

seven types of ambiguity empson

Seven Types of Ambiguity Empson: Unlocking the Layers of Meaning in Literature

seven types of ambiguity empson is a fascinating concept that delves deep into the multiple meanings and interpretations found within a single phrase, line, or text. Originally identified by literary critic William Empson in his seminal work **Seven Types of Ambiguity**, this theory revolutionized the way we understand poetry and prose by highlighting the richness of language's complexity. If you've ever wondered why some literary works seem to hold endless meanings, or why a single sentence can evoke different emotions and thoughts, exploring Empson's seven types of ambiguity offers illuminating insights.

In this article, we will explore each of the seven types in detail, explaining how they contribute to the depth and beauty of literature. Along the way, we'll touch on related ideas such as semantic ambiguity, linguistic nuance, and interpretative challenges, to provide a comprehensive understanding of this critical literary theory.

What Are the Seven Types of Ambiguity According to Empson?

At its core, Empson's theory categorizes ambiguity into seven distinct types, each describing a different way in which language can be ambiguous. Ambiguity here refers to the presence of two or more meanings within a single passage, which can lead to various interpretations depending on the reader, context, or writer's intent. Let's take a closer look at these seven types.

1. The First Type: Multiple Meanings That Support Each Other

The very first type of ambiguity occurs when a phrase or line has more than one meaning, and both meanings are consistent or reinforce each other. This kind of ambiguity enriches the text by allowing readers to appreciate multiple layers simultaneously. For example, a poem may describe a scene that is both literal and metaphorical at the same time.

This type is often used to create subtlety in poetry, making the language resonate on different levels without causing confusion. Writers use this to invite readers to engage deeply with the text, uncovering meanings that blend harmoniously.

2. The Second Type: Two Contradictory Meanings

The second type introduces a more complex form of ambiguity where the meanings

actually contradict one another. This tension between conflicting interpretations can create a sense of irony, paradox, or deeper philosophical inquiry.

For instance, a line might simultaneously imply both hope and despair, forcing readers to grapple with the complex emotions or ideas presented. This kind of ambiguity encourages readers to reflect on the multiple dimensions of a theme or character.

3. The Third Type: Two Meanings That Interact in a Complex Way

In this type, the ambiguity arises from two meanings that don't simply coexist but interact with each other in a more intricate manner. These meanings might blend, overlap, or influence one another, creating a dynamic interplay.

This interaction often produces rich imagery or thought-provoking contrasts that deepen the reader's experience. It's a sophisticated kind of ambiguity that highlights the writer's skill in layering ideas and emotions.

4. The Fourth Type: The Author's Uncertainty or Ambivalence

Sometimes ambiguity reflects the author's own uncertainty or ambivalence about a subject. In such cases, the text itself reveals a hesitation or wavering attitude, which can be sensed in the language's equivocal nature.

This type is especially common in modernist literature, where writers explore the complexities and contradictions within human consciousness. Recognizing this type helps readers appreciate the text's psychological depth and openness.

5. The Fifth Type: The Text's Self-Contradiction

Here, ambiguity arises from a genuine contradiction within the text, where the meanings cannot be reconciled. This can create a deliberate paradox or a challenge to the reader's expectations.

Such contradictions can be used to unsettle the reader or to highlight the instability of meaning itself. Writers might employ this to question absolute truths or to emphasize complexity.

6. The Sixth Type: The Contradiction Between the Author's Intent and the Text's Meaning

This type deals with situations where the author's intended meaning clashes with what the text actually suggests. The ambiguity here springs from the gap between intention and interpretation.

Literary critics and readers often find this type intriguing because it opens up space for alternative readings and debates about authorial authority. It reminds us that texts can take on lives beyond their creators' designs.

7. The Seventh Type: The Contradiction Between the Text and the Reader's Response

Finally, the seventh type highlights the ambiguity created when the text's meaning conflicts with the reader's personal interpretation or emotional response. This subjective tension is central to the experience of literature as a living art form.

Different readers may perceive contradictory meanings based on their backgrounds, beliefs, or emotions, making the text a site of ongoing dialogue. This type celebrates the fluidity and openness of literary works.

Why Understanding Empson's Seven Types of Ambiguity Matters

Exploring these seven types of ambiguity is not just an academic exercise; it has practical value for readers, writers, and anyone interested in language. When we recognize how ambiguity operates, we become more attentive readers and more nuanced interpreters of texts.

