

The concept of meaning for Charles Peirce

مفهوم المعنى لدى تشارلز بيرس

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Abstract: Peirce's intellectual efforts were focused on being a scientific researcher and the one who discovered an intellectual school and echo in American thinking. These innovations, were related to pragmatic philosophy, with its unique feature, did not stop, but they witnessed a propagation in the whole world, effecting many writers and intellectuals, and intensifying themselves among communities by being practical and philosophical, and related to trial in reality, a philosophy that traces the works' results and confirms them., but specialized in defined meanings related to the nature of "meaning".

Keywords : meaning; semiotics; pragmatism; utility; language

ملخص: تناول تشارلز بيرس في دراسته للمنهج البراجماتي موقفا فلسفيا يتمثل في الكيفية التي يجعل بها كل فرد أفكاره واضحة، وتعد هذه المسألة من أبرز أعماله ومجهوداته، حين أدرج لفظة البراجماتية على أنها ليست شاملة، وإنما تختص بمعاني محددة مقترنة بطبيعة "المعنى" ومن القضايا والمشكلات التي حصرت الفكر قديما ويختص بيرس في فكرة مفادها أنه لا يمكن فهم طبيعة المعنى إلا حين تترتب على العمل والتسليم بوجود علامات تحمل كل علامة معنى خاص يميزها عن غيرها حيث تشكل تمايزا كما أنه قد تتوافر تشابها بين المعاني وهذا ما حاول بيرس استبانه في تطور نظرية العلامات في كونه يحمل غموضا في استخدامه وقيمه.

كلمات مفتاحية: المعنى؛ السيميوطيقا؛ البراجماتية؛ المنفعة؛ اللغة.

1-Introduction :

Pragmatic philosophy had involved a set of conceptions and issues left by Charles Peirce and the developers of pragmatic philosophy: William James and John Dewey, where Peirce's ideas had a strong effect on philosophical thinking, forming another effect on American studies. His intellectual efforts, in particular, were reflected in having built the pragmatic methodology, which was exclusively about the actions' results and the practice of activities and works, as well as fulfilling them in reality. Among the most important ways that Peirce was guided to: his method of clarifying

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thoughts and words, which are considered to him as an icon that includes many frames and outlets, related to the effect of results left by the human. In addition, . This subject about meaning has spread more during the twentieth century, where it witnessed a great interest among intellectual categories from those who were preoccupied by linguistics, especially the language philosophers, starting with De Saussure in his structural linguistics and their effective contribution during the semantics era, and the linguistics of Peirce during the same period, which makes us ask wonder : what is the meaning ? Or let us say : what does Peirce intend from the meaning ? And what were the features of his way in guiding meanings and discussing them ? What is the relationship between words and meanings ? How can we change meanings, according to Peirce, or are they constant ? Do the words and sentences meanings have effective results, or are they just linguistic warehouses and stores ? What is the objective of Peirce by studying meaning or semantics ?

2-the concept of meaning for charles peirce :

In his intellectual study, Peirce tended to show the experimental, scientific and practical side as a particularity on which pragmatic philosophy depends (peirce, ch, 1969, 153), orienting his start-up towards discussing logic and its basics, and at the same time, his approval to pragmatic thoughts carried criticism to traditional philosophies in spite of the presence of their effect in building pragmatic philosophy, which handled a set of issues and intellectual problems, such as the problem of meaning that is considered as one of the most important axes related to Peirce's attempts, diligence and wonderings about the words having meanings, and if we explain the word of meaning itself, we will find that it has particular definitions agreed by some dictionaries, where the meaning devolves into being one of the mental images that are produced from mind, forming sentences, or words, or signals (said, dj, 2004, 348) and without words, we cannot produce meanings. That is why their achievement happens inside the word as a thing, and this declaration is applied on all what individuals say or refer to. In this frame, an indication's word appears including qualities depicted by humans, such as the indication of sadness and joy, towards the meaning, wether this latter was real or metaphorical, indications issued by the speaker in most issues(saliba, dj, 1982, 397) the meaning includes as well two sections : The meaning of words.

First: The meanings that are specific to symbols or single words, knowing their indication and function in mind.

Second : The meaning that is specific to the meanings of words, in defining the meanings of words in various types of expressions, because there are some expressions that are similar and others that are different in meaning.

The meaning of sentences as meaningful compounds(salah, l, 1993, 245).

