

ROUGH Abstract:

Using the philosophical thought experiment posited by Bishop George Berkeley, "if a tree falls in the forest and no one is around to hear it, does it make a sound?" I want to analyze both the emphasis on perceived sound by an intended (in this case, not present) receiver, as well as the emphasis on sound and its necessary reflection in order to dignify it a 'sound.' In addition, I want to explore and analyze the presumed existence of, in Berkeley's thought experiment, the 'tree,' and the assumed existence of the tree, or even that the tree falls, and examine the lack of focus on its own dignified entity, or even what could be expanded upon there. Using Berkeley's question and stemming from his general philosophy that "to be is to be perceived," I want to explore the way people often conjugate existence using expression, the way that expression is determined by an outstanding object, and to instead consider the object of expression. Using the concept of sound, I think it's interesting to consider the definition of "sound waves," and the way they are constituted by requiring an ultimate reflector, a receiver not in hearing as much as in physical presence to create the initial echo. Instead of Berkeley's consideration of where the sound goes and if it goes anywhere, I think it's more interesting to spend time considering the sound as an initial action in addition the duration before it, if it does, find something to echo from.

For this, a few material's I'm exploring and considering to develop/validate/relate to these ideas:

- the logic of Barthes' Amorous Subject in "A Lover's Discourse"
- Barthes' analysis of transitory verb's in writing and grammar in "To Write: An Intransitive Verb?"
- Nietzsche's invalidation of discussed 'meaning' in "On Truth and Lie in an Extra-Moral Sense"
- Barthes' analysis of Literature vs. Science and the ultimate validated authority of Literature as an exposition of linguistics its ultimate authority of constituting reality not adverse to the ascendancy of modern science
- Some material from Kenneth Burke that I haven't narrowed down yet

Questions/ideas/things to consider:

- way trees are perceived in other religions
- if a 'receiver' or initial echo is necessary
 - or even, if it's a 'chicken or the egg' situation
- end vs. means instead of means vs. end
 - in this case, the tree, and then the tree falling, would be the means to the sound or lack thereof as the end
- possible emphasis on 'reverberation,' 'vibration' found within the existence or eventual existence of sound waves as defined, and the space that exists (even in the moment) there
- the way 'pathetic fallacy' could relate in order to contradict perception-based meaning and existence