



words

we can understand words as signs

consisting of a triangulation

the signifier — the mark, the pixels, sound, the surface medium

the signified — the meaning, idea, concept, message

the referent — the phenomenon the word points to, denotes, concerns

the signifier is connected to the signified because we agree that it is

consider how porte, toguchi, Tür, dør all mean what “door” means

the signified gets its meaning from other words, which themselves are defined by other words

linked to one another in a closed chain of signifiers

no word necessarily connects to anything outside the sign system to which it refers

the referent is located outside the dictionary

we keep the signifiers connected to the signified

we keep the signified connected to the referent

appreciating our responsibility for language is paramount

not only are we able to be mistaken, fall into misinformation, deceive and prevaricate

words themselves can stray / detach further and further from the referent

or carry inherited meanings that represent obstacles to progress

take the word — “Universe,” for instance

we presently define this vast expanding cosmos as an object, solely in physical terms

all the matter and energy that exists as the result of a long series of mechanical causes and effects

we explain the World without attributing any freedom of Will to the quarks, molecules, cells...

all of which might well be out of touch with the referent