However, if we head towards Peirce, we find that he was interested in the meaning theory, and that was clear in the collection of his philosophical papers, especially his book "How to make our ideas clear", and the most important thing that Peirce was focused on might be linking the meaning with practical attitude, as what guides humans through performing a set of works that result from expressions or words in their use(mahmoud, z, 1982, 123), In this regard, what Peirce's objective is to make the thought, that is formed of a set of words, purposeful, and their main problem is showing their meaning, because words that do not achieve a successful practical attitude do not deserve to be chosen or to question their difficulty and complications, because they lead us into confusion and ambiguity. Peirce's logical analysis' result is that his meaning theory previews words, thoughts and the effect of thoughts as desired objectives(fahmi, m, 1985, 85). Moreover, the importance of practical attitude resulted from the individual includes a purposeful space in Peirce's readings, and the purpose here is the presence of smoke as a sign and a signification stopped by the purpose. In addition, Peirce thinks that the signal, as a conclusion, has launched and removed him to scientific thinking (Gerard, D, 2009, 221). What drew his attention too was the symbols' signification as hypothetical words that include arguments, and what Peirce summons is his acclaimed declaration about "the meaning of things as being used before and being good concepts themselves to a high degree" Peirce is established, and he thinks as well that these conventions are not purposes with an objective. Any way, we find that the meaning being described as constant and stable, or static, may be different from the pragmatic meaning declared by Peirce, according to a dynamic consideration, and that it is still possible to derive renewed, changeable and evolving ideas from it, as an additional work in the mind. From Peirce's view, this way may be specialized to the interpreter of the meaning of the sign itself (Rylander, A, 2012, 09).

What Peirce aims to justify is the achievement of some degree of clarity, and in this regard he says : "To be sure of a meaning, which means a mental concept, we have to take into consideration the practical results that could necessarily happen due to that concept, and the set of those results forms the complete meaning of that"(kamel, M, 2016, 54).

Here, Peirce arrives to adopting results as a standard that guides him to the rightness of thoughts and their degree of sincerity, and afterwards, every practical attitude, that is considered complete in reality, forms a meaning, and Peirce confirms this by saying: "We need to resort towards the idea of the possibility of experimenting beings as a type of explanation and interpretation of our rational thoughts" (Pietarinen, v, 2008, 06). According to Peirce's position, the meaning that determines the thought is an operation that must be seen as "an attempt", but in a being that realizes what is purposeful, which must be, according to Peirce, simplified together with false things, and we must also reduce thoughts being described as experimental and scientific, like other sciences that were achieved successfully (Rylander, A, 2012, 05).

This rule of meaning, which was studied by Peirce, is considered as one of the featured rules that spread at high level in establishing and emerging Peirce's philosophical semiotics known by American philosophy, where signs were similar in a way or another, once we stop ourselves at a sign in terms of meaning, considering that some meanings are linked, for example: smoke is a signal of anger, and spots on the skin are signals of Measles disease (Eagleton, T, 2003, 87). We must also mention that Peirce's view to the signal is related to the aimed purpose that suits the individual's benefit in reality, and in this regard, some discussions appeared, concerning the idea of the meaning's continuation and its purpose, plus orienting the interest towards it, and Peirce confirms at this point saying: "I have a thought that is particular to continuation, and the purpose is to considerate continuation in the meaning, and I am going to determine and clarify this, concerning the thought of meaning that sparked controversy and had a good and important preoccupation in philosophy as a relieving theory that considers the concurrent as one of the individualism features" (Peirce, Ch, 1923, 202).

That is the objective of all types of pragmatism, which means considering the works' effect as one of its features that are relatively homogeneous and symmetric in terms of knowledge. In addition, pragmatism is distinguished by having expressive differences that may be clear, and we must examine its most important problems and concentrate at the most important points that contribute effectively in reviving many aspects influentially in reality" (Barton, J, 1999, 04).

In this way, Peirce points saying: "We were accustomed to the discussion that is specific to the thought, considering that this latter had passed from a mind to another as a homogeneous one, and may be similar or uneven. It may differ and vary from one individual to another, while essential

things guard their essence and cannot make any logical opposition, because they are as highly established and raised as expressions, (Peirce, Ch, 1923, 204).

