signifier”. Signified is referred to as a code that can be drawn based on particular observation.

The signifier is referred to as a significant idea or meaning that is expressed regarding major observation. This indexical sign has a perfect aspect on connection between cause and effect within signs and major meaning of that signs [8]. For example, the leaf has a direct relationship between the tree and the surrounding environment which is signified as the major symbol of the English language. Apart from this, there is an arbitrary and conventional relationship between words in symbolic signs. The word “tree” is pronounced as t-r-e-e which stands for conventional symbols that might come from different cultures. There are many important examples, cool which is indicated as the signified as this is referred to as temperature or may be used in the context of a situation. Apart from this, this word is also used for stylish people, hence this is depicted as an interconnection between signified and signifier that may be changed over period.

#### **Linguistic innovation to describe major trends of English language**

Linguistic innovation is the core aspect of the transformation of signs and symbols in English language. Socio and linguistics work on linguistic innovation mainly seems to be English and European languages [9]. Innovative studies on the English language are based on the inner circle of English speaking directed towards the British. Apart from this, “first diaspora” is directed towards US, Australia, Ireland, New Zealand and Canada as “Anglophone”. There are various users of English development that make proper innovation within the “outer circle” and in the “expanding circle”. Several researches have been proved that linguistic innovation has become a core focus on new implementation of various signs and symbols in expanding circles.

The inner circle of the English language mainly focuses on British English which is suggested as “second Diasporas” that has direct connection within bilingual and multilingual predominating. Native speakers are entangled with remains as monolingual that is much more effective for assumption of “monolinguals” [10]. This is to say that local speakers belong

to an inner circle which neither can nor meet multilingual aspects. On the other hand, native speakers cannot long for an “expanding circle”. In this circle, purity and better quality features in the languages. Euro-English has transformed in recent decades which are: “comitology”, “to precise”, “functionally”, “subsidiaries”, “conditionally [9]. In this concern, various signs and symbols have been used in figure speech in the English language.

There are various different categories in the English language such as: simile, metaphor, alliteration, personification, paradox, anaphora, irony, hyperbole and more. Expressing these figures of speech various signs and symbols have been described which can maintain better expression of English literature. For example, “While I nodded, nearly napping, suddenly there came a tapping”; this alliteration speech has shown various signs such as: comma and full stop. Apart from this, there is an example of hyperbole which is: “I’ve told you this 20,000 times”, in this example, an apostrophe has been used for shortening the two words “I have”. This has been used to make out the major importance of linguistics in the culture of English literature and this also makes transformation within time.

#### **Importance of English as global view**

English language interconnectivity grows around the world which significantly grows within time. Certain globalization in the English language is expressed as development of modes of communication which positively change the culture of the modern world. English has become the fastest language in the connectivity of the modern world and in this way language that depicts major status for commercial procurement [11]. In this concern, the English language has become a major language that creates proper awareness and high class importance in making language more sophisticated. The term “lingua Franca” is used as an international language that makes possibilities in making out English languages. In this way, the overall system and grammatical syntax is also changing within time. For example, there are various parts of uniform, traffic signs and symbols that have new transformations in language.

#### **English lexicon- size and symbol of language**

Cross-linguistic evidence highlighted that speech and different sound is simply associated with size, which has shown several empirical evidences that is based on front vowels and low back vowels. The English lexicon is mainly categorized as size-symbolic patterns that sound structure and high adjectives and more strong vocabulary words which create meaningful ideas based on words of language [12]. The lexicon of English is the major collection of words which create development of language and effectiveness in personal vocabulary. The knowledge is mainly based on a major workbook which is the major threshold on literature. There is a complete set of meaningful sections of language which is useful for making an idea to communicate with others.

There are various communicative phenomena that reflect major icons in the way of gaining knowledge based on the

English language. There are variations associated with words which make small and large sized vowels help in high value usage in the English language. Higher-frequency sounds can develop better priority on creating associative vowels to make an iconic development [13]. The size and speech has been noted for a long period of time that can create high effectiveness within the gaining idea based on modern innovation. There is typical development in the English language which in turn established huge procurement on connectivity of different cultures.

