

# **Methodological Preliminaries**

Lecture 4

# Structuralism Variants

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## Linguistics structuralism

- The traditional meaning of language consists of symbols. The words are symbols to convey some meaning.

## Anthropological structuralism

- The underlying structure comparatively remains constant. There are varying relationships between the underlying elements.

## Structural Marxism

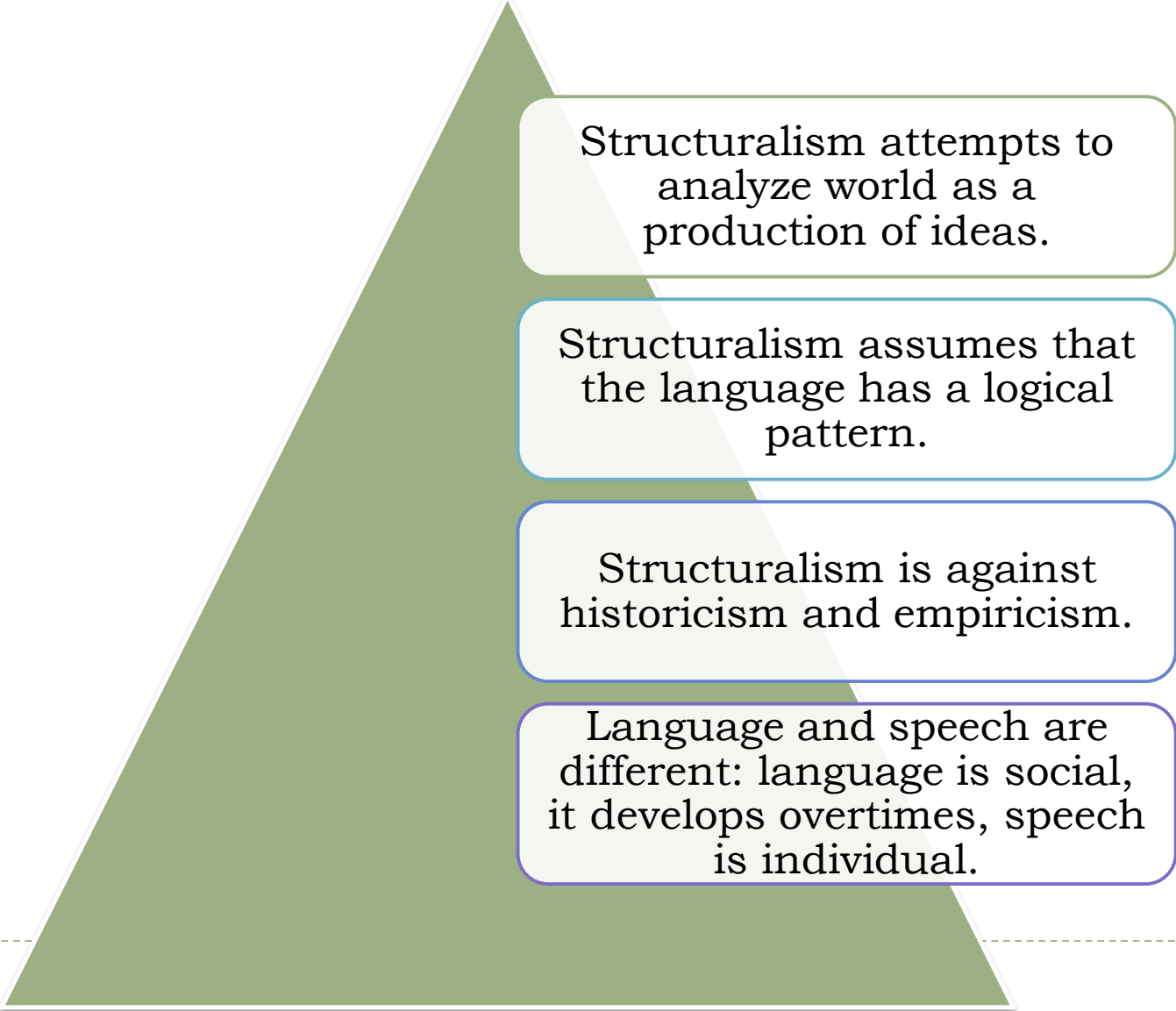
- Structuralism is the method or approach to study social reality.

