

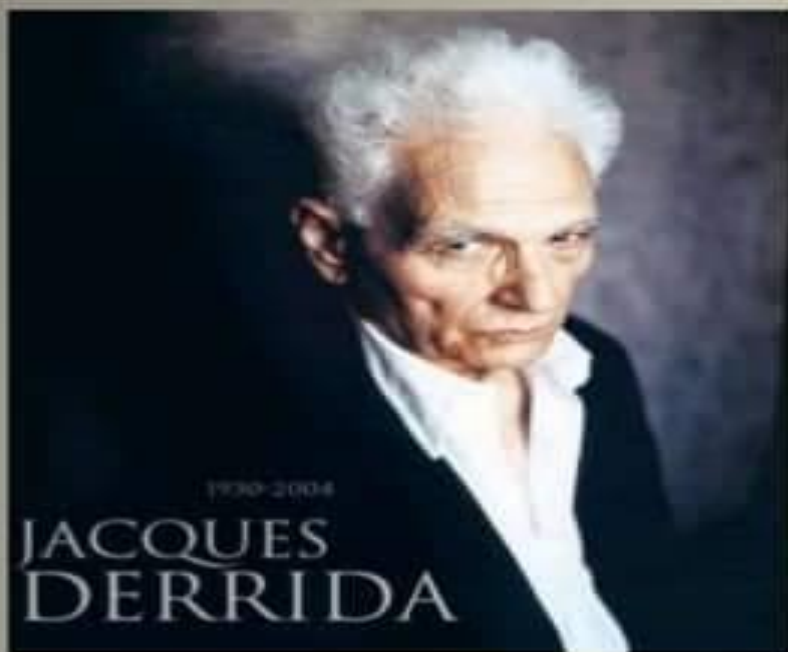
# DECONSTRUCTION

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# Historical Development

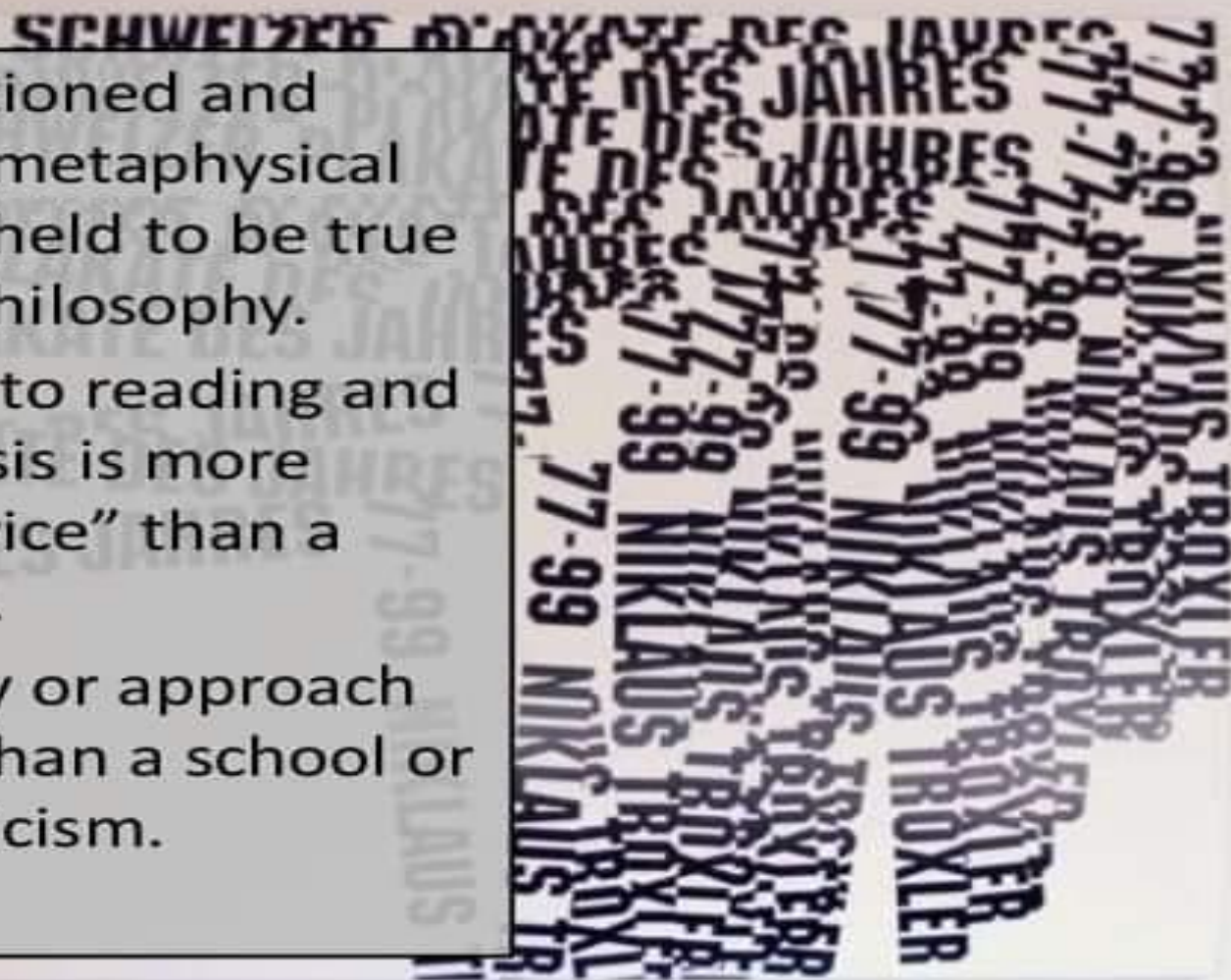
- Rene Descartes (1596-1650) and Fredrick Nietzsche (1844-1900) were pioneers in deconstruction.
- They began to question the objective truth of language.
- This is also known as Poststructuralist, this criticism came after structuralism.