For writers, understanding these ambiguities can enhance creative expression, allowing them to craft works that resonate on multiple levels. For students and critics, it provides a robust framework for analysis, helping to uncover hidden depths and appreciate the complexity of literary art.

Moreover, ambiguity is not confined to poetry or classic literature—it's present in everyday communication, film, advertising, and even politics. Learning about Empson's types can sharpen critical thinking and improve our ability to navigate ambiguous situations in real life.

Examples of Empson's Ambiguity in Famous Literary Works

To better grasp these concepts, let's consider a few examples from well-known texts that illustrate various types of ambiguity.

Shakespeare's "Hamlet" and the First Type

In Hamlet's famous soliloquy, "To be, or not to be," the phrase contains multiple meanings about existence and suffering. The line supports different interpretations about life and death, reflecting the first type of ambiguity where meanings complement each other.

Keats's "Ode on a Grecian Urn" and the Second Type

Keats's poem presents images frozen in time, which simultaneously suggest eternal beauty and the sorrow of unfulfilled desire. This contradiction captures the second type of ambiguity, where opposing meanings coexist.

Emily Dickinson's Poetry and the Fourth Type

Dickinson's often ambiguous phrasing reveals her own ambivalence about themes like death and immortality, embodying the fourth type where the author's uncertainty is palpable.

Tips for Identifying and Appreciating Ambiguity in Texts

If you're eager to explore ambiguity in your reading or writing, here are some helpful tips:

- **Look for multiple plausible interpretations:** Ask yourself if a phrase can mean more than one thing and how those meanings relate.
- **Consider contradictions:** Notice if conflicting ideas are present and what effect they create.
- **Reflect on the context:** Ambiguity often gains meaning depending on cultural, historical, or personal contexts.
- **Pay attention to language nuances:** Word choice, syntax, and punctuation can all contribute to ambiguity.
- **Engage with other readers' perspectives:** Discussing texts can reveal interpretations you might have missed.

Empson's framework can guide you through these steps, enriching your appreciation for the subtle artistry of language.

Exploring the seven types of ambiguity Empson identified opens a window into the layered complexity of literature and communication itself. Whether you are a casual reader, a student, or a writer, understanding these ambiguities not only enhances your literary experience but also deepens your appreciation for the power and playfulness of language.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the seven types of ambiguity according to William Empson?

William Empson identified seven types of ambiguity in his book 'Seven Types of Ambiguity,' which are different ways in which a word, phrase, or sentence can have multiple meanings or interpretations.

Why is Empson's 'Seven Types of Ambiguity' significant in literary criticism?

Empson's work is significant because it systematically categorizes the complexity of language in poetry and literature, showing how ambiguity enriches meaning and allows multiple interpretations.

Can you briefly describe one of the seven types of ambiguity Empson discusses?

One type is when a word or phrase is used in two different ways within the same context, creating a layered meaning that adds depth to the literary work.

How does Empson's theory of ambiguity apply to modern literature?

Empson's theory helps readers and critics understand the multifaceted meanings in modern texts, encouraging close reading and appreciation of linguistic complexity.

Where can I read William Empson's 'Seven Types of Ambiguity'?

'Seven Types of Ambiguity' is available in many bookstores and libraries, and also in digital formats on platforms like Amazon Kindle or academic databases.

Additional Resources

Seven Types of Ambiguity Empson: A Deep Dive into Literary Complexity

seven types of ambiguity empson refers to a seminal analytical framework developed

by William Empson, a prominent literary critic, in his influential work **Seven Types of Ambiguity** first published in 1930. This framework revolutionized the way literary texts are interpreted by categorizing the different forms ambiguity can take in poetry and prose. Empson's categorization not only sheds light on the intricate layers of meaning in literary works but also underscores the richness of language and the multiplicity of interpretation available to readers and critics alike. Understanding these seven types of ambiguity offers valuable insights into textual analysis, making it a cornerstone for literary criticism and a useful tool for writers, educators, and students.

