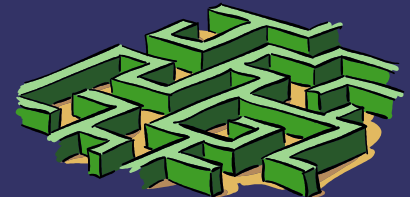


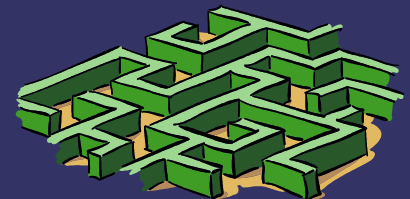
Structuralism is anticipated by Existentialism

- Anticipated by **Existentialism** (Søren Kierkegaard, Fyodor Dostoevsky, Jean-Paul Sartre, Simone de Beauvoir, Maurice Merleau-Ponty, Albert Camus):
 - existence precedes essence
 - More of a rejection of systematic philosophies than a philosophy itself
 - Sartre:
 - “the attempt to draw all the consequences from a position of consistent atheism”
 - A type of humanism
 - (with Albert Camus) Life is a juxtaposition of random experiences that cause it to become absurd.
 - Kierkegaard:
 - Absurdity is limited to choices in actions made by man (not by life)



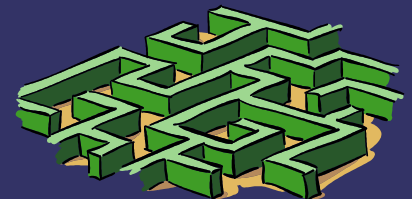
Structuralism

- ➔ This is an intellectual movement begun in the 1950s in France. It is associated with anthropology, sociology, psychology, linguistics, semiotics, narratology, architecture, economics, and other discipline-based philosophies.
- ➔ It is interdisciplinary.
- ➔ Things cannot be understood apart from other things; they have to be understood as parts of a greater whole.
- ➔ Elements of culture cannot be understood except as they are connected to each other and part of a larger system of society, the overall “structure” of culture.
- ➔



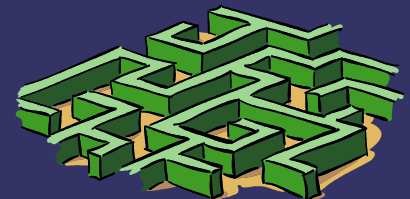
Key Figures

- ➔ Ferdinand de Saussure
- ➔ Charles Sanders (“C.S.”) Peirce
- ➔ Roland Barthes
- ➔ Noam Chomsky
- ➔ Claude Lévi-Strauss
- ➔ Roman Jakobson
- ➔ Jacques Lacan



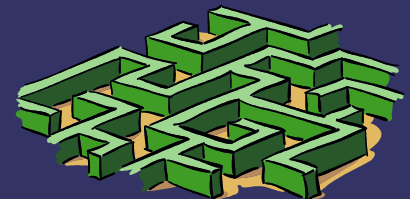
Jacques Lacan

- ⇒ Structuralism is generally thought to be the first *school* of thought in psychology.
- ⇒ In this field, it argues that conscious experience can be understood as a structure of basic elements of thoughts and sensations.
- ⇒ Reduces mental processes to basic elements.
- ⇒ Structures of the mind are classified: sensations, emotions, images,
- ⇒ Lacan
 - The structural order of “the Symbolic”
 - The structural order of “the Real”
 - The structural order of “the Imaginary”



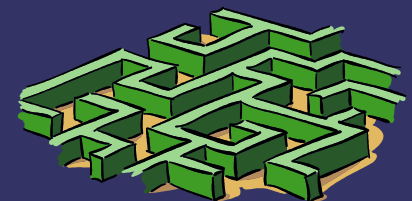
Roman Jakobson (1896-1982)

- ➔ Founded phonology (with Nikolai Trubetzkoy)
- ➔ Pioneer of structural linguistics
- ➔ Influenced:
 - Claude Lévi-Strauss
 - Roland Barthes
 - Noam Chomsky
- ➔ Drew from
 - Ferdinand de Saussure
 - C.S. Peirce's ideas of semiotics,
 - Communication theory
 - Cybernetics



