

THE EARLY SIGNS AND SYMBOLS

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Abstract. This paper describes the pictograph as an early symbolic language. From the ancient period, people recorded the knowledge and historical events of their past by the means of pictographic system that relied on precisely arranged figures and symbols. Pictorial communication systems enable people to encode and decode information straightforwardly. However, people have faced some struggles in interpreting the pictography because of cultural and social connotation.

Key words: pictography, ideography, logography, signs and symbols, cultural and social association.

Symbols are an important aspect of human communication; they help better interaction among communicators as they convey both linguistic and social meanings at the same time. Conceptual meanings of the symbols are expressed through linguistic units like words, yet its social or extra-linguistic meaning is based on experiences on a daily life. Aristotle pointed out that “spoken words are the symbols of the experiences while written words are symbols of the spoken ones”(Aristotle, 2005). In dictionaries such as OALD, CALD, the word “symbol” is determined as follows: 1) an object, character, event that is used instead of another object in a symbolic condition; 2) a sign, number, letter that has a fixed meaning in science such as mathematics, chemistry and so on. However, our interest is directed to a language symbol is a word that represents an event, object, thing, person and etc. whose meaning cannot be deducted from the literal definitions, but refers instead to a figurative meaning that is known only through conventional use. Symbols are defined as “terms, names, things, events or even pictures that may be familiar with daily life, yet that possess specific connotations in addition to their conventional and obvious meanings. They might imply something vague, hidden, and unknown to us” (Feinberg, 1979).

From the ancient civilization, human has used signs and symbols in order to represent their world, a person have drawn pictures of various events, objects so as to express their thoughts and wishes. These pictures were drawn mainly on caves and rocks, animal skins, later on coins, agricultural products, and they meant a certain sign or symbolic meaning

(Khakimova S.I., 2021). These pictures, which are the source of the communication, are considered one of the first records in human history and are called pictographs or pictographic writing. It is stated in some encyclopedic and language dictionaries that “pictography” is an expression or communication by means of pictures and drawings having a communicative aim. These pictures and drawings are usually considered to be a forerunner of true writing and are characterized by stereotyped execution and by omission of some details(www.britannica.com).

Pictography is derived from Latin words “pictus” and “graphos”, meaning “drawn or painted” and “spelling, writing” accordingly, it was first used in ancient Mesopotamia in the Neolithic period (in some sources, in the Paleolithic period), and later in some tribes of North America, Malaysia, Africa (Mayan, Aztec) began to be used as a means of quick and easy explanation and delivery of information (www.merriam-webster.com) It is clear that people initiated to communicate through visual and symbolic imagery. The researchers faced various types of pictographs like petrograms or petroglyphs, ideograms, logograms. We will denote them below.



Figure 1 Pre-historic cave paintings were not merely decorative, they also communicated to other hunter-gatherers where dangers or sources of food might be founded

“Petrograms or petroglyphs” are the drawings or paintings carved on rocks which is the earliest way of communication. (Figure 1). French cave explorers J.M. Chauvet and his colleagues found hidden rock falls in southern France, where contains hundreds of well-preserved paintings and engravings on the walls. The images painted mostly in red and black dyes which are the first appeared colors. These Cave paintings are full of animals, with thirteen different species represented in various forms and

combinations, including cave bears, lions, mammoths, wolves, horses and a large black cat and so on (Piercy, 2014). In this way, a form such as “☼” might come to be used only for the sun. Importantly, everyone should use this representative symbol as a similar form to convey a roughly similar meaning. That’s way, there is a conventional relationship between the symbol and its interpretation.

In time, the cave paintings began to develop from fixed symbolic form and meaning to more connotations. The form *sun* “☼” was used to denote “*heat, daylight and sun*”. In other words, people create pictures or symbols that have several conceptual meanings, and there is an abstraction away from the physical world. This way of communicating is called “*a system of idea writing or ideography*”. Ideographs are more abstract than petrograms, because they hide a particular idea behind the symbol.

Logograms are the next step of writing people use. It is stated in *Cambridge Advanced Learner’s Dictionary and Thesaurus* that logograph is a symbol such as “& or @” that stands for a word or a character in a language that does not use the Roman alphabet. The ancient Egyptian writing system consists of logograms which represent particular words or sounds, sometimes, the researchers called these logograms “hieroglyphs” (Figure2).



Figure 2. Egyptian hieroglyphs typical of the Graeco-Roman period, sculpted in relief. Glyphs: viper, owl, 'bread bun', folded cloth(<https://en.wikipedia.org>)

In conclusion, the prehistoric art patterns are the earliest way of communication that people have reliance on the use of signs and symbols. The human has made an effort the understanding of pictographs, as a result, they create the symbolic language by investing meaning in signs and symbols.

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LINGUO-COUNTRYSTUDY AS A PHILOLOGICAL DISCIPLINE

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Abstract: Human language is a social phenomenon, being the most important means of human communication, quite naturally bears the imprint of the spiritual and material culture of a certain nation. Therefore, each language is characterized by national and cultural characteristics due to the life and development of a particular society, that is, what constitutes its national and cultural content.

Keywords: language barrier, "country studies material", "country studies topics (texts)", "country studies textbooks".

Аннотация: Человеческий язык, представляет собой социальное явление, являясь важнейшим средством человеческого общения, вполне закономерно несет на себе отпечаток духовной и материальной культуры определенной нации. Поэтому для каждого языка характерны национально-культурные особенности, обусловленные жизнью и развитием конкретного общества, то есть то, что составляет его национально-культурное содержание.

Ключевые слова: языковой барьер, «страноведческий материал», «страноведческие темы (тексты)», «страноведческие учебные пособия».

Students of a foreign language usually strive first of all to master the way to participate in communication. However, knowledge of the meanings of words and grammar rules is clearly not enough to overcome language barrier and actively use language as a means of communication. First of all, it is necessary to overcome-let the barrier is cultural, and for this you need to carefully study the world of native speakers of the studied language, their history, culture, lifestyle. Only in this case, the assimilation