Understanding Empson's Seven Types of Ambiguity

William Empson's approach to ambiguity was groundbreaking in its systematic dissection of how a single word, phrase, or passage can simultaneously evoke multiple meanings. His work challenged the traditional notion that ambiguity was a flaw or weakness in writing. Instead, Empson argued that ambiguity enriches a text, allowing it to operate on different levels and engage readers in active interpretation. The seven types he identified range from subtle nuances to overt contradictions, each illustrating a unique way language can be layered with complexity.

The Seven Types Explained

To appreciate the intricacies of Empson's seven types of ambiguity, it is essential to examine each type individually:

1. **First Type:** The simplest form where a word or phrase has multiple meanings simultaneously. For example, a word with two distinct definitions that both apply in the context.
2. **Second Type:** A single word or phrase that, by virtue of its structure, suggests two incompatible ideas, creating a tension or contradiction.
3. **Third Type:** A combination of two ideas that are incompatible but held simultaneously, often creating irony or paradox within the text.
4. **Fourth Type:** An expression that is ambiguous because it involves a double meaning, where one meaning is more obvious or explicit, and the other is more subtle or implicit.
5. **Fifth Type:** Ambiguity arising from the use of metaphors or similes that can be interpreted in more than one way, often enriching the imagery.
6. **Sixth Type:** Ambiguity generated by the contradiction between the literal and figurative meaning, leading to complex interpretations.

7. **Seventh Type:** The most complex form, involving the simultaneous presence of multiple meanings that interact with each other, creating a rich tapestry of interpretations that resist singular understanding.

Implications for Literary Criticism and Interpretation

The seven types of ambiguity Empson outlines have broad implications for the study of literature, particularly poetry. His categorization provides a lens through which critics can explore how ambiguity functions not merely as an aesthetic device but as a fundamental element of meaning-making. Ambiguity challenges readers to reconsider surface meanings and delve deeper into the potential multiplicity of interpretation. This approach aligns with contemporary hermeneutics and reader-response theories that emphasize the active role of the reader in constructing meaning.

Empson's Influence on Modern Literary Theory

Empson's work paved the way for subsequent critical theories that focus on textual complexity and polysemy. Structuralist and post-structuralist critics, for instance, have drawn on his analysis to argue that texts are inherently unstable and open-ended. Moreover, his emphasis on ambiguity highlights the limitations of authorial intention as a guide for interpretation, suggesting instead that meaning is co-created by the text and its readers.

Practical Applications of the Seven Types of Ambiguity

Beyond academic criticism, understanding Empson's seven types of ambiguity can be highly beneficial in various fields:

- **Creative Writing:** Writers can deliberately employ ambiguity to add depth and subtlety to their work, inviting multiple interpretations and engaging readers more profoundly.
- **Education:** Teachers can use Empson's framework to help students develop critical reading skills, encouraging them to look beyond literal meanings and appreciate the complexity of language.
- **Translation:** Translators are often faced with the challenge of preserving ambiguity across languages, making an awareness of these types crucial for capturing the original text's nuances.

Challenges and Criticisms

While Empson's seven types of ambiguity have been widely influential, they are not without criticism. Some scholars argue that his categories can be overly rigid or reductive when applied to texts that defy neat classification. Moreover, the subjective nature of interpretation means that what constitutes ambiguity can vary among readers, influenced by cultural and historical contexts. Nevertheless, the framework remains a valuable starting point for exploring the multifaceted nature of literary language.

The Role of Ambiguity in Enhancing Literary Value

Ambiguity, as outlined in Empson's theory, plays a crucial role in enhancing the aesthetic and intellectual appeal of literature. It allows texts to operate on multiple levels simultaneously, creating tension, irony, and resonance that enrich the reader's experience. Far from being a defect, ambiguity can be seen as a hallmark of sophisticated and enduring literature. By incorporating multiple meanings, writers can reflect the complexity of human thought and emotion, making their works timeless and open to continual reinterpretation.

Exploring the seven types of ambiguity Empson details reveals the myriad ways language can function beyond straightforward communication. Whether through subtle wordplay, paradoxical statements, or layered metaphors, ambiguity invites ongoing dialogue between text and reader. This dynamic interaction underscores the vitality of literature as an art form that resists finality and embraces multiplicity.

In the current literary landscape, where digital media and rapid consumption often favor clarity and brevity, revisiting Empson's seven types of ambiguity serves as a powerful reminder of the enduring value of complexity and nuance. It encourages a more thoughtful and engaged approach to reading, one that acknowledges the richness and depth of language as a living, breathing entity.