Jacques Derrida was a French philosopher, born in Algeria. Derrida is best known for developing a form of semiotic analysis known as deconstruction, which he discussed in numerous texts.

*Deconstruction* was first emerged on the American literary stage in 1966.  
*"Structure, Sign, and Play"*





- Derrida questioned and disputed the metaphysical assumptions held to be true by Western philosophy.
- His approach to reading and literary analysis is more “strategic device” than a methodology.
- More strategy or approach to literature than a school or theory of criticism.

## To understand DECONSTRUCTION:

First, gain a working knowledge of the historical and philosophical roots of structuralism.

After examining *structuralism*, we must investigate the proposed radical changes Derrida makes in Western philosophy.

Finally, we must *master* the new terms, coupled with the new philosophical assumptions.

# Ferdinand de Saussure

- Looked at language Diachronically.
- He traced words over time looking for the changes in sounds and meanings.



## Derrida's Interpretation of Saussure's Sign

- Derrida affirm concepts of language system based on differences
- Derrida asserts that the signified can also be known through relationship

# Rules of Language

- These rules of language were developed by Ferdinand de Saussure.
- **Langue** - Language is made of a set of rules, known as this.
- **Parole** - General rules of language applied by members of a specific community.
- **Signs** – He depicted language as a set of signs, that came in two parts the Signifier and the Signified



**Linguistic Sign**

```
graph TD; A[Linguistic Sign] --> B[Signifier  
(Spoken sound or written symbol)]; A --> C[Signified  
(The meaning of the word)];
```

**Signifier**  
(Spoken sound  
or written  
symbol)

**Signified**  
(The meaning  
of the word)

Deconstruction  
looks at the  
ambiguities in  
signifiers, and  
states that  
there can be  
many different  
signified  
meanings for a  
single signifier

# I filled the glass of milk

Glass is signifier of the signified concept of a container to hold the milk

Glass = *Signifier*

Container = *Signified*

## The container was filled with glass

- Spoken or written “container” was signified in previous sentence, but now is the signifier
- It's signified the concept of an object that can be filled
- Notice the changing use of the word GLASS

# Conclusion

**Ferdinand de Saussure**

Signifier

Signified

**Jacques Derrida**

Signified

Signifier





Thank you