## Post-structuralism

- Language cannot point outside of itself. Language produces meaning. Language does not express individuality.

# Structuralism Key Features

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Structuralism attempts to analyze world as a production of ideas.

Structuralism assumes that the language has a logical pattern.

Structuralism is against historicism and empiricism.

Language and speech are different: language is social, it develops overtimes, speech is individual.

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# Structuralism Key Features

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Signs are the basic units of language. They have two aspects: signifier and signified, signifier is the 'material' aspect and signified is the conceptual aspect.

Structuralism is a method of identifying the underlying structure or logic of general meanings.

The meaning of a linguistic sign depends upon its relationship to other signs.

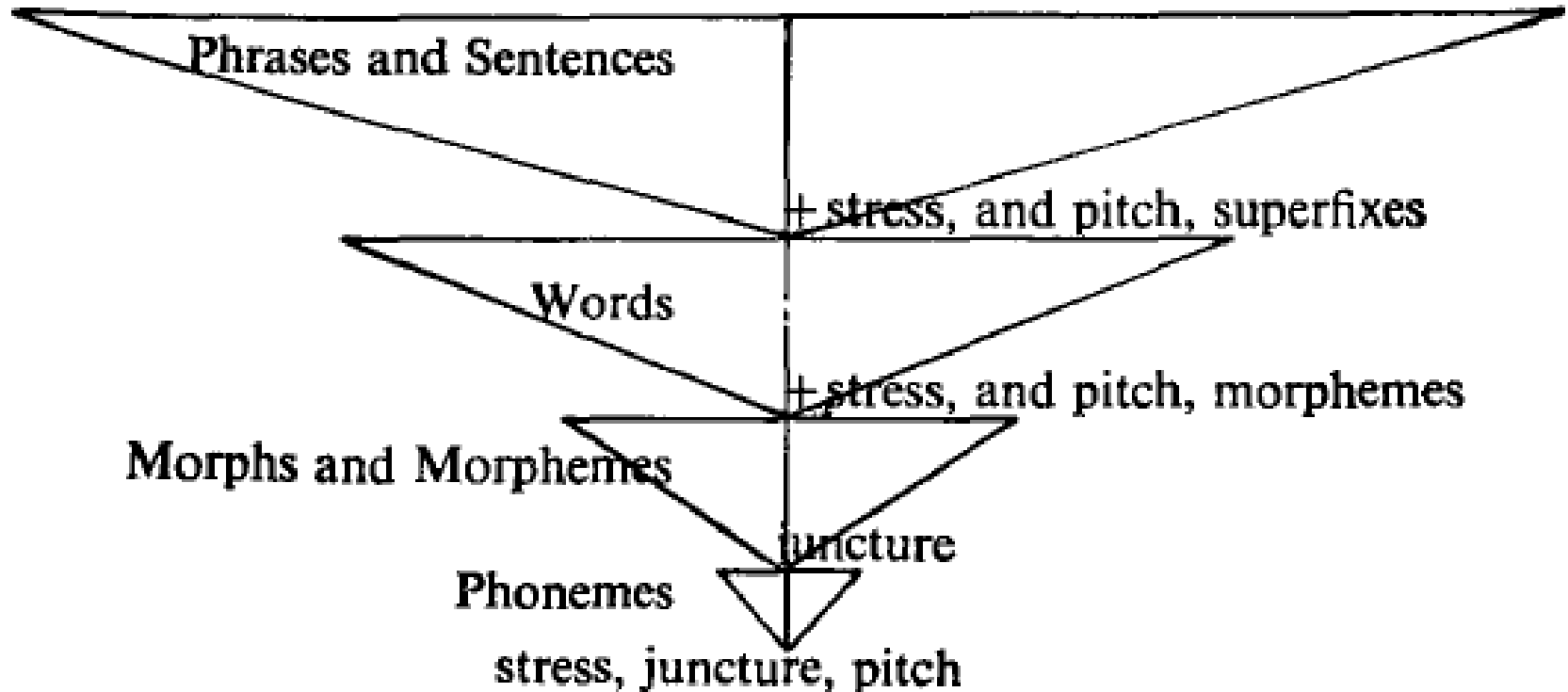
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# Prof. Hill's Hierarchy

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# Sign Types by C.P. Peirce

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icon sign

index sign

symbol sign

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# The Nature of Language

by Paul S. Andersen, 1972

Language is a system.