Seven Types Of Ambiguity Empson

seven types of ambiguity empson: Seven Types Of Ambiguity William Empson, 2016-09-06
Many of the earliest books, particularly those dating back to the 1900s and before, are now extremely scarce and increasingly expensive. We are republishing these classic works in affordable, high quality, modern editions, using the original text and artwork.

seven types of ambiguity empson: Seven Types of Ambiguity. William Empson. 3rd Edition William Empson, 1953

seven types of ambiguity empson: *Shakespearian and Other Essays* James Smith, 1974-04-25
Originally published in 1974, this volume presents essays on Shakespeare's comedies by the late

James Smith.

seven types of ambiguity empson: The Critics who Made Us George Core, 1993 Collects essays published in the last seven years in the distinguished literary journal that reevaluates eminent British and American literary critics of the 20th century. Among those whose work is discussed are Eliot, Pound, Frye, and Trilling, Wilson, Cowley, Burke, Warren, Jarrell, and Brooks--virtually all of whom shared a commitment to the craft of criticism, wrote poetry or fiction, and also left their mark as editors. Annotation copyright by Book News, Inc., Portland, OR

seven types of ambiguity empson: Radical Empiricists Helen Thaventhiran, 2015 Radical Empiricists presents a new history of criticism in the first half of the twentieth-century, against the backdrop of the modernist crisis of meaning. Our received idea of modernist criticism is that its novelty lay in being very empirical: critics believed in looking closely at words on the page. Such close reading has since been easy to ridicule, but this book seeks to consider whether this is fair: have we, in the rush either to dismiss, or even to defend, the idea of close reading, often failed to look closely at what it involves in practice? Against this oversight, Radical Empiricists turns close reading back on itself, proposing some innovative readings of the prose of five major modernist poet-critics: I.A. Richards, T.S. Eliot, William Empson, R.P. Blackmur, and Marianne Moore. The book is divided into two parts, preceded by an introduction that explores what these five writers share: a radical self-consciousness about the key critical concept, meaning. Part I, How to read, considers the prose techniques of Eliot, Richards, and Empson as they push at the boundaries of verbal analysis in other disciplines: experimental psychology and anthropology, classical commentary, and textual criticism. Part II introduces Blackmur and Moore, alongside Empson, and takes a more polemical look at how their critical styles defy various modernist orthodoxies about how not to read (for example, that paraphrase always destroys poetic meaning). Many of these orthodoxies remain current: re-visiting their history, and attending to the rich detail of critical prose styles, can allow us to lift some old, unreflective constraints on our ways of knowing about poems.

seven types of ambiguity empson: W. B. Yeats Alexander Norman Jeffares, 1997 This set comprises of 40 volumes covering nineteenth and twentieth century European and American authors. These volumes will be available as a complete set, mini boxed sets (by theme) or as individual volumes. This second set compliments the first 68 volume set of Critical Heritage published by Routledge in October 1995.

seven types of ambiguity empson: Seven Modes of Uncertainty C. Namwali Serpell, 2014-04-30 Literature is uncertain. Literature is good for us. These two ideas are often taken for granted. But what is the relationship between literature's capacity to perplex and its ethical value? Seven Modes of Uncertainty contends that literary uncertainty is crucial to ethics because it pushes us beyond the limits of our experience.

seven types of ambiguity empson: Resistant Structures Richard Strier, 2023-09-01 Taking Wittgenstein's Don't think, but look as his motto, Richard Strier argues against the application of a priori schemes to Renaissance (and all) texts. He argues for the possibility and desirability of rigorously attentive but pre-theoretical reading. His approach privileges particularity and attempts to respect the resistant structures of texts. He opposes theories, critical and historical, that dictate in advance what texts must—or cannot—say or do. The first part of the book, Against Schemes, demonstrates, in discussions of Rosemond Tuve, Stephen Greenblatt, and Stanley Fish among others, how both historicist and purely theoretical approaches can equally produce distortion of particulars. The second part, Against Received Ideas, shows how a variety of texts (by Shakespeare, Donne, Herbert, and others) have been seen through the lenses of fixed, mainly conservative ideas in ways that have obscured their actual, surprising, and sometimes surprisingly radical content. Taking Wittgenstein's Don't think, but look as his motto, Richard Strier argues against the application of a priori schemes to Renaissance (and all) texts. He argues for the possibility and desirability of rigorously attentive but pre-theoretical read

