

Glossary of Terms

Addressivity – The quality of the act of turning to another by which they are defined as a participant in an event of meaning-making.

Architectonic – The systematic organization of a body of knowledge.

Axiology – A Theory of Value.

Computer-mediated textual art – Computer-mediated texts that are either described as, or have come to be taken as, works of art (see Computer-mediated textuality below).

Computer-mediated textuality – A term to describe utterances woven from a combination of sound, animation, moving and still images, icons, alphabetic and other semiotic elements mediated by a computer.

Cybertext – Espen J.Aarseth’s term for a “self-changing text”, in which the text is “controlled by an immanent cybernetic agent” such as a human or a computer.

Dialogism – A conception of language modelled on the metaphor of dialogue, in which an utterance is made in response to that which has been said, and in anticipation of future responses.

Epistemology – A theory of the method or grounds of knowledge.

Ergodic – A term coined by Espen J. Aarseth to describe the “nontrivial effort” required to “traverse the text” (Aarseth, 1997: 1). It is derived from the Greek words *ergo* and *hodos* and literally means ‘work-path’.

Extranoematic – An adjective denoting an occurrence outside of human consciousness. It is derived from the ancient Greek *Noema*, meaning ‘thought’, prefixed with the Latin *extra* meaning ‘outside of’.

Hermeneutics – Systematic theories and methods of interpretation.

Heteroglossia – A plural condition of language that arises out of the recognition that it is stratified by social forces into multiple speech genres.

Hypertext – Text composed as *lexia* (blocks of words, moving or static images, or sounds) linked by multiple paths, chains or trails in an open-ended web.

Materiality – The condition of the matter of which a thing is made of.

Methodology - The science of method; and the body of methods used in a particular branch of research.

Novelistic Discourse – The heteroglossic structuring of discourse to facilitate the representation of multiple points-of view.

Obligatory Uniqueness – The notion that every event of meaning-making is unique so this uniqueness requires the participants in this event to make a commitment or an act of position-taking which in turn affects the inter-subjectivity of the participants.

Prodigal – A lavish and/or recklessly wasteful act or person.

Responsive understanding – The notion that the meaning of an utterance is realized by the listener- or reader-participatory through their active participatory engagement with an utterance.

Speech or Discursive Genres – A description of language in which it does not take a normative or dictionary form but is instead stratified by social forces into ‘typicals’ or families of utterances shaped by social evaluations.

Trans-linguistics – The Bakhtin Circle’s term for their conception of the event of meaning-making. It frames meaning-making in a wider context than linguistics by taking account of issues such as the cultural position of the participants, the context and the address of the utterance.

Utterance – The central event of the Bakhtin Circle’s description of meaning-making. The utterance is the term used to describe the socially- and materially-constituted inter-subjective event of active, participatory meaning-making.