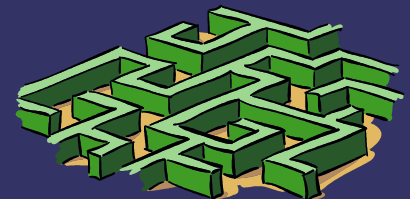
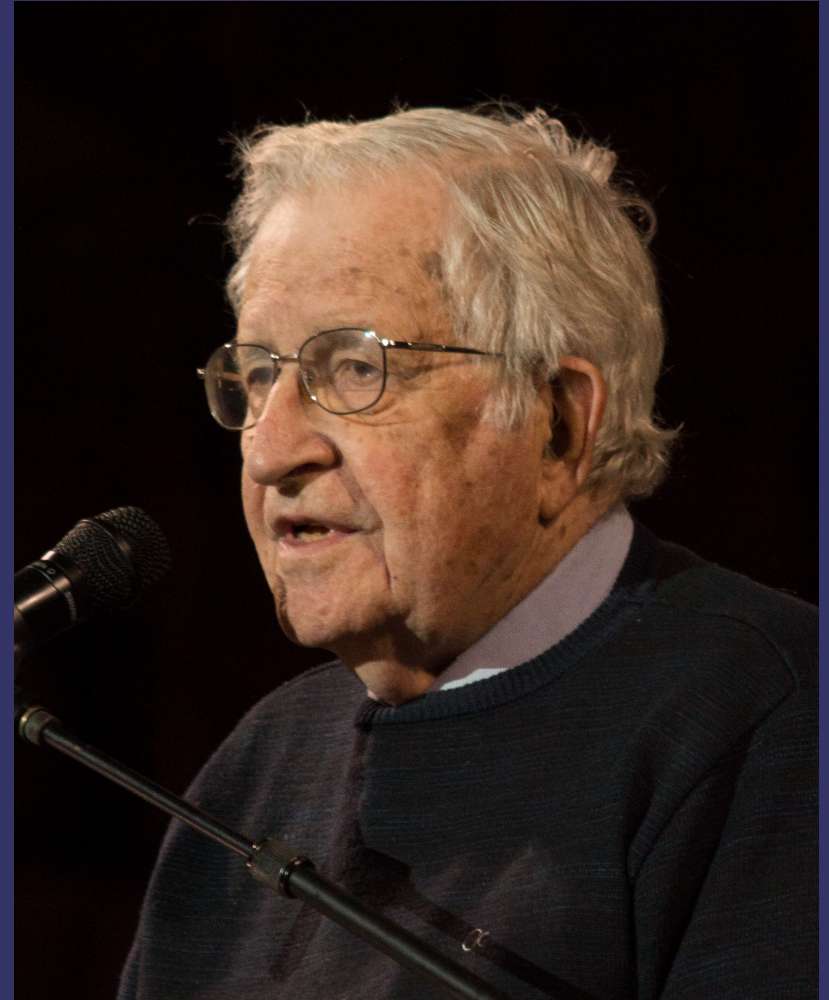
Claude Lévi-Strauss

- ⇒ French anthropologist and ethnologist
- ⇒ Key in the development of structuralism
- ⇒ Key in the development of structural anthropology
- ⇒ Argued that the “savage” mind has the same structures as the “civilized” mind
- ⇒ Influences many fields of the humanities
- ⇒ Structuralism: “the search for the underlying patterns of thought in all forms of human activity” (Angela Doland, biographer).



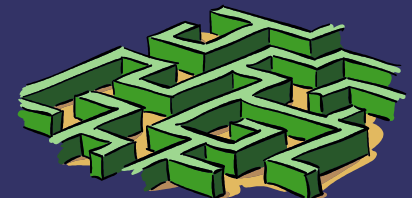
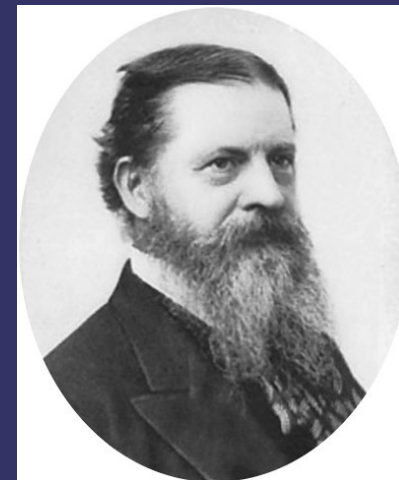
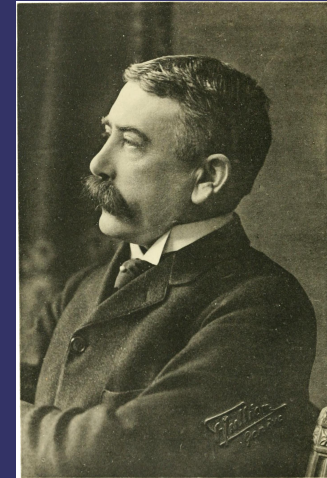
Noam Chomsky

- ⇒ American linguist, philosopher, cognitive scientist, historian, and social critic
- ⇒ “Father of modern linguistics”
- ⇒ Currently Professor Emeritus at MIT and Laureate Professor at U of Arizona
- ⇒ Developed a theory of 'transformational grammar'



Ferdinand de Saussure & Charles Sanders Peirce

- ⇒ Linguistics: the study of language structures (form, meaning, and context)
- ⇒ Semiology/Semiotics:
 - the study of making meaning and meaningful communication
 - Signs and symbols
 - Language AND other forms of communication
- ⇒ Saussure:
 - One of the founders of linguistics and semiology
- ⇒ Peirce:
 - American philosopher, logician, mathematician, and scientist
 - “Father of Pragmatism”



Roland Gérard Bathes

- ➔ Reacted to Existentialism
 - Argued that conventions inform both language and style (and thus making neither purely unique)
 - Pseudo-formalist: the writing (the form) is what makes a work unique
 - The writer is vulnerable to conventions
 - Creativity is a constant battle with convention
- ➔ Influenced:
 - Structuralism
 - Semiotics
 - Social Theory
 - Design Theory
 - Anthropology
 - Post-structuralism



- ➔ Functions: the elementary pieces of a work, such as a single descriptive word that can be used to identify a character.
- ➔ Actions: made up of functions
- ➔ Narratives: made up of characters



Deconstruction

- ➔ Created by Jacques Derrida
- ➔ A critique of the relationships between text and meaning
- ➔ Shows that language is unstable, irreducibly complex, impossible to find structure in it
- ➔ Influenced: linguistics, sociology, psychoanalysis, LGBTQ studies, feminism, architecture, anthropology, political theory, religious studies, jurisprudence, music, art, and literary criticism