seven types of ambiguity empson: Revelation and Concealment of Christ Saeed Hamid-Khani, 2021-03-16 The elusive disposition of John's language has been noted by biblical scholars throughout

the history of New Testament studies. The Fourth Gospel is seen as so simple to grasp and yet often pointing beyond itself and beckoning the reader to read deeper. Various socio-linguistic studies have explained this feature as the reflection of the sectarian tendencies in the Johannine Christianity. In his study Saeed Hamid-Khani questions these approaches as inadequate. In turn, he examines John's language within an exegetical and theological framework. He argues that the *Sitz im Leben* of Johannine language was an environment in which the Hebrew Scriptures were the dominant conceptual force for both the Jews and the Christians. In this context he argues that the essential function of John's enigmatic language is wedded to the Evangelist's purpose in writing the Gospel: namely a steadfast focus upon setting forth that Jesus is the Christ according to the witness of Israel's Scriptures. It is here in these echoes and thematic allusions to the Scriptures that we find the answer to the function and significance of John's unique language: i.e., Jesus is the Messiah, the Saviour of the world, and he is the visible image of the invisible God, the embodiment of the self-revelation of God according to the Scriptures. However, these truths are concealed from the undiscerning and are only revealed by the spirit of God to those who are born of God.

seven types of ambiguity empson: Grundbegriffe der Literaturtheorie Ansgar Nünning, 2024-09-12

seven types of ambiguity empson: The Routledge Companion to Critical and Cultural Theory Paul Wake, Simon Malpas, 2013-06-19 Now in a fully updated second edition The Routledge Companion to Critical and Cultural Theory is an indispensable guide for anyone approaching the field for the first time. Exploring ideas from a diverse range of disciplines through a series of 11 critical essays and a dictionary of key names and terms, this book examines some of the most complex and fundamental theories in modern scholarship including: Marxism Trauma Theory Ecocriticism Psychoanalysis Feminism Posthumanism Gender and Queer Theory Structuralism Narrative Postcolonialism Deconstruction Postmodernism With three new essays, an updated introduction, further reading and a wealth of new dictionary entries, this text is an indispensable guide for all students of the theoretically informed arts, humanities and social sciences.

seven types of ambiguity empson: How to Read a Poem Thomas H. Ford, 2021-07-11 How to Read a Poem is an introduction to creative reading, the art of coming up with something to say about a text. It presents a new method for learning and teaching the skills of poetic interpretation, providing its readers with practical steps they can use to construct perceptive, inventive readings of any poem they might read. The Introduction sets out the aims of the book and provides some basic operating principles for applying the seven steps. In each subsequent chapter, the step is introduced and explained, relevant points of interpretative theory and methodology are discussed and illustrated with multiple examples, and the step is put into practice in a final section. Through these final sections, step by step, the book develops an extended reading of a single poem, Letitia Landon's *Lines Written under a Picture of a Girl Burning a Love-Letter* from 1822. That reading is sustained across the whole arc of the book, providing a detailed worked example of how to read a poem. This accessible and enjoyable guide is the ideal introduction to anyone approaching the detailed study of poetry for the first time and offers valuable theoretical insights for those more experienced in the area.

seven types of ambiguity empson: Being of Two Minds Jonathan Goldberg, 2022-09-20 *Being of Two Minds* examines the place that early modern literature held in Modernist literary criticism. For T. S. Eliot, Virginia Woolf, and William Empson, the early modern period helps model a literary future. At stake in their engagements across time were ontological questions about literature and its ability to mediate between the one and the many, the particular and the general, life and death, the past and the present. If reading and writing literature enables the mind to be in two places at once, creative experience serves as a way to participate in an expanded field of consciousness alongside mortality. Goldberg reads the readings that these modernists performed on texts that Eliot claimed for the canon like the metaphysical poets and Jacobean dramatists, but also Shakespeare, Milton, Montaigne, and Margaret Cavendish. Ontological concerns are reflected in Eliot's engagement with Aristotle's theory of the soul and Empson's Buddhism. These arguments

about being affect minds and bodies and call into question sexual normativity: Eliot glances at a sodomitical male-male mode of literary transmission; Woolf produces a Judith Shakespeare to model androgynous being; Empson refuses to distinguish activity from passivity to rewrite gender difference. The work of one of our leading literary and cultural critics, *Being of Two Minds* spans centuries to show how the most compelling and surprising ideas about mind, experience, and existence not only move between early modernity, high modernism, and our own moment, but are also constituted through that very movement between times and minds.

