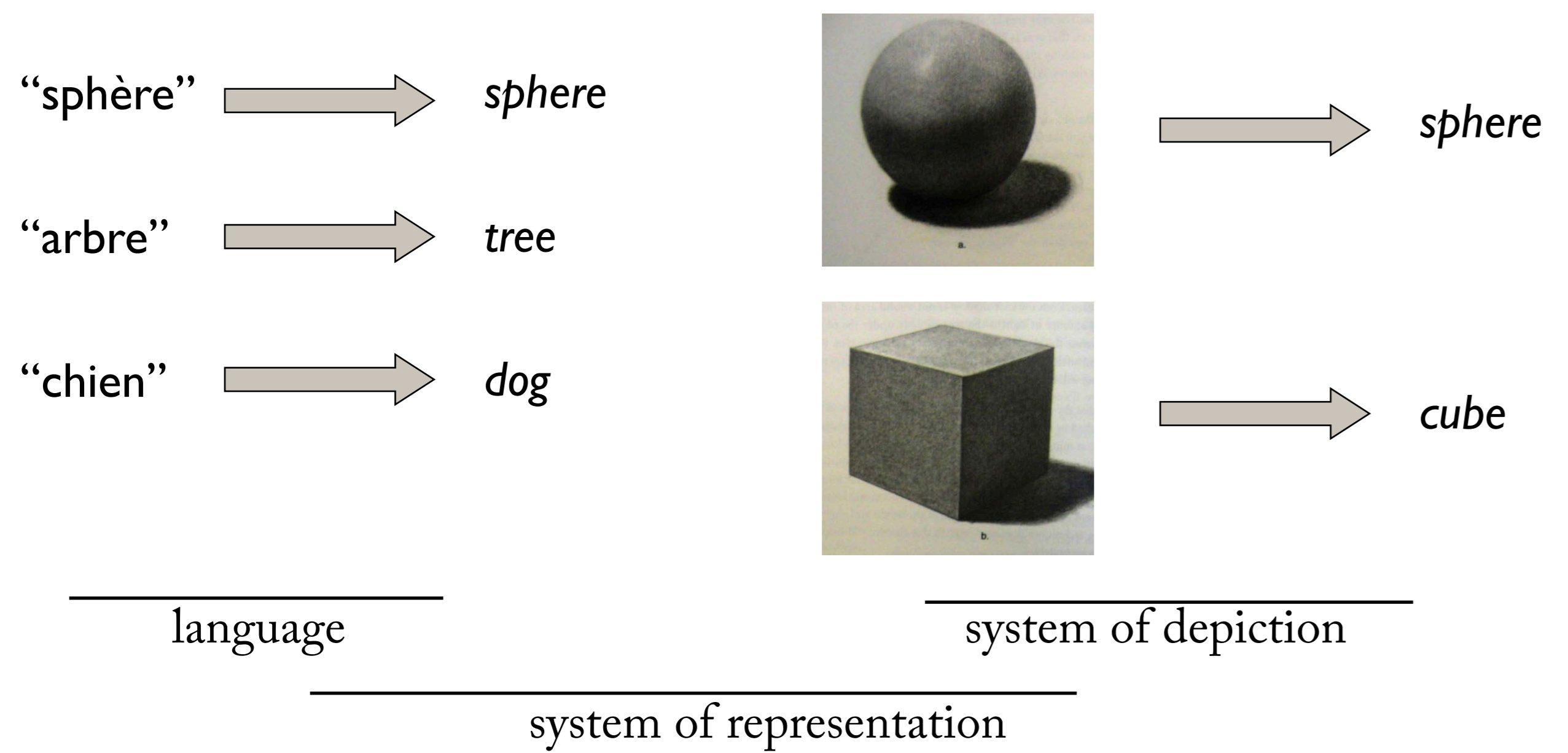


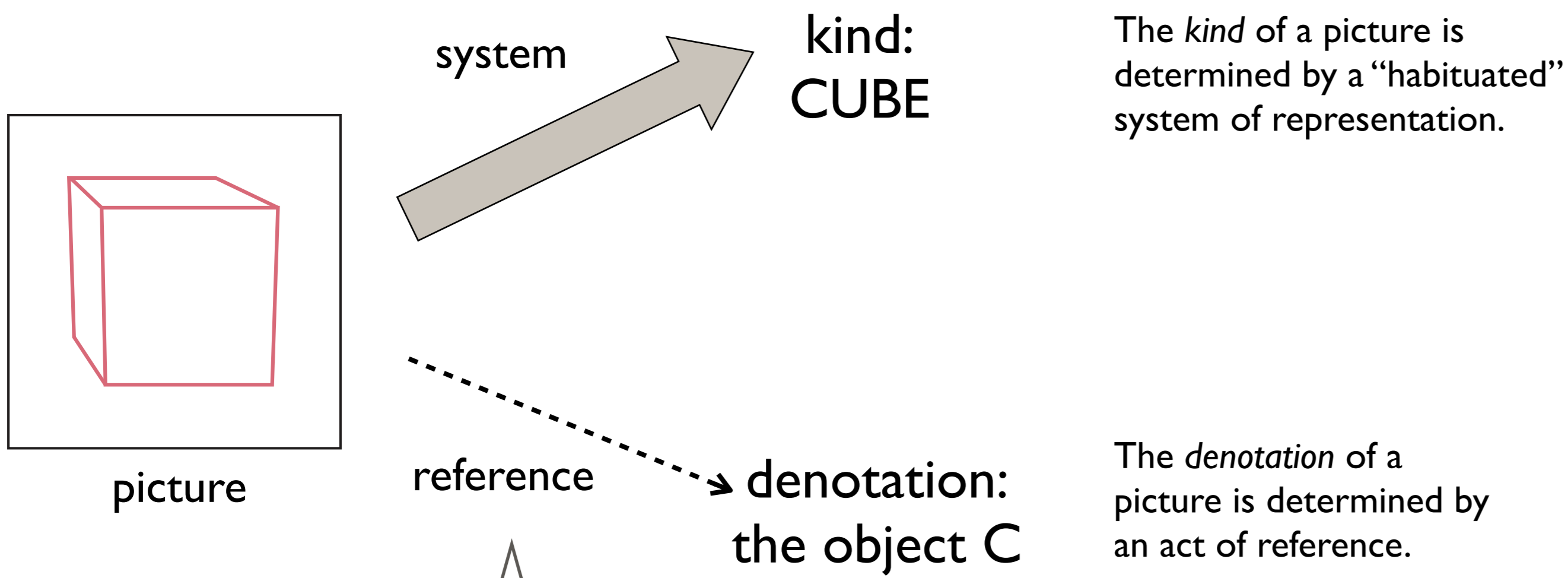
# Goodman's Conventionalism



Realism is relative, determined by the system of representation standard for a given culture or person at a given time. (37)

Almost any picture may represent almost anything; that is, given picture and object there is usually a system of representation, a plan of correlation, under which the picture represents the object. (38)

Both depiction and description participate in the formation and characterization of the world... They are ways of classifying by means of labels having singular or multiple or null reference. The labels, pictorial or verbal, are themselves classified into kinds... Application and classification of a label are relative to a system; and there are countless alternative systems of representation and description. Such systems are the products of stipulation and habituation in varying proportions. The choice among systems is free; but given a system, the question whether a newly encountered object is a desk or a unicorn-picture or is represented by a certain painting is a question of the propriety, under that system, of projecting the predicate "desk" or the predicate "unicorn- picture" or the painting over the thing in question. (40)

