‘Emotional Interpretant’ (pub. 15.08.13-19:02). 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-pragmatism-12.

Term: Emotional Interpretant

Quote: The first proper significate effect of a sign is a feeling produced by it. There is almost always a feeling which we come to interpret as evidence that we comprehend the proper effect of the sign, although the foundation of truth in this is frequently very slight. This “emotional interpretant,” as I call it, may amount to much more than that feeling of recognition; and in some cases, it is the only proper significate effect that the sign produces. Thus, the performance of a piece of concerted music is a sign. It conveys, and is intended to convey, the composer’s musical ideas; but these usually consist merely in a series of feelings. If a sign produces any further proper significate effect, it will do so through the mediation of the emotional interpretant, and such further effect will always involve an effort.

Source: Peirce, C. S. (1907). *Pragmatism*. MS [R] 318.

References: CP 5.475

Date of Quote: 1907

URL: http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-pragmatism-12