

Sound-Symbolism and Iconicity

—English Consonantal Cluster *gl-*—

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Abstract

According to Peirce, iconicity may manifest itself in three different forms, the image, the diagram, and the metaphor. Only the first one is of interest here. Images are individual, specific representations of meaning in form, based on similarity or resemblance. Sound-symbolism refers to a direct association between the form and the meaning of language. The object of this paper is to examine the sound-symbolic, or iconic, value of English *gl*-words and to emphasize that the initial *gl*-words are iconic and universal, not arbitrary.