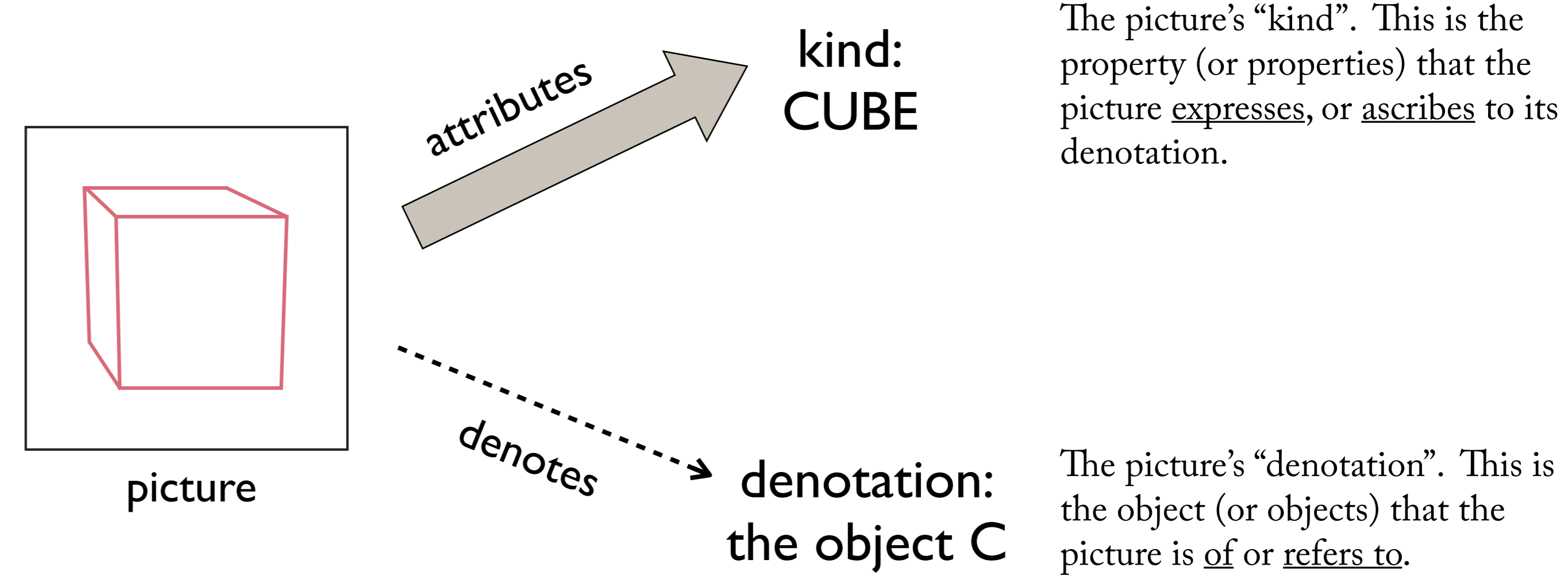


The plain fact is that a picture, to represent an object, must be a symbol for it, stand for it, refer to it; and that no degree of resemblance is sufficient to establish the requisite relationship of reference. (5)