Language is  
speech sound.

Language is built from  
habit.

Language is  
composed of  
(arbitrary)  
symbols.

Each language  
is unique and  
typical.

Language is a  
communication  
tool.

Language is  
closely linked to  
the culture.

Language is  
always  
changing.

# The Nature of Language

by H. Douglas Brown, 2001

Language is a systemic system.

Language is a set of symbols.

Language is acquired by all people (nation).

Language is a communication tool.

The symbols are primarily vocal, but may also be visual.

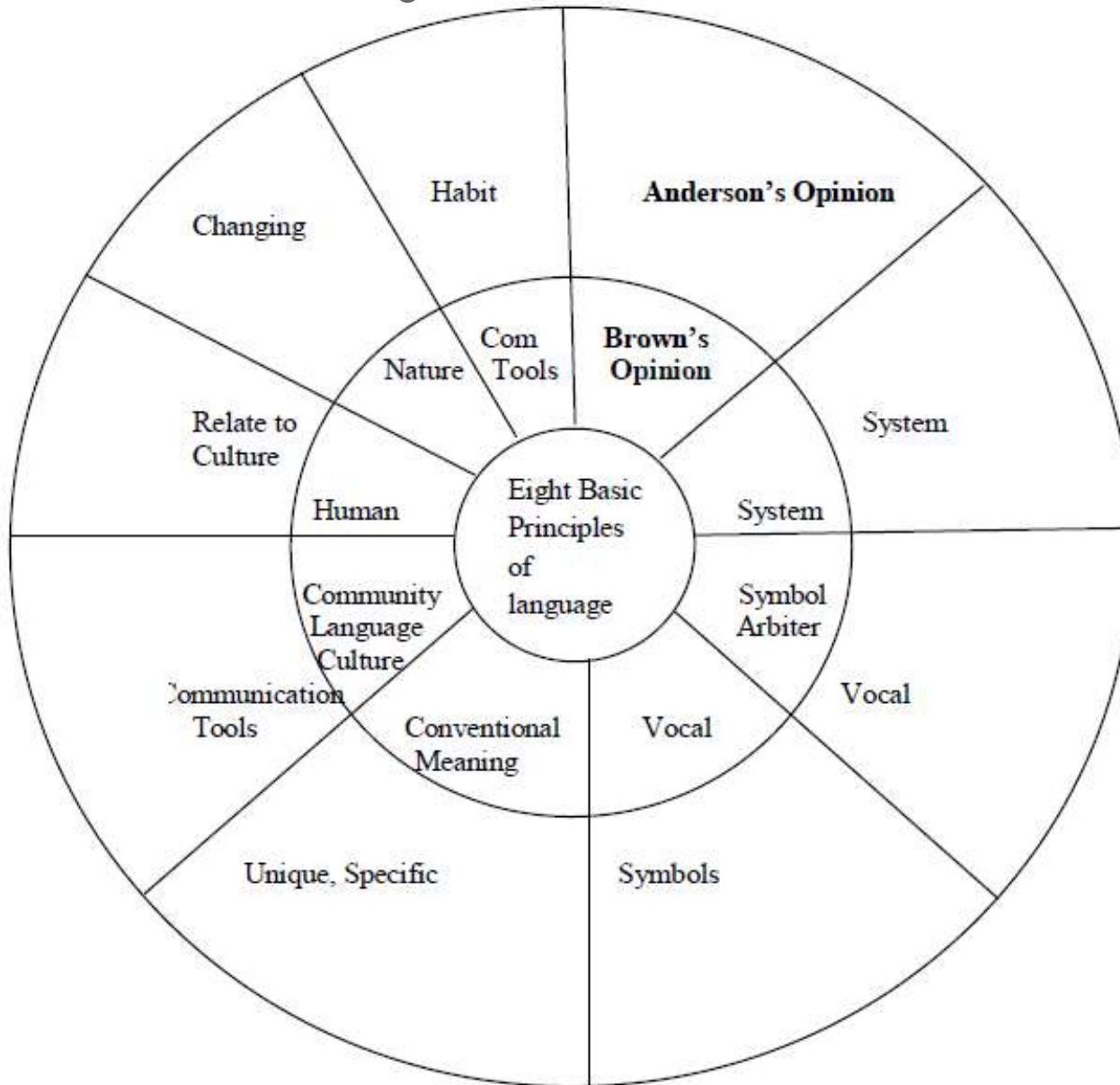
The symbols contain the conventional meaning.