seven types of ambiguity empson: The New Criterion Reader Hilton Kramer, 1988 Gathers essays about modernism, Marxist criticism art patronage, Wallace Stevens, Picasso, Aaron Copland, Michel Foucault, Barbara Pym, Richard Serra, and Cindy Sherman.

seven types of ambiguity empson: Fifty Key Literary Theorists Richard J. Lane, 2006-09-27 Covering over a century's worth of debate, thinking and writing about literature, this is a unique guide to the lives and works of fifty theorists who have left an indelible mark on literary studies. Featuring theorists such as Judith Butler, Jacques Derrida, Sigmund Freud and Edward Said, this accessible guide includes: a glossary of terms full cross-referencing for maximum ease of use authoritative guides to further reading on and by each theorist. An essential resource for all students of literature, *Fifty Key Literary Theorists* explores the gamut of critical debate, from the New Critics to the Deconstructionists, and from post-colonialism to post-Marxism and more.

seven types of ambiguity empson: Medical Humanities and Medical Education Alan Bleakley, 2015-03-02 The field of the medical humanities is developing rapidly, however, there has also been parallel concern from sceptics that the value of medical humanities educational interventions should be open to scrutiny and evidence. Just what is the impact of medical humanities provision upon the education of medical students? In an era of limited resources, is such provision worth the investment? This innovative text addresses these pressing questions, describes the contemporary territory comprising the medical humanities in medical education, and explains how this field may be developed as a key medical education component for the future. Bleakley, a driving force of the international movement to establish the medical humanities as a core and integrated provision in the medical curriculum, proposes a model that requires collaboration between patients, artists, humanities scholars, doctors and other health professionals, in developing medical students' sensibility (clinical acumen based on close noticing) and sensitivity (ethical, professional and humane practice). In particular, this text focuses upon how medical humanities input into the curriculum can help to shape the identities of medical students as future doctors who are humane, caring, expressive and creative – whose work will be technically sound but considerably enhanced by their abilities to communicate well with patients and colleagues, to empathise, to be adaptive and innovative, and to act as 'medical citizens' in shaping a future medical culture as a model democracy where social justice is a key aspect of medicine. Making sense of the new wave of medical humanities in medical education scholarship that calls for a 'critical medical humanities', *Medical Humanities and Medical Education* incorporates a range of case studies and illustrative and practical examples to aid integrating medical humanities into the medical curriculum. It will be important reading for medical educators and others working with the medical education community, and all those interested in the medical humanities.

seven types of ambiguity empson: The Subtle Subtext Laurent Pernot, 2021-12-03 Subtexts are all around us. In conversation, business transactions, politics, literature, philosophy, and even love, the art of expressing more than what is explicitly said allows us to live and move in the world. But rarely do we reflect on this subterranean dimension of communication. In this book, renowned classicist and scholar of rhetoric Laurent Pernot explores the fascinating world of subtext. Of the two meanings present in any instance of double meaning, Pernot focuses on the meaning that is unstated—the meaning that counts. He analyzes subtext in all its multifarious forms, including allusion, allegory, insinuation, figured speech, irony, innuendo, esoteric teaching, reading between the lines, ambiguity, and beyond. Drawing on examples from figures as varied as Homer, Shakespeare, Molière, Proust, Foucault, and others, as well as from popular culture, Pernot shows

how subtext can be identified and deciphered as well as how prevalent and essential it is in human life. With erudition and wit, Perrot explains and clarifies a device of language that we use and understand every day without even realizing it. The Subtle Subtext is a book for anyone who is interested in language, literature, hidden meanings, and the finer points of social relations.

seven types of ambiguity empson: *Artist as Author* Christa Noel Robbins, 2021-06-29

Introduction : the artist as author -- The act-painting -- The expressive fallacy -- Rhetorics of motives -- Self-discipline -- Event as painting -- Conclusion : gridlocked.