Speaking about lexicon, there is a property of linguistics that demonstrates a huge idea on systematic view to have a better understanding of the English language. A non-iconic systematic pattern can be based on the fact that functioned word is initially related to sound and functions [12]. This is literally based on iconic features of major linguistic development. These aspects in the major development mainly pursued major fact based on fact that is based on “articulatory closure” that is involved with abruptive ways to make iconic evidence in language. The major evidence based on systematic knowledge is suggested based on various ethical patterns that create iconic development of linguistics concepts which are based on small and low vowels.

#### **The sounds and fury of symbolism that create modernism**

Symbolism is the literary and artistic section which is based on ideological development to have greater establishment make betterment in linguistics procurement. In this way, the philosophical approach in language creates a huge establishment in linguistic thought. There are proper ideas on positivism which are referred to as reality based on poetic knowledge that allows achievement of symbolism. Symbolic ideas are referred to as modern idealistic philosophical ideas which create reality and the real value of sensory perception based on image and surrounding aspects based on symbolism [14]. The doctrine of symbolism is referred to as the thought and investigation of certain effects between translucent and earthy worlds. Symbolism help in betterment of English language and this also make secured understanding of English literature. This symbolism helps cultural development in legalism and these make standard techniques in studying with English language.

The overall discussion has made better effectiveness in performing tasks related to signs and symbols of linguistic culture in the English language. This has made high effectiveness on gaming knowledge about linguistics in English language. Moreover, lexicon in the English language also has made a great knowledge about the high priority of sounds in the English language.

#### **DISCUSSION**

Language is considered as the medium and people use language to express their perception, thoughts, conceptions, emotions and passion. Without language it is impossible for the individuals to sustain and convey their desire [15]. There

are certain symbols such as objects, signals, words, gestures that in turn allow the individuals to understand the word clearly. Saussure has explained a sign that is made up of two elements such as signifier and signified. These two aspects form a core element of semiotic and the interrelation within signifier and signified is called signification and this can be seen in the diagram of Saussure. It is essential for a sign to possess signifiers and signified.

A sign can be expressed as a recognisable integration of a signifier with a specific signified. It is evident that the same signifier can pair up with various signifieds. For instance, the word 'open' can be used at the door of the restaurants and at the same time this can be pasted on the top of the parcel box. Saussure have prioritised on linguistic signs and Saussure have phonocentrically favoured the spoken word, referring particularly to the image "acoustique".

Roland Barthes has provided modern science of semiology with the assistance of techniques that are based on structure. According to the statement of Roland Barthes, everything in culture can be a sign and is capable of sending particular messages. Signified can be described as a material that signifies, such as any word or facial expression or an image, whereas signifier is explained as the concept or idea that signifier refers to. Barthes has mentioned five types of semiotic elements that are extremely common to all texts; such as Proairetic, Semantic, symbolic, cultural, and hermeneutic [16]. These are called 'codes' and Barthes codes are the representative forms that are present in the texts. It is evident that going through text by knowing these five texts in mind is more like visualising an image by a series of coloured lenses. Roland Barthes has deconstructed the authorisation of language; this individual states that signifier and signified are complementary to each other and these are the indispensable parts of English language.

The emerging field of linguistics perspective studies or the semiotic landscape have amalgamated sociolinguistics by looking into the place and space in the public domain in order to demonstrate the practical and symbiotic uses of English in various public conversations. In this perspective, linguistic colonialism or language hostility can be explained as the shift of a dominant language to other individuals. In the past few years English has become one of the dominant languages in the rest of the world [17]. In addition, lexicalisation has a significant role in English literature and it is evident that language has a great role in conveying values and beliefs and often it is utilised as tools. Lexicalisation is the process of adding new words to a language, in this context, the elements such as crowd sourcing, emoji are comparatively new in English and are great examples of lexicalisation. Lexicons are mostly utilised to explain the knowledge that the speaker possesses about certain words of language. This further includes meaning, form and relationships with other words [18]. Lexical relations are essential in semantic relation in evaluating the meaning of words in the English language. It is evident that 'it is generally used in order to assess the meaningful words in terms of their interrelation to each other

within the sentence'.

