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### **Iconic Metaphor in Language and Literature: Identification and Interpretation**

Charles S. Peirce's iconic metaphor is his least explored category of icons due to his own very short and ambiguous definition of this concept: a metaphor is an icon that represents the representative character of a representamen by representing a parallelism in something else (Peirce), i.e., something other than simple qualities or analogous relations. The nature of this "something else" is the first notion to be determined when we intend to study the Peircean metaphors.

While images and diagrams have received extensive attention from investigators and scholars, Peircean metaphors have been treated insufficiently both regarding their structural functions and in relation to their interpretation effects in different fields. As a first step, this paper presents a close study of the three main elements of all signs, i.e., Object, Representamen and Interpretant, in the iconic metaphor and their relation to the Background and the Interpreter, as a guide to a complete understanding of the semiotic process of creation and interpretation of metaphors, proposing at the same time a better substitute for "something else" in Peirce's definition of this third class of hipoicons. On the other hand, the question of reference and similitude in an iconic metaphor is also a matter that seeks special treatment it has not been given. Metaphors are abductive, self-referential, self-creative icons, able to surpass the limits of linguistics and literature, as much as their own limits.

Moreover, language, in its everyday life and usage, and literature are two excellent contexts where iconic metaphors, together with other Peircean icons, appear and invite us to a more complex interpretation. Many studies have been fulfilled about iconicity in language but once again the iconic metaphor is left aside, as Peircean images and diagrams gain a central role. Therefore, a second step will consist of a concise and precise classification of possible cases in language and literature where iconic metaphors can be identified: in everyday language instruments, such as intonation and vocal style, in literary texts, especially in poetic metaphors and anagrams, and in rhetoric figures: ellipsis, reticence, repetition, alliteration, pause, implications and inferences, etc. This new viewpoint focused on the iconic functions of discourse components has started to be discussed as a crucial approach that can lead us to a more correct and complete interpretation of linguistic and literary messages.