seven types of ambiguity empson: *A History of Ambiguity* Anthony Ossa-Richardson, 2021-12-14 Ever since it was first published in 1930, William Empson's *Seven Types of Ambiguity* has been perceived as a milestone in literary criticism—far from being an impediment to communication, ambiguity now seemed an index of poetic richness and expressive power. Little, however, has been written on the broader trajectory of Western thought about ambiguity before Empson; as a result, the nature of his innovation has been poorly understood. *A History of Ambiguity* remedies this omission. Starting with classical grammar and rhetoric, and moving on to moral theology, law, biblical exegesis, German philosophy, and literary criticism, Anthony Ossa-Richardson explores the many ways in which readers and theorists posited, denied, conceptualised, and argued over the existence of multiple meanings in texts between antiquity and the twentieth century. This process took on a variety of interconnected forms, from the Renaissance delight in the 'elegance' of ambiguities in Horace, through the extraordinary Catholic claim that Scripture could contain multiple literal—and not just allegorical—senses, to the theory of dramatic irony developed in the nineteenth century, a theory intertwined with discoveries of the double meanings in Greek tragedy. Such narratives are not merely of antiquarian interest: rather, they provide an insight into the foundations of modern criticism, revealing deep resonances between acts of interpretation in disparate eras and contexts. *A History of Ambiguity* lays bare the long tradition of efforts to liberate language, and even a poet's intention, from the strictures of a single meaning.

seven types of ambiguity empson: *Crises of the Sentence* Jan Mieszkowski, 2019-04-02 There are few forms in which so much authority has been invested with so little reflection as the sentence. Though a fundamental unit of discourse, it has rarely been an explicit object of inquiry, often taking a back seat to concepts such as the word, trope, line, or stanza. To understand what is at stake in thinking—or not thinking—about the sentence, Jan Mieszkowski looks at the difficulties confronting nineteenth- and twentieth-century authors when they try to explain what a sentence is and what it can do. From Romantic debates about the power of the stand-alone sentence, to the realist obsession with precision and revision, to modernist experiments with ungovernable forms, Mieszkowski explores the hidden allegiances behind our ever-changing stylistic ideals. By showing how an investment in superior writing has always been an ethical and a political as well as an aesthetic commitment, *Crises of the Sentence* offers a new perspective on our love-hate relationship with this fundamental compositional category.

Related to seven types of ambiguity empson

Seven (1995 film) - Wikipedia Set in an unnamed, crime-ridden city, *Seven*'s narrative follows disenchanted, nearly retired Detective Lieutenant William Somerset (Freeman) and his newly transferred partner David

Watch Se7en Streaming Online | Hulu Watch *Se7en* and other popular TV shows and movies including new releases, classics, Hulu Originals, and more. It's all on Hulu

Se7en (1995) - Plot - IMDb Two detectives, a rookie and a veteran, hunt a serial killer who uses the seven deadly sins as his motives. Taking place in a nameless city, *Se7en* follows the story of two homicide detectives

Seven - Rotten Tomatoes Discover reviews, ratings, and trailers for *Seven* on Rotten Tomatoes. Stay updated with critic and audience scores today!

Seven | Official Trailer 4K Ultra HD | Warner Bros. Entertainment Now in 4K Ultra HD, check out the official trailer for *Seven*. The thriller stars a young Brad Pitt, Morgan Freeman, and Gwyneth

Paltrow. Look for it on digital

Se7en streaming: where to watch movie online? - JustWatch A serial killer on the loose uses the seven deadly sins as inspiration for his murders. First gluttony, then greed and sloth, the terrifying criminal forces their victims to suffer at the hands of cleverly

Watch Seven | Netflix Two detectives — an eager rookie and a jaded veteran — search desperately for a serial killer whose horrific crimes represent the Seven Deadly Sins. Watch trailers & learn more

Seven movie review & film summary (1995) | Roger Ebert It tells the story of two detectives - one ready to retire, the other at the start of his career - and their attempts to capture a perverted serial killer who is using the Seven Deadly

Se7en (1995) — The Movie Database (TMDB) Two homicide detectives are on a desperate hunt for a serial killer whose crimes are based on the "seven deadly sins" in this dark and haunting film that takes viewers from the

Watch Seven (1995) | Prime Video - Gluttony, greed, sloth, envy, wrath, pride, lust everyone has a sin. Detectives William Somerset and David Mills live among these sins, every day. But nothing can prepare them for the killings

