

VERBAL LANGUAGE

I know you believe you understand what you think I said; but what you fail to realize is that what you heard is not what I meant.

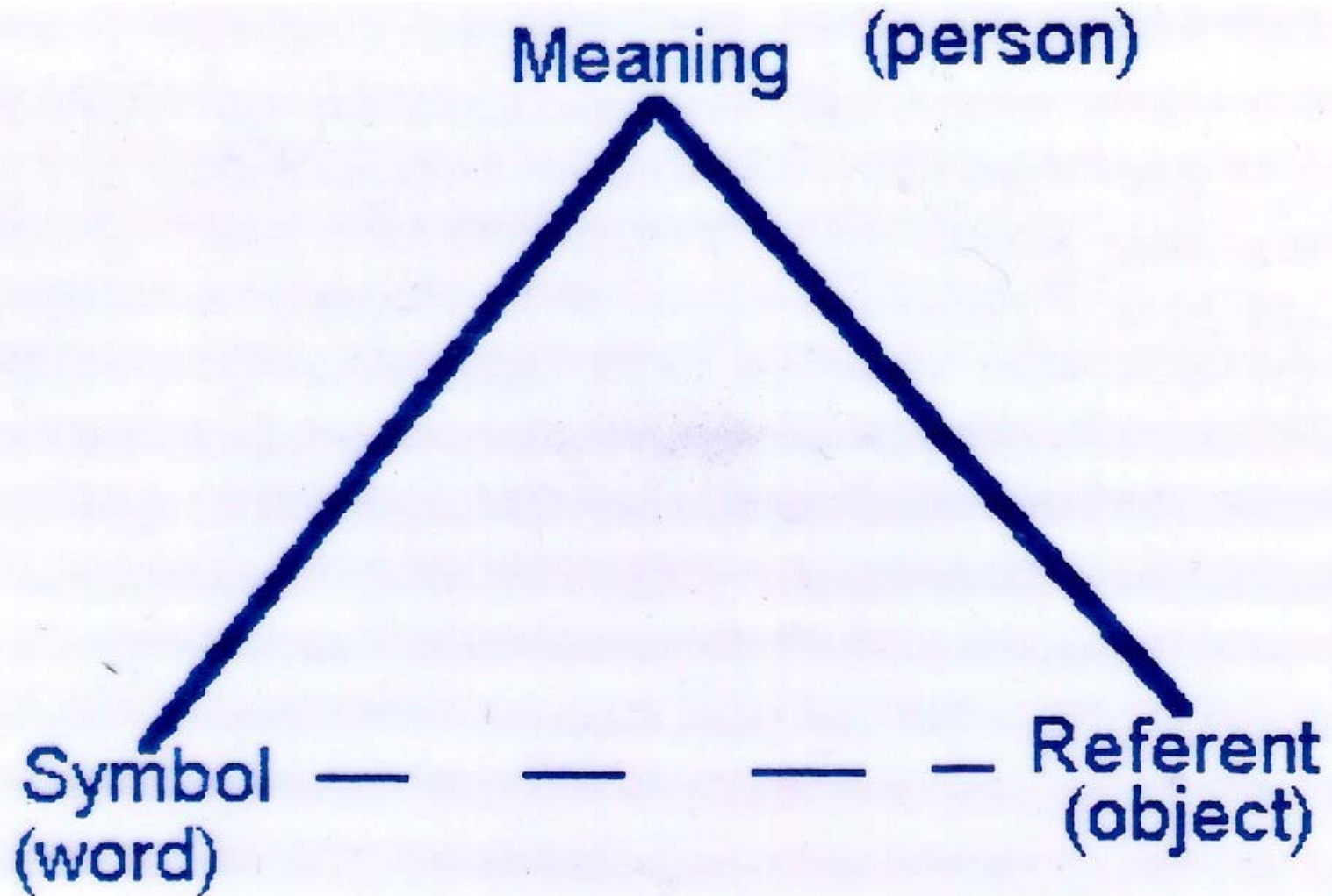
MEANING

The understanding a specific person has of anything in his/her environment.

WORD

A symbol behavior, arbitrary in nature

OGDEN'S & RICHARD'S



Triangle of Meaning

LANGUAGE

- A potentially self-reflexive, *structured* system of symbols that catalogue the objects, events, and relations in the world (DeVito, 1983)
- A code

A LINGUIST CHARACTERIZES A LANGUAGE BY

- SYNTAX
- PHONOLOGY
- MORPHOLOGY
- SEMANTICS

SYNTAX – rules for combining the symbols in the language

- English: adjectives are before nouns they modify
- Spanish: adjectives are **AFTER** nouns they modify
- Latin: predicate at the end of the sentence
- English: predicate after subject

PHONOLOGY – rules for sounding the symbols in the language

Wilhelm

Matthias

Sault Ste. Marie

MORPHOLOGY – rules for forming the symbols of a language

- **Root morpheme** – simple; smallest unit with meaning
- **Affix morpheme** – prefixes, suffixes, and more

inform

SEMANTICS – relationship of meanings and language

- Denotative meanings – explicit, direct, commonly accepted
- Connotative meanings – ulterior, over and above the denotative

dialect

- A set of language patterns used by a subgroup of language users.
- The language patterns of a co-culture
- A social or regional variation of a language

hidden antagonizers
red-flag words
snarl words

Use of these words tends to create a negative emotional reaction in others.

Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis

- Our perception of reality is determined by our thought processes.
- Our thought processes are constrained by our language
- Therefore, our perception of reality is limited by our language

Language shapes our reality.

STYLE

the selection and arrangement of those linguistic features which are open to choice

- Appropriateness
- Clarity
- Economy
- Originality
- Sentence structure [vitality]

Language Development in Children

Four stages of Language
development

1. Pre-linguistic/pre-conceptual

1. Reflexive vocalization (0-6 months)
2. Babbling (6-9 months)
3. Echolation (9-12 months)

2. Linguistic Stage

1. Begins with holophrase speech (12+ months)
2. Telegraphic speech (18+ months)
3. Whole sentences
4. Internalized speech – no need to count aloud or verbalize as they read

- A 2 year old should have a 300-400 word vocabulary
- 3-3 ½ year old may have a 1000 word vocabulary and often uses the basic acceptable grammar of the environment
- By 4-5 years, a child has acquired most basic rules of syntax
- By 6, a child may possess an almost complete grammatical system. They've learned the rules without knowing the rules.

3. Conceptual Stage

- Linguistic ability aids the child in developing concrete concepts, learning to label, categorize, and classify.
- By 11-12 years, a child begins to be linguistically capable of defining abstract concepts (death, love, hate, etc)

4. Rhetorical Stage

In this stage the communicator consciously uses rhetoric to manipulate his/her environment.