Through this declaration, Peirce aims to say that the meanings of thoughts that lead to the practical attitude result are renewable and evolving meanings. He concentrates his attention on previous thoughts, where he thinks that most of them are useful. On this basis, we have to crystallize thoughts so that the individual will be able to practice his activities. Furthermore, Peirce is familiar to knowing the needs of current eras, such as the diversity of culture aspects, and this is exactly the research that Peirce aims to in studying the meaning. (Pushinsky, 1990, 51) It is a deep dimension, with evolution and useful contribution in American thinking, which appear all in Peirce's affirmation and emphasis on the perception and understanding of the importance of signification and the deepness that are particular to thoughts and conceptions in meaning, because Peirce's pragmatism is mixed with various subjects, and the roots of principal words and thoughts are mixed with previous thoughts, in addition to the pragmatic motifs and tending to adopt the meaning standard. In this very point, we perceive Peirce's pragmatic wisdom, and indications validity that have the right of priority among the principles of inference relative to semantics theory (Barton, J, 1999, 05). Peirce expressed as well the pragmatism concerning the meaning of thoughts and the point where they rationally end up. His study was also specialized in names of beings, signals, things and selves, and in this regard, he confesses saying: "The reader will notice that my use of the word may be quick, and that happens because I confirmed the objective of clarifying the adoption of a tool, as well as the importance of meaning as being always accurate" (Peirce, Ch, 1923, 206). This is why we can say that Peirce's semiotics provided conditions that are able to describe the instrumental meaning and express its particularity as a basis to link symbols with meaning in a communicative way, where he formed a particularity and a milestone of capacity and competence concerning humans' varieties and their mental images (Barton, J, 1999, 06). and searching for what is useful through going deep in terms and changing their paths, and even their significant is considered as an important point in pragmatic philosophy and one of its characteristics (Alyamany, A, 2004, 90). and considering that Peirce is a logical philosopher, we find that, concerning his study of the signs' theory, he mainly started with the argument's forms in his discussion and his scientific methodology. According to him, semiotics are generally considered as a science, which means a necessary and methodological science, and Peirce uses the theory that is particular to "a thought", and every time there would be a different meaning to the word, this meaning that is specific to indications is a primary particularity, or let us say that it

reaches some kind of vanguard (Rylander, A, 2012, 08). On this basis, Peirce arrives to a point that says that thoughts are signs themselves, as well as the scientific understanding, including the result, the arguments and the signification. According to Peirce, logic, in its relation with the meaning, was considered as a semiotic dimension, and its method of studying semiotics carries no complications, but it is an opening of the mind that we should pay attention to (Youcef, A2005, 118), and according to Peirce, semiotics are different conceptions that describe in turn the processes of signs that emerge dynamically in life, and these semiotics, being described as printed and homogeneous in explaining the mind and a call with a paractical function, were seen as a nature that is special for symbols, while biosemiotics are basically, according to Peirce, a study of symbols in order to revive signs (Brier, S, 2017, 03) That is why we find Peirce promoting the sign to a degree of presented classifications, explaining the sign, from his point of view, as a central expression. Moreover, the sign is considered as a middle among words and not only at the end, and it is also integrative in terms of the words' linkage. This sign's ability can be capable of applying a mental operation, and this sign is faced by two kinds of another sign's objectives (Gorlee, L, 2009, 17).

In accordance with the above, a large plotting of Peirce's semiotics appears, as well as interlaced types of theories and philosophies that formed a start for the beginning of his philosophical thinking, and that are particular to some positions, and his contempt to thoughts that are particular to various problems and issues, such as traditional thoughts, where he significantly refined them and proof-read words, avoiding to manipulate their meanings, where he called for a sensory (James, W, 2008, 132), theoretical and practical aspect that includes opening to studying semiotics, through limiting the meaning and explaining the sign and the word, which were divided to reach accuracy and clarity in the meanings generation that is considered as a priority. Furthermore, semiotics carry many evolving orientations while researching, prospecting and proofreading in their field, especially during the current era, where cultures have spread, the need to various cultures has increased, cultural and literary criticism has appeared, and open significations have expanded. This is what Peirce focused on when he thought that the sign's interpretation does not stop at the sign itself, but its meaning is related to another sign, and here, it takes a collective and sequential form (Raman, S, 2006, 143).