Language operates in speech community or culture.

Language is essentially human but not limited to humans only.

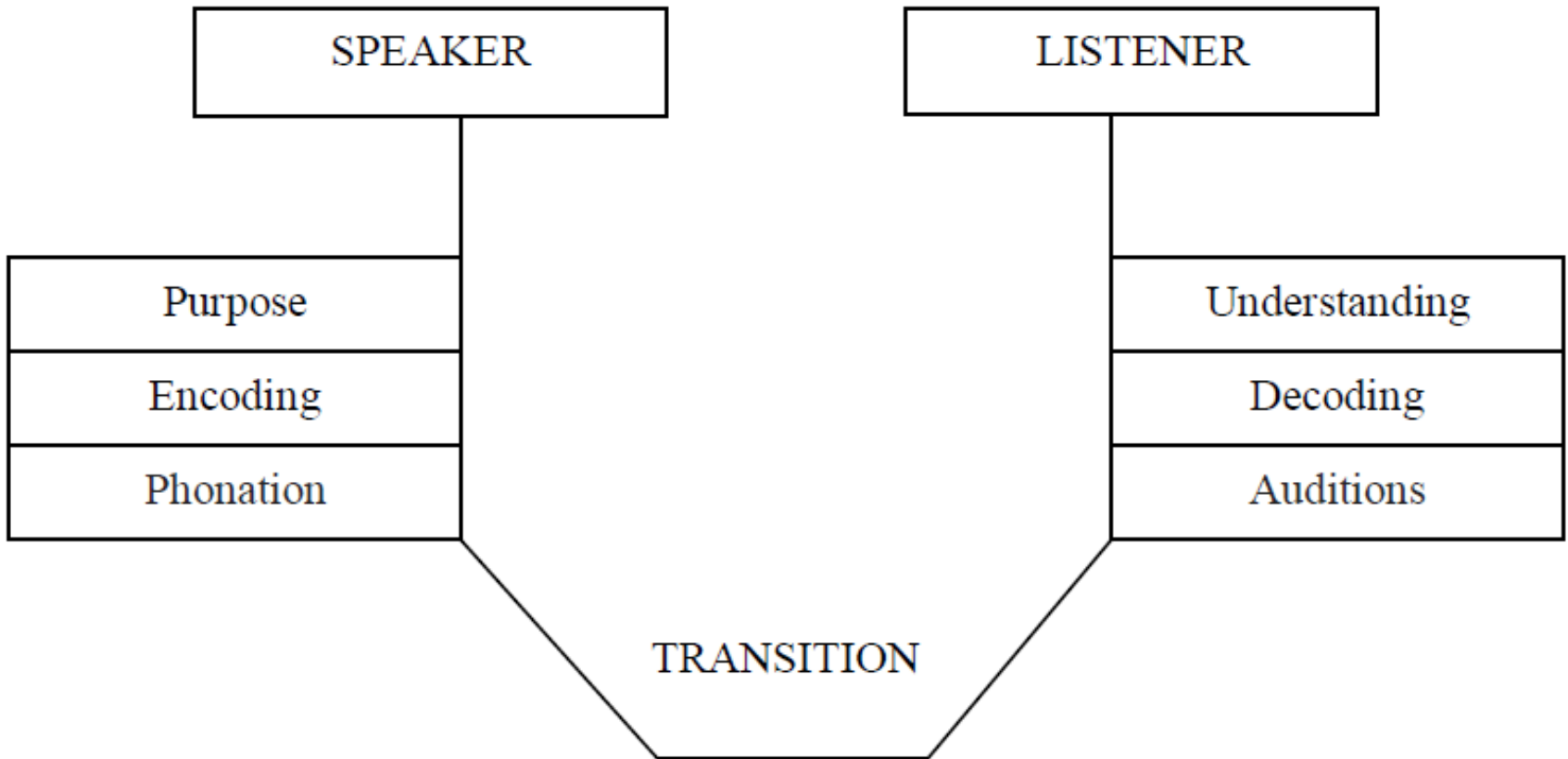


# The Nature of Language by