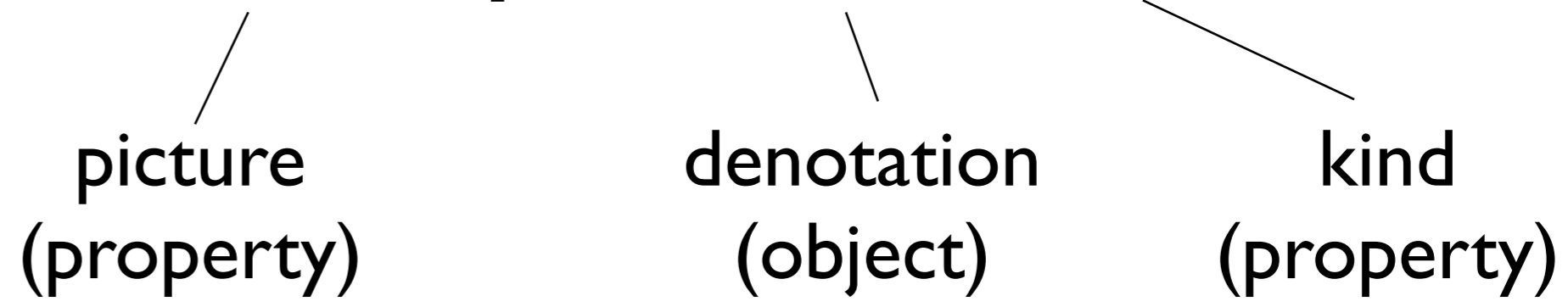
# Phil 161: Goodman on Depiction-as

2.3.26 • Prof. G. Greenberg • Quotes from Goodman 1968

## Denotation and Attribution



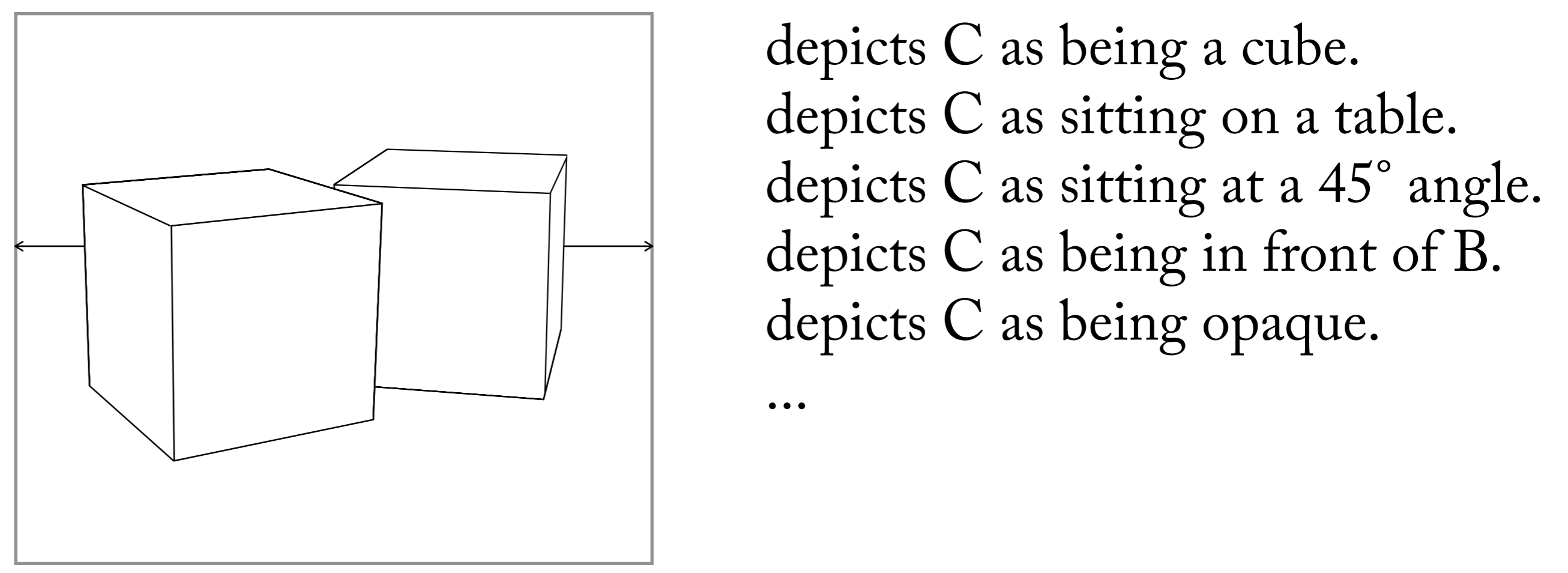
### P depicts X as F



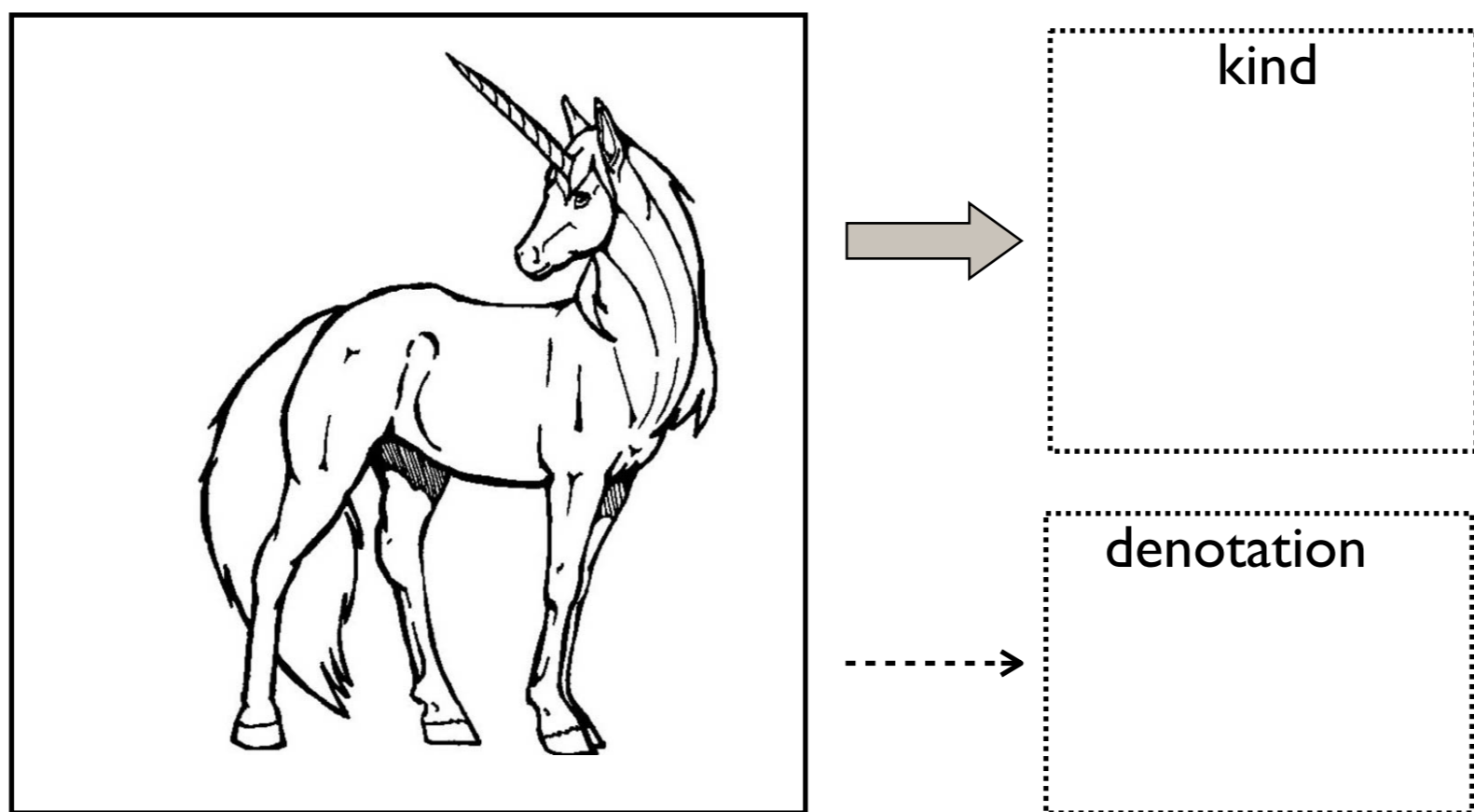
"A picture that represents a man denotes him; a picture that represents a fictional man is a man-picture; and a picture that represents a man as a man is a man-picture denoting him. Thus while the first case concerns only what the picture denotes, and the second only what kind of picture it is, the third concerns both the denotation and the classification." (28)

"In general, then, an object *k* is represented as a soandso by a picture *p* if and only if *p* is or contains a picture that as a whole both denotes *k* and is a soandso-picture." (28)

