Imagine that you enter the parlor and the people there are engaged in a heated discussion. The discussion is so heated that they can’t pause to tell you what the conversation is about. In fact, the discussion was going on for a longer time than any of the people spent in the room. That means that no one currently present is unable to tell you everything that had been said before. You listen for a while, until you decide that you have caught the tenor of the argument; then you put in your oar. “Someone answers; you answer him; another comes to your defense; another aligns himself against you, to either the embarrassment or gratification of your opponent,” Kenneth Burke notes, “depending upon the quality of your ally’s assistance.” However, the discussion is interminable. Time passes by – you must go. When you depart, the discussion is still vigorously in progress.