Anderson



# Language Event by Brook, 1964

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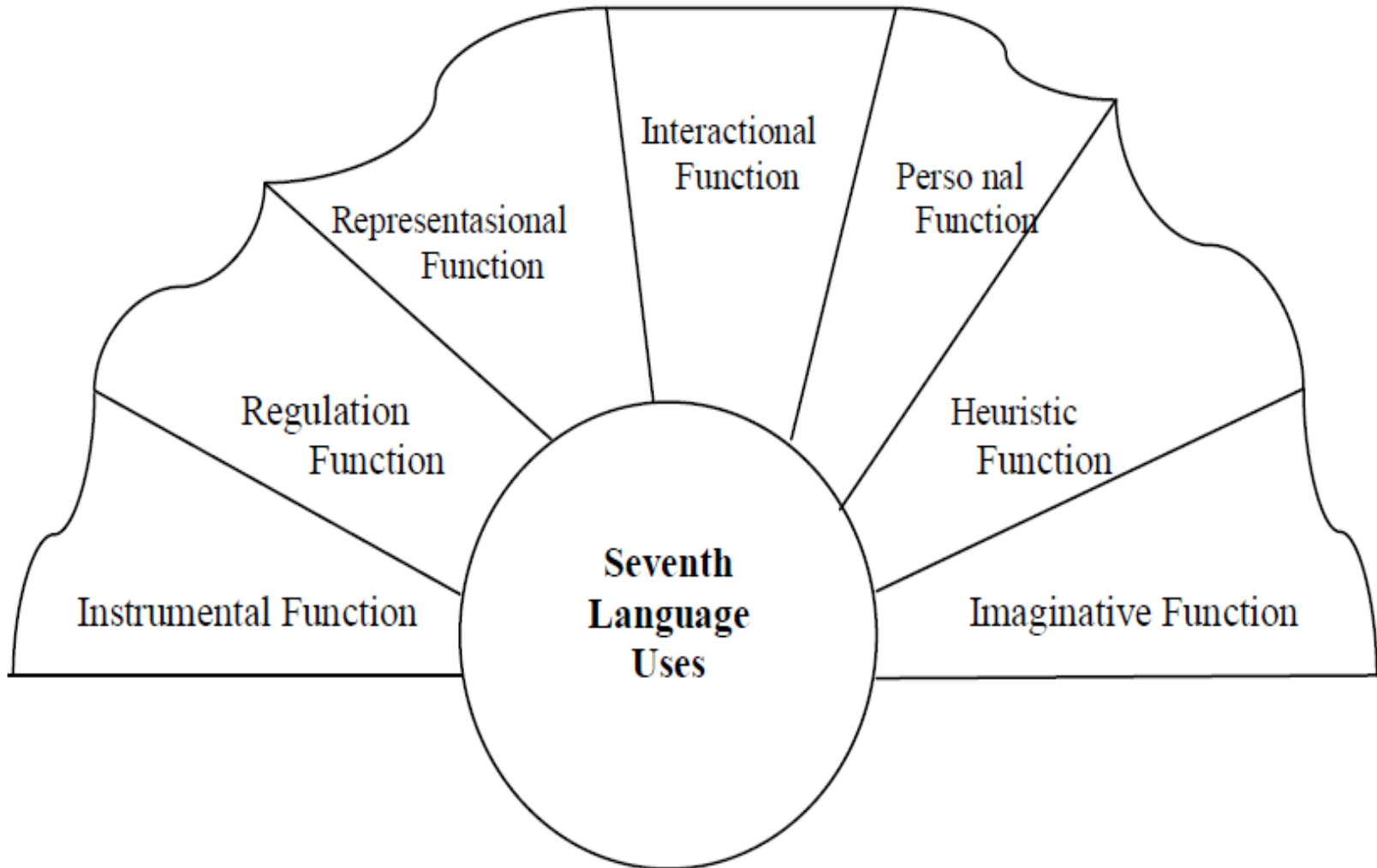
**Figure 2.** *A Language Event (Brooks, 1964: 4)*

