

Roman Jakobson

Quotes

*Sound, Language, Art, Poetry, Two, Acoustics, Rays, Problem, Speak,
Fundamentals, Giving, Function, Axes, Study, Focus, Individual, May, Deaf,
Mystery, Elephants*

Semantics, or the study of meaning, remained undeveloped, while phonetics made rapid progress and even came to occupy the central place in the scientific study of language.

~Roman Jakobson

Linguistic sounds, considered as external, physical phenomena have two aspects, the motor and the acoustic.

~Roman Jakobson

Every linguistic sign is located on two axes: the axis of simultaneity and that of succession.

~Roman Jakobson

Now the identification of individual sounds by phonetic observation is an artificial way of proceeding.

~Roman Jakobson

What's next? Shall we appoint elephants to teach zoology?

~Roman Jakobson

Languages differ essentially in what they must convey and not in what they may convey.

~Roman Jakobson

Bilingualism is for me the fundamental problem of linguistics.

~Roman Jakobson

The function of poetry is to point out that the sign is not identical to the referent.

~Roman Jakobson

When I speak it is in order to be heard.

~Roman Jakobson

A new era in the physiological investigation of linguistic sounds was opened up by X-ray photography.

~Roman Jakobson

In poetic language, in which the sign as such takes on an autonomous value, this sound symbolism becomes an actual factor and creates a sort of accompaniment to the signified.

~Roman Jakobson

Remember that the pharynx is at a crossroads from which leads off, at the top, the passage to the mouth cavity and the passage to the nasal cavity, and below, the passage to the larynx.

~Roman Jakobson

It is once again the vexing problem of identity within variety; without a solution to this disturbing problem there can be no system, no classification.

~Roman Jakobson

At first acoustics attributed to the different sounds only a limited number of characteristic features.

~Roman Jakobson

A linguist deaf to the poetic functions of language and a literary scholar indifferent to linguistics are equally flagrant anachronisms.

~Roman Jakobson

Speech sounds cannot be understood, delimited, classified and explained except in the light of the tasks which they perform in language.

~Roman Jakobson

The poetic function is the set towards the message itself, focus on the message for its own sake which by promoting the palpability of signs,

deepens the fundamental dichotomy of signs and objects.

~Roman Jakobson

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