

2. Suchman (1987), in *Plans and Situated Actions: (The Problem of Human-Machine Communication)*, p. 58, writes: "The efficiency of language is due to the fact that, on the one hand, expressions have assigned to them conventional meanings which hold on any occasion of their use. The significance of a linguistic expression on some actual occasion, on the other hand, lies in its relationship to circumstances that are presupposed or indicated by, but not actually captured in the expression itself. Language takes its significance from the embedding world, in other words, even while it transforms the world into something that can be thought of and talked about." Heritage (1984, p. 143) offers as an example the indexical expression "that's a nice one," pointing out that the significance of the descriptor "nice" has a different meaning if it refers to a photograph or to a head of lettuce.
3. Schön 1994 has used the term repertoire in describing architectural design practice. Here I relate the idea of a repertoire to mechanical engineering learning. I pay particular attention to how the repertoire grows as a student implements a new piece of hardware in a context and in so doing learns about its conditions and limits of use.

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