One very important triad is this: it has been found that there are three kinds of signs which are all indispensable in all reasoning; the first is the diagrammatic sign or **icon**, which exhibits a similarity or analogy to the subject of discourse; the second is the **index**, which like a pronoun demonstrative or relative, forces the attention to the particular object intended without describing it; the third is the general name or description which signifies its object by means of an association of ideas or habitual connection between the name and the character signified.


**References:** W 5:243

**Date of Quote:** 1885

**URL:** http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-one-two-three-fundamental-categories-thought-and-nature