

'Hypostatic Abstraction' (pub. 24.11.15-16:43). Quote in M. Bergman & S. Paavola (Eds.), *The Commens Dictionary: Peirce's Terms in His Own Words. New Edition*. Retrieved from <http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-branches-geometry-existential-graphs-r-2>.

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**Term:** Hypostatic Abstraction

**Quote:** *Abstraction* names two wholly different operations. One of them consists in supposing some feature of the fact to be absent, or at least leaving it out of account. I call that *prescissive abstraction*. The other changes 'This man is shy' to 'This man is affected with shyness'. [—] In non-prosaic language it changes a predicate into a subject (extending the term subject beyond the subject nominative to the subject accusative and subject dative, - in short, to what are called the direct and indirect *objects* of the verb). "The rose smells very sweetly" is by hypostatic abstraction converted into "The rose possesses a delightful perfume." So "Cain killed Abel" is changed to "Cain caused the death of Abel." Perfume and death are *hypostatical abstractions*. They denote *entia rationis*, whatever that may mean.

**Source:** Peirce, C. S. (1905 [c.]). *The Branches of Geometry; Existential Graphs [R]*. MS [R] 96.

**References:** MS [R] 96

**Date of** 1905 [c.]

**Quote:**

**URL:** <http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-branches-geometry-existential-graphs-r-2>