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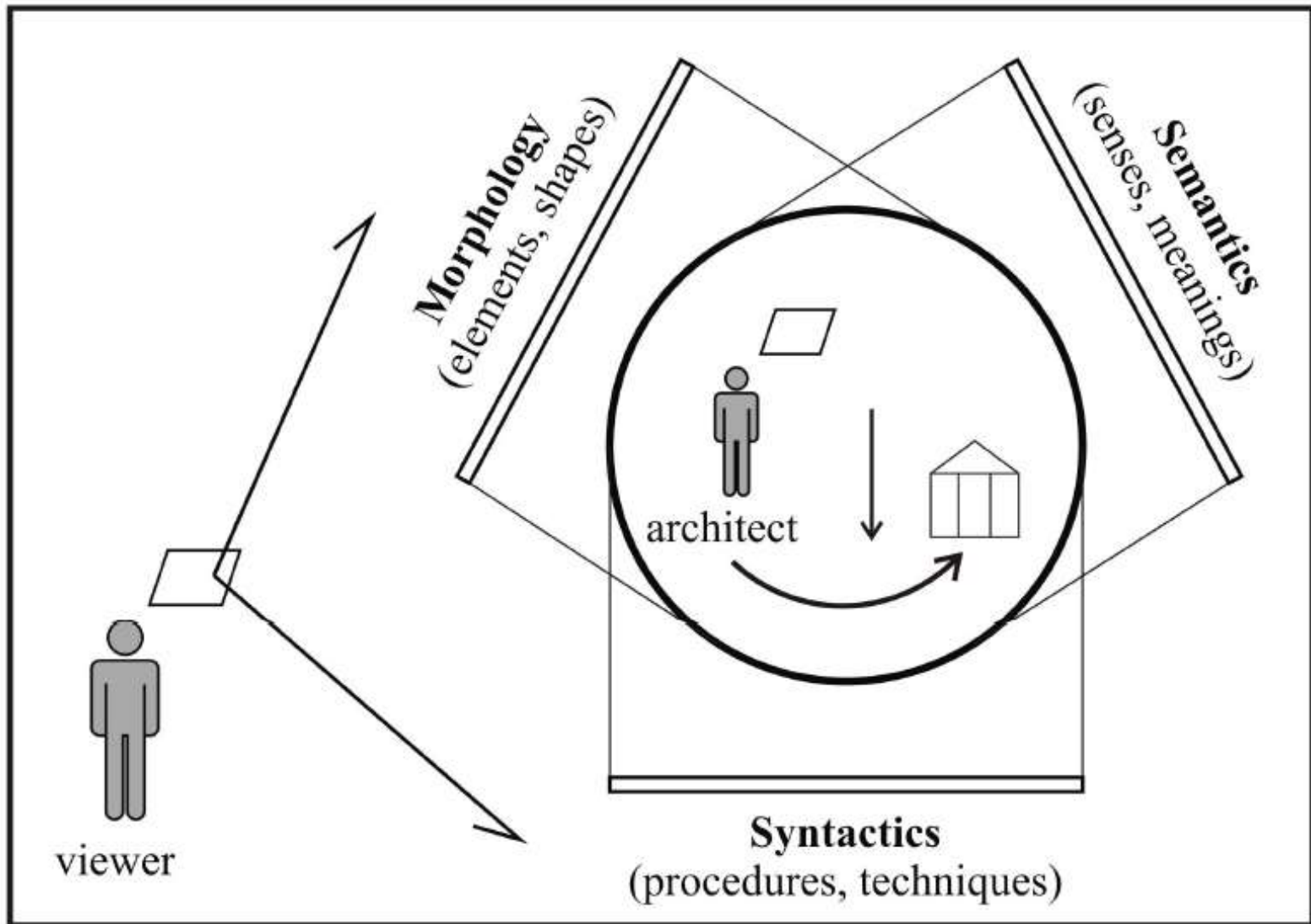


# Language Functions by Halliday, 1975

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# The Structure of the Language by O. Remizova, 2015



# Structuralist meta-theory

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▶  $D_1, \dots, D_n, R_1, \dots, R_n$

$D_1$  are basic sets a

$R_1$  are relations constructed on these sets.



## Moulines, 2008 : 163

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► *Structuralism owes his name to the fundamental thought that the most adequate way of interpreting and understanding what a scientific theory is, does not consist in conceiving it as a set of statements, but rather in conceiving it as a form or collection of different types of complex structures, which themselves are built up of simpler structures.*

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