3-the roles of semiotics in achieving the goal and producing other meanings: Then, Peirce thinks that whatever was the meaning, it is generally a data that preoccupied many researchers by carrying an accomplishment that creates progress, and that data is correct, because it is specific to expressions and words that include types as being modes for other styles and formulas of the

meaning, in addition to the presence of a being type at the same time, whose meaning had been ambiguous to Peirce who referred to an important point, clarifying it by saying: "The sign objectively is relative to the purpose in general, and its paradox towards what is false forms a perfecting in defining the words themselves and their stability". Through Peirce's confessions, we understand that ambiguity characterizes expressions that are considered as acquired tools to accomplish the purpose, however, this ambiguity is not an essential request with limited quantum, and does not adopt a decisive form, but we are the ones who define the category and the signal (Colapietro, V, 1998, 40).

In his research, Peirce had also referred to the meanings among signs whose meanings cannot be defined unless there had been other signs that reveal their meanings, and at the same time, he alerted to the non-foundational method, where he thought that it is no longer capable of fulfilling the purpose, because it became out of many forms in pragmatism, and this philosophical speculation had clarified expressions and formulas due to, according to Peirce, its presence and engagement with the doctrine of fallibility, and adopting this latter includes to avoid making mistakes, and according to the above, he declares: "We know that our absolute knowledge always adopts the stream of the principal activity in a questionable continuation, and we also know that it may carry an unknown object, undermine principal thoughts and damage them" (Martela, F, 2009, 10).

Moreover, when Peirce claimed the presence of signs and the encroachment of previous thoughts, According to Peirce, the answer lies in the expressions' going through phases that are specific to the evolution of semantics (Peirce, Ch, 2010, 357), In addition, Peirce had detected that in his idea about the meaning's evolution, using and applying language vocabulary that is specific to sciences. He also oriented his attention accurately towards knowing the meaning with a consciousness that is sharper than the meaning, which is described as constant, because every language is always and permanently mobile, and it contains some verbal manipulations, and it is also growing with the adoption of the evolution form (Haak, S, 2009, 13).

Through his efforts, spent on the problem of meaning, and his studies of thoughts, Peirce made a statement saying that: "What is worth to be mentioned may simply be just a presentation that is specific to the sign, because it is a superfluous path. I mean that the thought is contiguous and close to us, and the meaning's falling apart forms connected set in the embellished actors, where they were prominently appropriate, especially with the signs' criticism (Deely J, 1994, 138).

4-relativity of meaning betwin acceptance and rejection:Through his statement, Peirce concentrates on the fact that the word cannot be understood outside of words, where he thinks that words should not be separated in order to define the meaning of thoughts and words, and concerning Peirce's interest in thoughts and expanding their meanings, he justifies that by saying: "However, the cause itself may have found a desire for the thought to be widely prominent, because assumption was misunderstood, or what was necessarily to be clarified was wrong, when in fact it made the thought widely and completely clear"(peirce, ch, 1878, 13). Through what was detected by Peirce in his statement, justifying that the need to understand the thought may be relative, and in this very point, Peirce falls in a sort of ambiguity, when he determined his opinion with the action's result, and in the frame of Peirce's tenacity to scientific logic, as well as the fact that he includes the meaning in his most important researches, he recalls his call to the meaning's logic and his achievements by saying: "According to what had been mentioned previously about this moment that passed the scientific logic threshold, the meaning is absolutely important to know and understand how to make our thoughts clear, but those thoughts may undoubtedly be always useless and out of their correct presence, because how can we then take them into possession" (peirce, ch, 2010, 17). Through this statement, Peirce reaches a discursive result which he links to reality, concerning arriving to understand the meanings of words and the faltering and signification of thoughts, and that the clarity of any thought's meaning lies in its effectiveness, in the result of practical attitudes and in its effect in the frame of experiment.

5-Conclusion :

Many contemporary intellectuals, such as John Dewey, William James and its contemporaries, admitted and recognized Peirce's efforts in his pragmatic philosophical attempts of a scientific and logical character, as well as his great interest towards the above. In addition, Peirce's most important feature in his logic may be linking this latter to meaning, categories, limits and to his symbolic system, as well as reinforcing the practical attitude's result and its effect, where he carried his contempt towards them, thinking that they are empty meanings. As a final result, the feature that distinguished Peirce is that he set his semiotics on philosophical statements, and that he established benefit, and then excluded all what is connected to meditations, and his contribution in the establishment and crystallization of Peirce's thoughts, through drawing the features of semiotics' morphology, and open significations from the perspective of the meaning's understanding of thoughts and words.

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