Seven (1995 film) - Wikipedia Set in an unnamed, crime-ridden city, Seven ' s narrative follows disenchanted, nearly retired Detective Lieutenant William Somerset (Freeman) and his newly transferred partner David

Watch Se7en Streaming Online | Hulu Watch Se7en and other popular TV shows and movies including new releases, classics, Hulu Originals, and more. It's all on Hulu

Se7en (1995) - Plot - IMDb Two detectives, a rookie and a veteran, hunt a serial killer who uses the seven deadly sins as his motives. Taking place in a nameless city, Se7en follows the story of two homicide detectives

Seven - Rotten Tomatoes Discover reviews, ratings, and trailers for Seven on Rotten Tomatoes. Stay updated with critic and audience scores today!

Seven | Official Trailer 4K Ultra HD | Warner Bros. Entertainment Now in 4K Ultra HD, check out the official trailer for Seven. The thriller stars a young Brad Pitt, Morgan Freeman, and Gwyneth Paltrow. Look for it on digital

Se7en streaming: where to watch movie online? - JustWatch A serial killer on the loose uses the seven deadly sins as inspiration for his murders. First gluttony, then greed and sloth, the terrifying criminal forces their victims to suffer at the hands of cleverly

Watch Seven | Netflix Two detectives — an eager rookie and a jaded veteran — search desperately for a serial killer whose horrific crimes represent the Seven Deadly Sins. Watch trailers & learn more

Seven movie review & film summary (1995) | Roger Ebert It tells the story of two detectives - one ready to retire, the other at the start of his career - and their attempts to capture a perverted serial killer who is using the Seven Deadly

Se7en (1995) — The Movie Database (TMDB) Two homicide detectives are on a desperate hunt for a serial killer whose crimes are based on the "seven deadly sins" in this dark and haunting film that takes viewers from the

Watch Seven (1995) | Prime Video - Gluttony, greed, sloth, envy, wrath, pride, lust everyone has a sin. Detectives William Somerset and David Mills live among these sins, every day. But nothing can prepare them for the killings

Seven (1995 film) - Wikipedia Set in an unnamed, crime-ridden city, Seven ' s narrative follows disenchanted, nearly retired Detective Lieutenant William Somerset (Freeman) and his newly transferred partner David

Watch Se7en Streaming Online | Hulu Watch Se7en and other popular TV shows and movies including new releases, classics, Hulu Originals, and more. It's all on Hulu

Se7en (1995) - Plot - IMDb Two detectives, a rookie and a veteran, hunt a serial killer who uses the seven deadly sins as his motives. Taking place in a nameless city, Se7en follows the story of two

homicide detectives

Seven - Rotten Tomatoes Discover reviews, ratings, and trailers for Seven on Rotten Tomatoes. Stay updated with critic and audience scores today!

Seven | Official Trailer 4K Ultra HD | Warner Bros. Entertainment Now in 4K Ultra HD, check out the official trailer for Seven. The thriller stars a young Brad Pitt, Morgan Freeman, and Gwyneth Paltrow. Look for it on digital

Se7en streaming: where to watch movie online? - JustWatch A serial killer on the loose uses the seven deadly sins as inspiration for his murders. First gluttony, then greed and sloth, the terrifying criminal forces their victims to suffer at the hands of cleverly

Watch Seven | Netflix Two detectives — an eager rookie and a jaded veteran — search desperately for a serial killer whose horrific crimes represent the Seven Deadly Sins. Watch trailers & learn more

Seven movie review & film summary (1995) | Roger Ebert It tells the story of two detectives - one ready to retire, the other at the start of his career - and their attempts to capture a perverted serial killer who is using the Seven Deadly

Se7en (1995) — The Movie Database (TMDB) Two homicide detectives are on a desperate hunt for a serial killer whose crimes are based on the "seven deadly sins" in this dark and haunting film that takes viewers from the

Watch Seven (1995) | Prime Video - Gluttony, greed, sloth, envy, wrath, pride, lust everyone has a sin. Detectives William Somerset and David Mills live among these sins, every day. But nothing can prepare them for the killings

Related Articles

- [worksheet on single and double replacement reactions](#)
- [letters to a diminished church](#)
- [the art of fiction ayn rand](#)

[Back to Home](#)