

'Token' (pub. 22.04.13-19:17). 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-prolegomena-apology-pragmaticism-5>.

Term: Token

Quote: A common mode of estimating the amount of matter in a MS. or printed book is to count the number of words. There will ordinarily be about twenty *the's* on a page, and of course they count as twenty words. In another sense of the word "word," however, there is but one word "the" in the English language; and it is impossible that this word should lie visibly on a page or be heard in any voice, for the reason that it is not a Single thing or Single event. It does not exist; it only determines things that do exist. Such a definitely significant Form, I propose to term a *Type*. A Single event which happens once and whose identity is limited to that one happening or a Single object or thing which is in some single place at any one instant of time, such event or thing being significant only as occurring just when and where it does, such as this or that word on a single line of a single page of a single copy of a book, I will venture to call a *Token*. An indefinite significant character such as a tone of voice can neither be called a *Type* nor a *Token*. I propose to call such a Sign a *Tone*. In order that a *Type* may be used, it has to be embodied in a *Token* which shall be a sign of the *Type*, and thereby of the object the *Type* signifies. I propose to call such a *Token* of a *Type* an *Instance* of the *Type*.

Source: Peirce, C. S. (1906). Prolegomena to an Apology for Pragmaticism. *The Monist*, 16, 492-546.

References: CP 4.537

Date of 1906

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