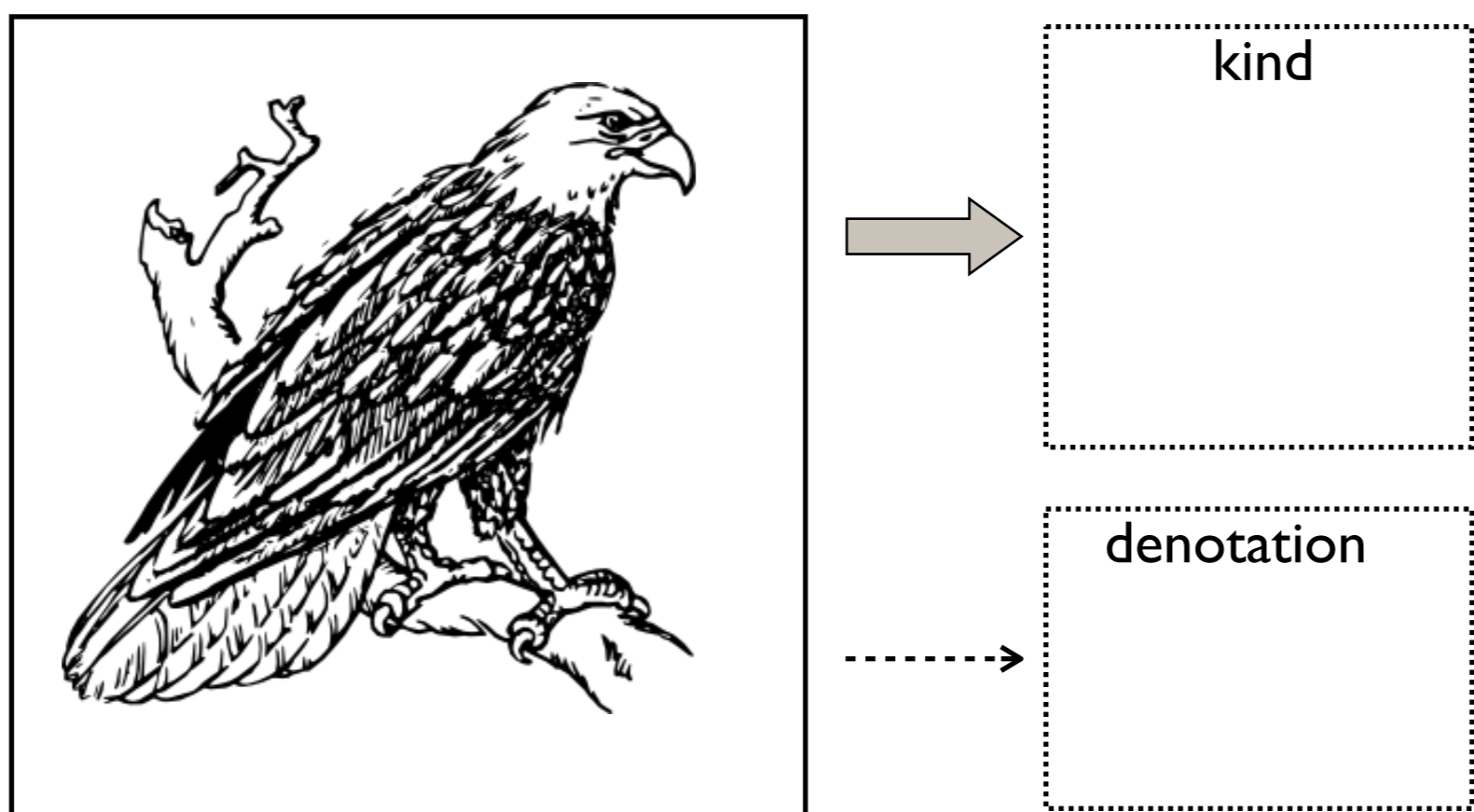
The content of a picture corresponds to a unlimited number of "depiction-as" ascriptions.



