

# Censorship and Silence Essay

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January 12, 2023

## 1 Introduction

I agree with Eco's opinions, he brought up events or situations that could be unnoticed in society that are very interesting to observe. Eco brought up many ideas that are easily overlooked. This could be censorship that comes from commercial everyday usage of soap powder, noise that goes around that could create negative connotations and silence of the mouth.

## 2 Censorship

### 2.1 Overview

There are two types of censorship; first is censorship through silence; the second is censorship through noise.

### 2.2 Soap

We blindly use products that have been with us throughout our lives. In general we would use a brand without knowing if there are better alternatives. In the author's case he mentioned Tide or Omo soap powder. I also use Tide since it dominates the market since how renowned it is and there could be better alternatives this is the one we solely use since it has been that way for my entire life. They could be equally the same product but it is only the name that backs up what it really is.

### 2.3 Noise

Many aspects of noise make people wonder what is the reality of what is going on. It seems like it is similar to reverse psychology. The author talked about having a letter sent with pure compliments to a wealthy person about to get married. It made it seem like their fiancée is "highly regarded throughout the city". This creates a suspicion that why would she be known and raises a lot of questions that the fiancée would like to know. This is a very surface level of noise that could destroy superficial relationships if it was done en masse.

An example Eco brought up was "Look at that idiot walking along the street, wearing his iPod headphones; he cannot spend an hour on the train reading a newspaper or looking at the countryside, but has to go straight to his mobile phone during the first part of the journey to say

“I’ve just left” and on the second part of the journey to say “I’m just arriving.” This is the world we live in now and this shows how modern technology made us behave which is not surprising due to what our society is developing into.

As a result of noise, we have willful censorship as in television, creating political scandals, and so on as well as involuntary but fatal censorship, in which excess information is turned into noise for totally legitimate reasons such as advertising revenue, product sales, and so on.

### **3 Silence**

The only truly powerful means of information word of mouth becomes effective only in quiet. Even when repressed by the most censorious tyrants, all people have been able to learn about what is going on in the globe through popular word of mouth. We lose the ability to hear what other people are saying when we lose the condition of quiet, which is the sole basic and trustworthy mode of communication. The word of mouth is the main source of information being spread. Being silenced on that fact is censorship doing its work in not letting our ideals spread around to other people who believe in anything resulting in freedom of speech.

### **4 Conclusion**

Eco believes in that the ethical issue we confront now, is how to return to silence. And one of the semiotic problems we might consider is examining a semiotics of silence: it could be a semiotics of reticence, a semiotics of silence in theater, a semiotics of silence in politics, a semiotics of silence in political debate—in other words, the long pause, silence as suspense, silence as a threat, silence as agreement, silence as denial, silence in music. Overall Eco provides great insight on the censorship and silence of events around the world that play a role into our daily lives.