

The book was found

Seven Types Of Ambiguity



Synopsis

First published in 1930, *Seven Types of Ambiguity* has long been recognized as a landmark in the history of English literary criticism. Revised twice since it first appeared, it has remained one of the most widely read and quoted works of literary analysis. Ambiguity, according to Empson, includes "any verbal nuance, however slight, which gives room for alternative reactions to the same piece of language." From this definition, broad enough by his own admission sometimes to see "stretched absurdly far," he launches into a brilliant discussion, under seven classifications of differing complexity and depth, of such works, among others, as Shakespeare's plays and the poetry of Chaucer, Donne, Marvell, Pope, Wordsworth, Gerard Manley Hopkins, and T. S. Eliot.

Book Information

Paperback: 256 pages

Publisher: New Directions (January 17, 1966)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 081120037X

ISBN-13: 978-0811200370

Product Dimensions: 5.3 x 0.8 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (14 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #118,506 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #7 inÂ Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Movements & Periods > Modern #89 inÂ Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Genres & Styles > Poetry #157 inÂ Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Regional & Cultural > European > British & Irish

Customer Reviews

The art of close reading as a technique to glean meaning from a text involves the use of a myriad of critical reading skills that we like to think are taught in both secondary and higher education. I might have begun the next sentence with, "Alas..." but instead it might be useful to point out that the deficiencies of readers in comprehending texts is not limited to today. In the years following the end of the Great War, students then as now were increasingly slothful in their reading skills. Part of the problem was that the term "ambiguity" had received some bad press. Most readers assume that when they read a text that if they encounter a word, phrase, term, or idea that they deem ambiguous it must be the result of sloppy writing on the author's part. William Empson in *Seven Types of Ambiguity* rises to the defense of ambiguity by insisting that the rush to indict it as slothful thinking

might just be premature. What, Empson asks, should a reader think if an ambiguous word or idea is deliberately so? Does the mere fact that this word or idea might have more than one meaning suggest that the author does not supply any helpful hints? Empson writes of ambiguity as if it were yet another close reading technique that when judiciously used induces the reader to peek under the patina of that ambiguity to uncover a richness of meaning that might otherwise lie dormant. Other New Critical writers prior to Empson have urged readers to be aware of the presence of ambiguities but mostly in the context of adversely judging the presence of an "organic unity" that might be forestalled by their presence. Ambiguities thus have a definite upside.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Seven Types of Ambiguity Racial Ambiguity in Asian American Culture (Asian American Studies Today) Ambiguity in the Western Mind Alexander: The Ambiguity of Greatness Seven Natural Wonders of Australia and Oceania (Seven Wonders) Seven Concurrency Models in Seven Weeks: When Threads Unravel (The Pragmatic Programmers) Seven Years: Seven, Book 1 A Match for Magnolia (Seven Suitors for Seven Sisters Book 1) The Seven Checkpoints for Student Leaders: Seven Principles Every Teenager Needs to Know Seven Databases in Seven Weeks: A Guide to Modern Databases and the NoSQL Movement Chalk-Style Holiday Coloring Book: Color with All Types of Markers, Gel Pens & Colored Pencils Buses for Kids: A Children's Picture Book about Buses: A Great Simple Picture Book for Kids to Learn about Different Types of Busses Motorcycles for Kids: A Children's Picture Book about Motorcycles: A Great Simple Picture Book for Kids to Learn about Different Types of Motorcycles Certified Programming with Dependent Types: A Pragmatic Introduction to the Coq Proof Assistant (MIT Press) Introduction to Abstract Data Types Using ADA More Bread Machine Magic : More Than 140 New Recipes From the Authors of Bread Machine Magic for Use in All Types of Sizes of Bread Machines Bread Machine Magic, Revised Edition: 138 Exciting Recipes Created Especially for Use in All Types of Bread Machines Leafy Greens: An A-to-Z Guide to 30 Types of Greens Plus More than 120 Delicious Recipes Knots: An Illustrated Practical Guide to the Essential Knot Types and Their Uses Corgis as Pets: Corgi Breeding, Where to Buy, Types, Care, Cost, Diet, Grooming, and Training all Included. The Ultimate Corgi Owner's Guide

[Dmca](#)