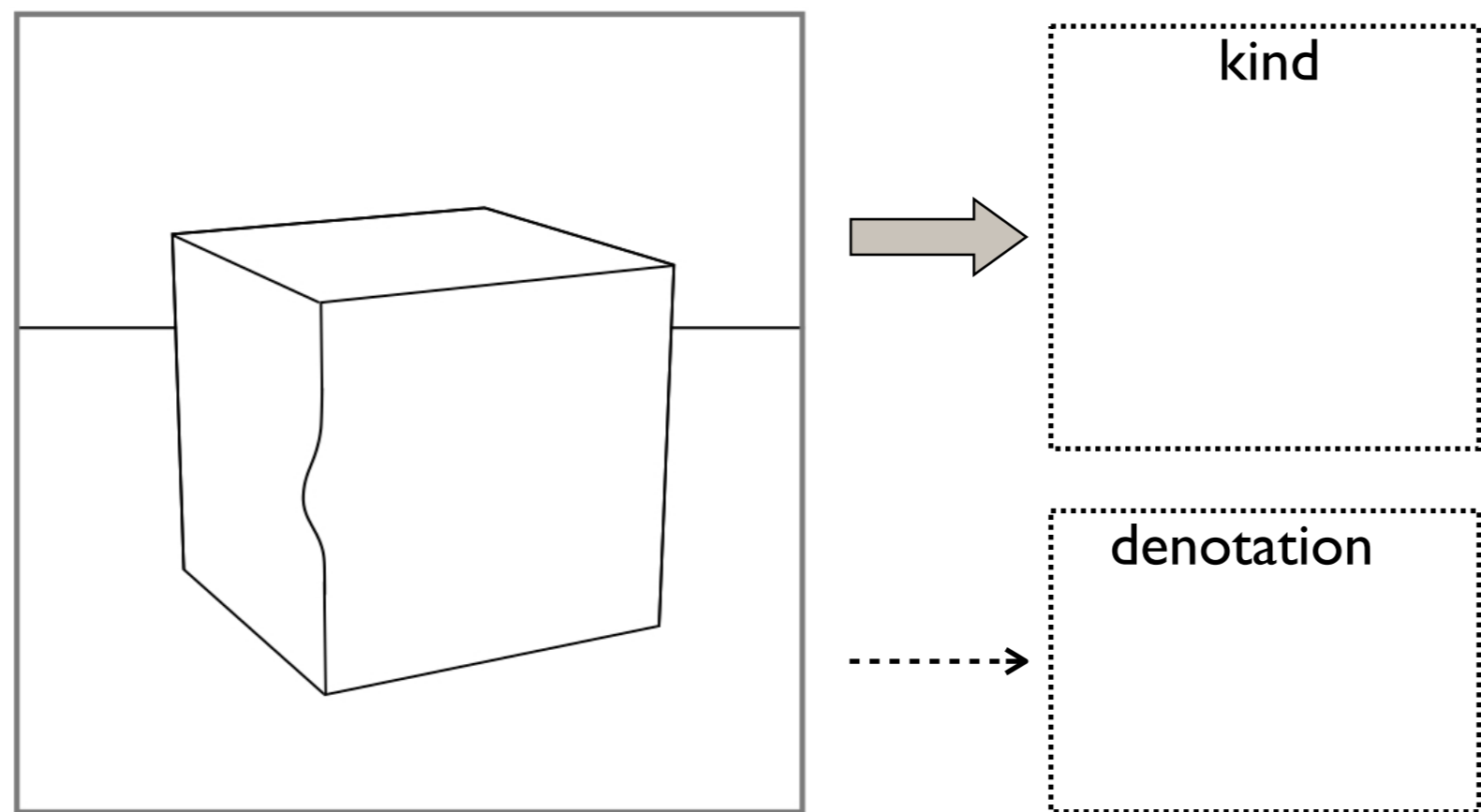
## Fictions



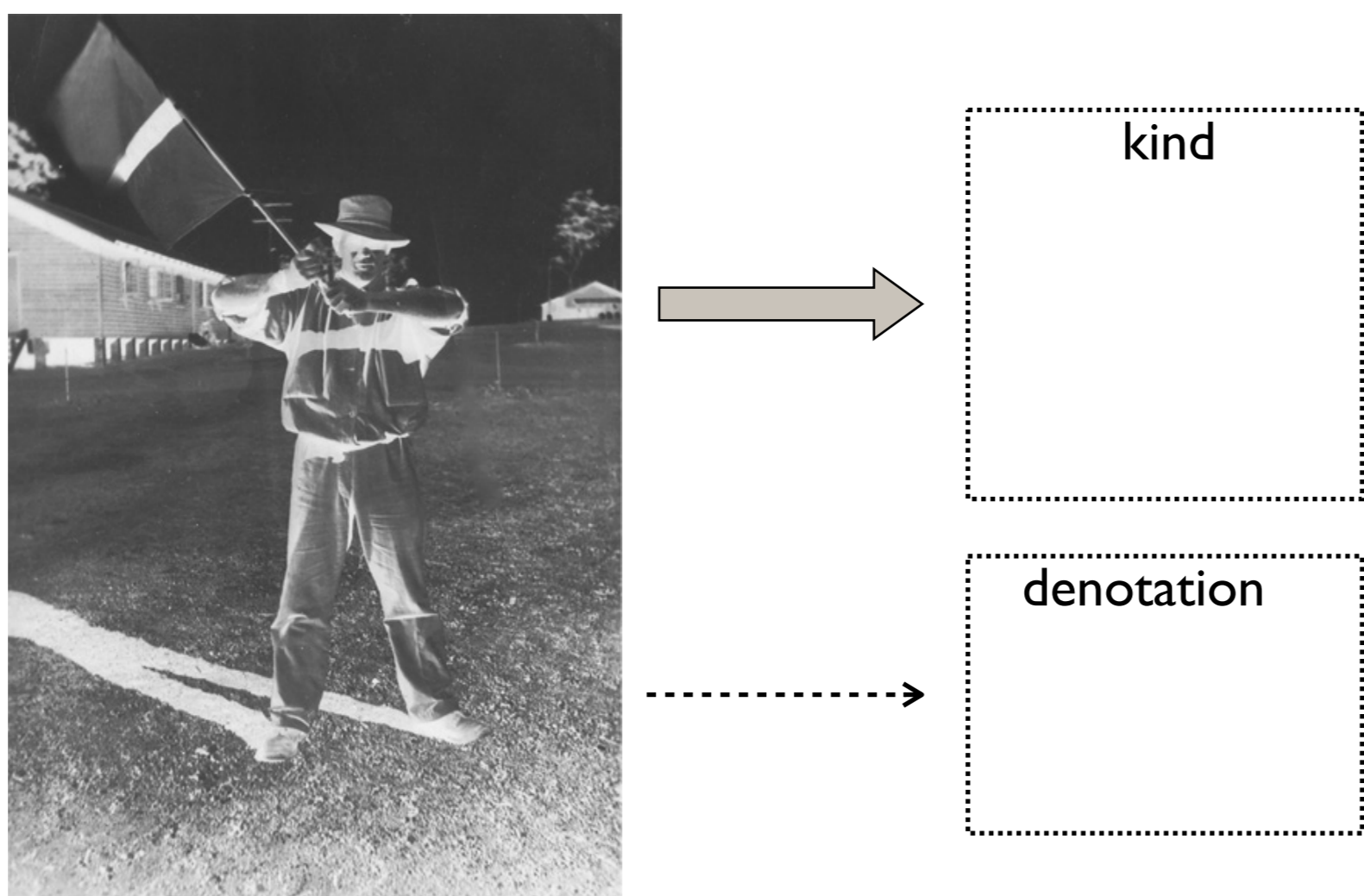
## Generics



## Misrepresentation



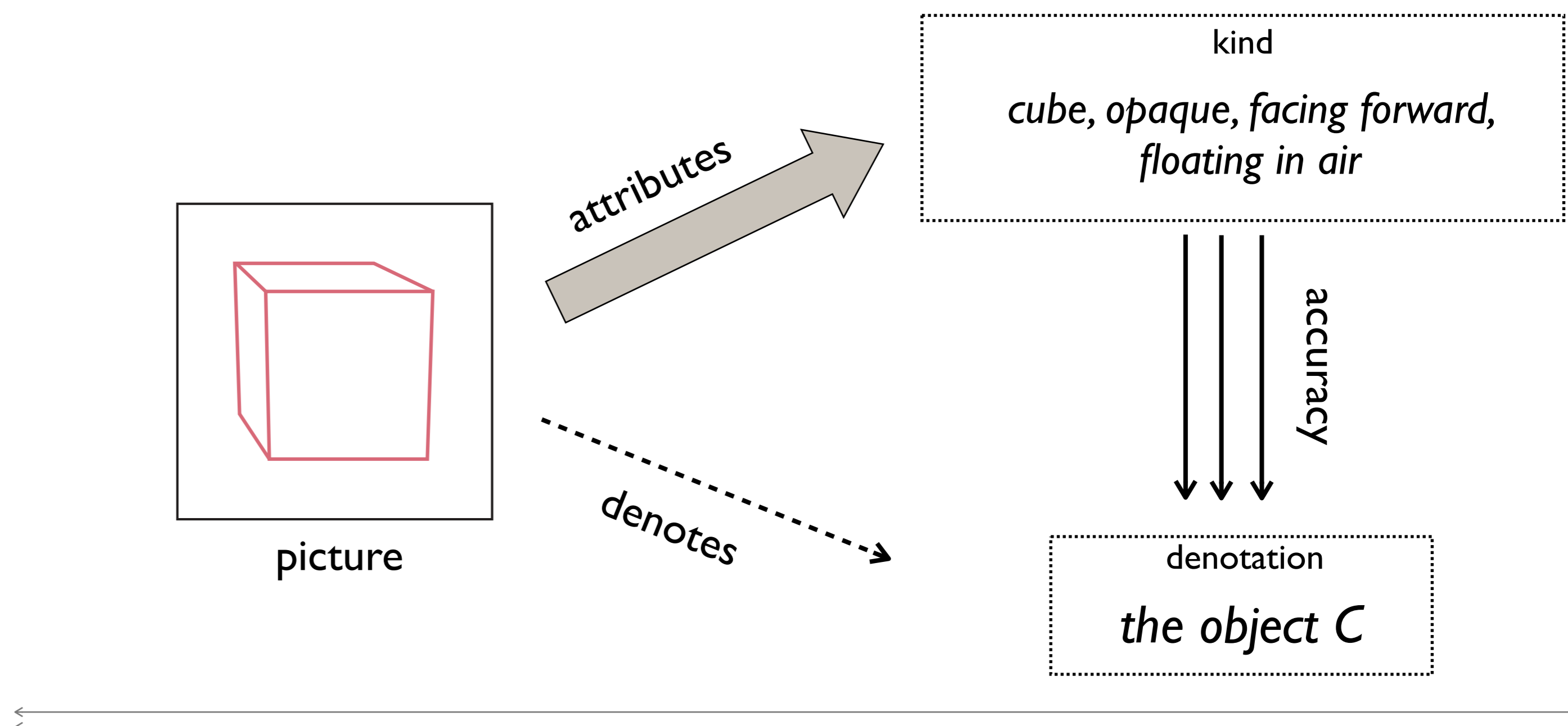
