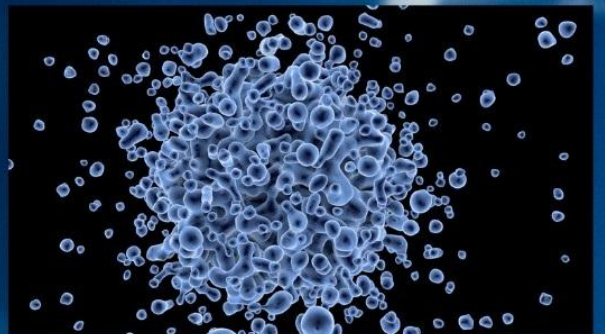


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The Semiotics of Environmental Crises: Symbols of Extinction

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Abstract – Environmental crises have gone beyond being merely ecological problems and have become global concerns that need to be examined in cultural, political and semiotic dimensions. This study aims to examine how environmental extinction and ecological destruction are symbolized by focusing on the semiotic analysis of environmental crises. In particular, how are natural disasters, climate change and environmental collapse represented in media, art, literature and political discourses? Which images, metaphors and narratives shape the perception of environmental disasters? In this context, the research investigates how environmental crises are embedded in social memory, through which symbols they gain meaning and how these signs affect political-ecological discourses. The main research questions of the study are as follows: How are environmental crises visualized? Through which semiotic markers are these crises presented? How do the resulting signs shape individual and social perceptions? The study is evaluated within the theoretical framework of Peirce and Barthes' semiotic theories. In the research, the representations, linguistic expressions and symbolic elements of the visuals associated with environmental disasters are analyzed from a semiotic perspective. The findings reveal that certain symbols and narratives are frequently repeated in the depiction of environmental crises and reinforce ecological concerns. This study reveals that the crises that lead to environmental problems do not only have a scientific aspect, but these environmental crises are also created culturally and semiotically. In addition, the socio-political structure of environmental crises and the structure of meaning they gain within the context of discourse are closely related to semiotics.

Keywords – Environmental Semiotics, Ecological Crises, Climate Change, Environmental Destruction, Media Representation.

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