

'Copy [in Semeiotic]' (pub. 05.05.13-18:42). 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-harvard-lectures-logic-science-lecture-i>.

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**Term:** Copy [in Semeiotic]

**Quote:** The first and simplest kind of truth is the resemblance of a *copy*. It may be roughly stated to consist in a sameness of predicates. Leibniz would say that carried to its highest point, it would destroy itself by becoming identity. Whether that is true or not, all known resemblance has a limit. Hence, resemblance is always partial truth. On the other hand, no two things are so different as to resemble each other in no particular. Such a case is supposed in the proverb that Dreams go by contraries, - an absurd notion, since concretes have no contraries. A false *copy* is one which claims to resemble an object which it does not resemble. But this never fully occurs, for two reasons; in the first place, the falsehood does not lie in the *copy* itself but in the *claim* which is made for it, in the *superscription* for instance; in the second place, as there must be *some* resemblance between the copy and its object, this falsehood cannot be entire. Hence, there is no absolute truth or falsehood of *copies*.

**Source:** Peirce, C. S. (1865). *Harvard Lectures on the Logic of Science. Lecture I*. MS [W] 94; MS [R] 340, 734.

**References:** W 1:169-170

**Date of** 1865

**Quote:**

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