Linguistic landscape studies are essential and this poses two major functions informative and systolic. The informative function examines the existence of communities highlighted in the perspective of their language utilises on signs [19]. This function pertains to the ubiquitousness of a certain language in the society or community and its actual use in private spaces. Further, to argue that social language application of the official and the second language is remarkably reflected from the knowledge and knowledge of linguistic landscape signs. Symbols facilitate better understanding of the world at which all creates lives, serves and makes decisions. This understanding helps the individuals to respond effectively to any phenomenon.

The study of sentences is defined as semantics and semiology is referred to as the study of sign procedures and this is further divided into three parts semantics, syntactic, pragmatic. Syntactic is explained as the branch of semiotics that is associated with basic properties of sign and symbols and this also deals with regulations that govern the way in which words come together to form sentences. On the other hand, semantic is related to the interrelationship with the signs and their designate and the phenomena or object which is related. In addition, pragmatic is clearly related and deals with the biotic elements of semiotic and it is related to the biological, psychological and sociological aspects or circumstance that occurs in the functioning signs. The signs and symbols have a great significance in the construction of the English language as a consequence this improves interrelation within the two individuals from different nations.

Signs provide extra visual information about any word or phenomenon and in turn convey better understanding, this helps to express the feelings seamlessly and communicate successfully with others. With the assistance of this sign and symbol one can effectively establish greater relationships in this modern world and this helps to ensure greater communication in various regions of the world. With the help of aesthetics sources the process of construction of English signs encourages symbiotic theoretical meaning of practices or application and rules regarding various socio-cultural aspects. In several linguistic landscapes, English has been taken into consideration as the core factor to gain substantial symbiotic activities. In the past few years the English language has influenced the world to great extent, and that has been made with the assistance of the transformation of signs and symbols. This has impacted the world to a great extent in terms of improved communication and translation activities. Development of language is crucial and this impacts communication and has a significant role in the community.

## CONCLUSION

This article has highlighted a clear view of the importance of signs and symbols in the English language. A major difference between signs and symbols has been reflected in

this article; signs are generally regulatory and informative; on the other hand, symbol is considered as an important part of sign and symbol always mirrors a deeper meaning. Both signs and symbols are requisite parts of language. Language is an essential part in human lives, moreover in society which makes a specific personality and allows for development in communication skills. Apart from this, signs and symbols play an important role in studying the English language. A linguistic sign refers to the understanding of the linkage between signifier and signified. There are well patterns of some things that can be called strictures that may cause a physical impression. Signs and symbols in language help in different aspects of English reading which make ideas about different components of symbols and signs. There are various punctuation marks used in the English language such as: apostrophe, commas, exclamation, hyphen, colon, and semi-colon, full stop and asking marks to express different types of sentences.

This article has showcased a theory proposed by Saussure on the basis of signs and symbols in language which makes a connection between different signs and symbols with the help of two terms “signifier” and “signified”. This has been mirrored with the help of word “tree”, on which, this word is consoles as “signifier” and the figure or main image which stated thigh eye is “signified”. Communication process is sophisticated with gaining ideas about signifiers and signifiers which assist in betterment of communication skill. Mentioned theory has promoted a word “semiotic” who is synonymous to the concept of priority and logic. These components that have been used by Saussure are facilitated within the understanding of the effectiveness of the English language. This way a linguistic view in language can successfully be made out.

Roland Barthes has provided his idea on modern semiology with the help of modern scientific techniques. Moreover, linguistic innovation has also led to the transformation of language with the statement of various states such as “first diaspora”, “second diaspora”. The traditional British English is considered as “first diaspora” and in other Europeans, Russian languages fall under “second diaspora”. These implementations bring another evolution of the English languages.

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