

[illegible]

Structuralism

French structuralism

- **Structuralism** is a method of analysis that seeks to understand the underlying structure of a system or phenomenon.
- It is based on the idea that the meaning of a sign is determined by its relationship to other signs within a system.
- Structuralism is a key concept in linguistics, anthropology, psychology, and other fields.
- The most famous structuralist linguist is **Ferdinand de Saussure**, who argued that language is a system of signs, each consisting of a signifier (the sound or image) and a signified (the concept or meaning).
- Saussure's theory of the sign is central to structuralist thought.
- Other structuralist linguists include **Antoine Meillet** and **André Martinet**.
- In anthropology, structuralism was developed by **Claude Lévi-Strauss**, who argued that human culture is a system of signs, and that the meaning of a cultural practice is determined by its relationship to other practices within the system.
- Lévi-Strauss's theory of the sign is central to structuralist thought in anthropology.
- Other structuralist anthropologists include **Marcel Mauss** and **Émile Durkheim**.
- In psychology, structuralism was developed by **Sigmund Freud**, who argued that the mind is a system of signs, and that the meaning of a psychological phenomenon is determined by its relationship to other phenomena within the system.
- Freud's theory of the sign is central to structuralist thought in psychology.
- Other structuralist psychologists include **Carl Jung** and **Walter Dill Scott**.

What Is Linguistic Structuralism?

- **French structuralism** stood in stark contrast with humanism at the time – the philosophical camp that celebrates agency and free will.
- This version of structuralism argued that elements of culture should be understood in terms of its relationship to a larger “structure.”
- Language is a system of signs, which are arbitrary and perpetuated by convention.

Ludwick **WITTENSTEIN**

