THE CONTACT

Natural	<u>Cultural</u>						
v ·	denotative			connotative			
The message is trans- mitted by telephone.		The caller initiates an unwanted act of communication with me.			An aggressive act.		
PHONE CALLER—— CALLEE					 		
Irespond variously by hanging up, listening, responding verbally, and in the end, call the phone company.			oice of respor nes the outcor		My role in the communication becomes an active one despite my disinclination to be a participant.		
The interaction between the caller and myself takes on a specific character according to both of our actions and reactions.		Regardless of my response, inevitably I participate and collaborate in the act. A "strange" man relays intimate information about himself to me, we interact, communicate (if only by my being the receptor of the message), gain some knowledge of each other.			Some form of relationship has transpired.		
IMPOTENCE	IMPOTENCE PASSIVE		PASSIVE/ACTIVE	ACTIV	E	AGGRESSION	
THE CALLEE						THE CALLER	

To what extent can one presume a connection between impotence and aggression? Is this a compensatory act or a symptomatic act? We play off one another. We have exchanged roles

THE CODE

The signs may be produced either <u>organically</u>, by the body, or <u>instrumentally</u>, by means of a technological extension of the body. Language is the most'pure' organic semiotic system. Every aspect of it signifies, and it is produced solely by means of the body. When the extension of the body, which we call a medium, causes one organic factor to become dominant over the others (the telephone has this effect on the voice; silent film had the same effect on the body gesture) then it will inevitably affect the nature of the discourse. That is, the medium will begin to affect the message. When this takes extreme form, we find ourselves confronted, not with a medium which simply transmits a pre-packaged message, but with an autonomous semiotic system, with a 'life'-that is, with messages-- of its own.*

<u>Natural</u>	<u>Cultural</u>				
	denotative				
speech	The English language.				
via telephone	The fact that the message is delivered by telephone rather than in person radically alters what understanding can be derived from this statement. The medium affects and changes the meaning of the message.				
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*Hawkes, Terrance, <u>Structuralism and Semiotics</u>, (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1977),

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connotative

A sign system understood by both the caller and I.

The message is not a statement of intent. Rather, the message is a series of telephone calls that initiate a communication of a sexual nature, provoking a negative emotional response.

- 1. Is it essentially a sexual act, or is the sexual nature of the statement only a tool to provoke an angry response from me/ the callee/a woman? Is this negative response pleasurable or satisfying in some emotional or sexual way?
- 2. Is this a hostile act directed at me, or is this man instigating hostility in me in order to punish himself?
- 3. Is this act best understood in personal terms, as an interaction between the caller and myself; or in larger terms, as a relationship between the caller and society—as extreme manifestations of alienation and frustration?