## Photo Negative



## Accuracy

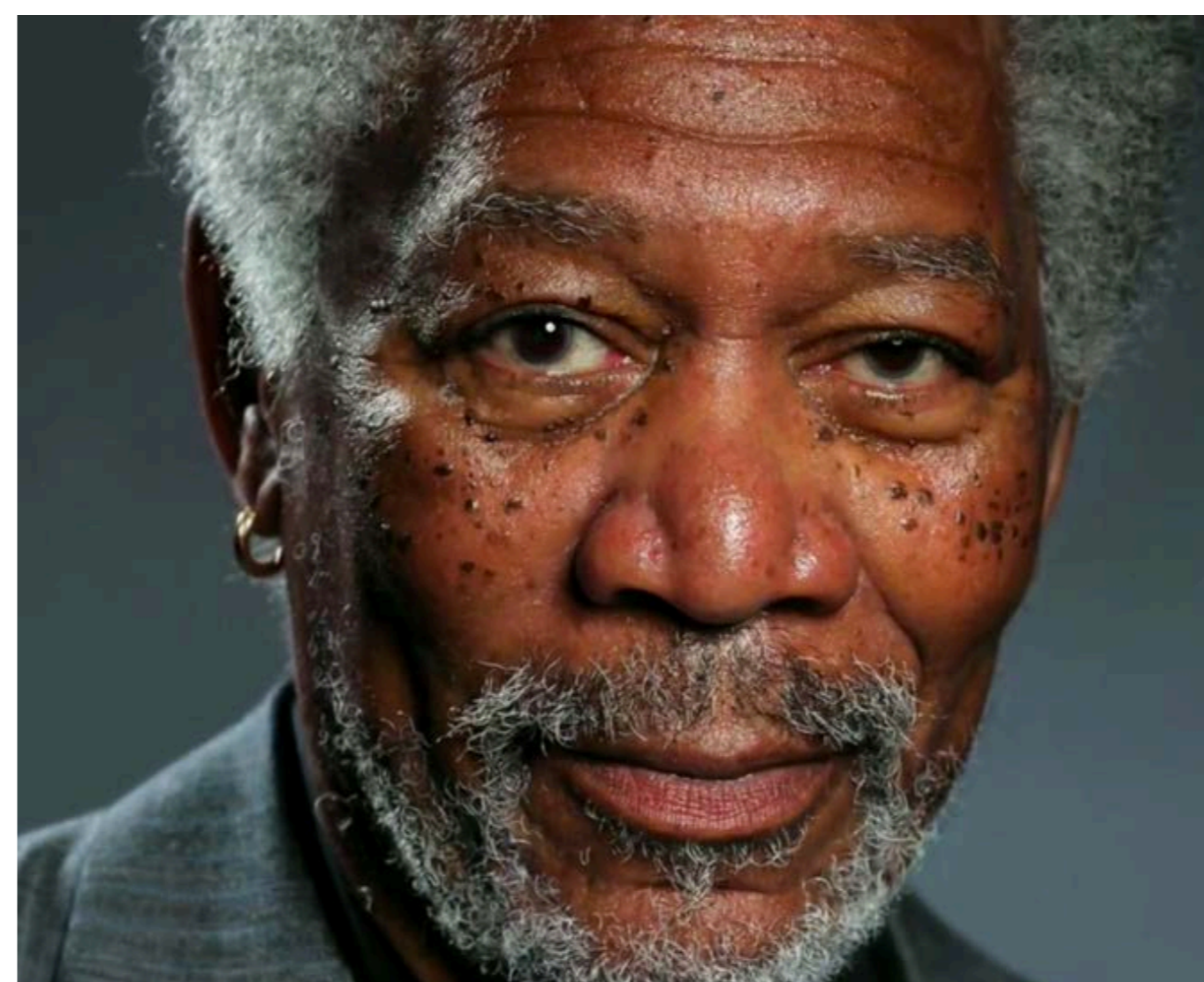
For a picture to be faithful is simply for the object represented to have the properties that the picture in effect ascribes to it. (36)

P is an accurate if and only if there is an object O in P's denotation such that for ever property F in P's kind O is in fact F.

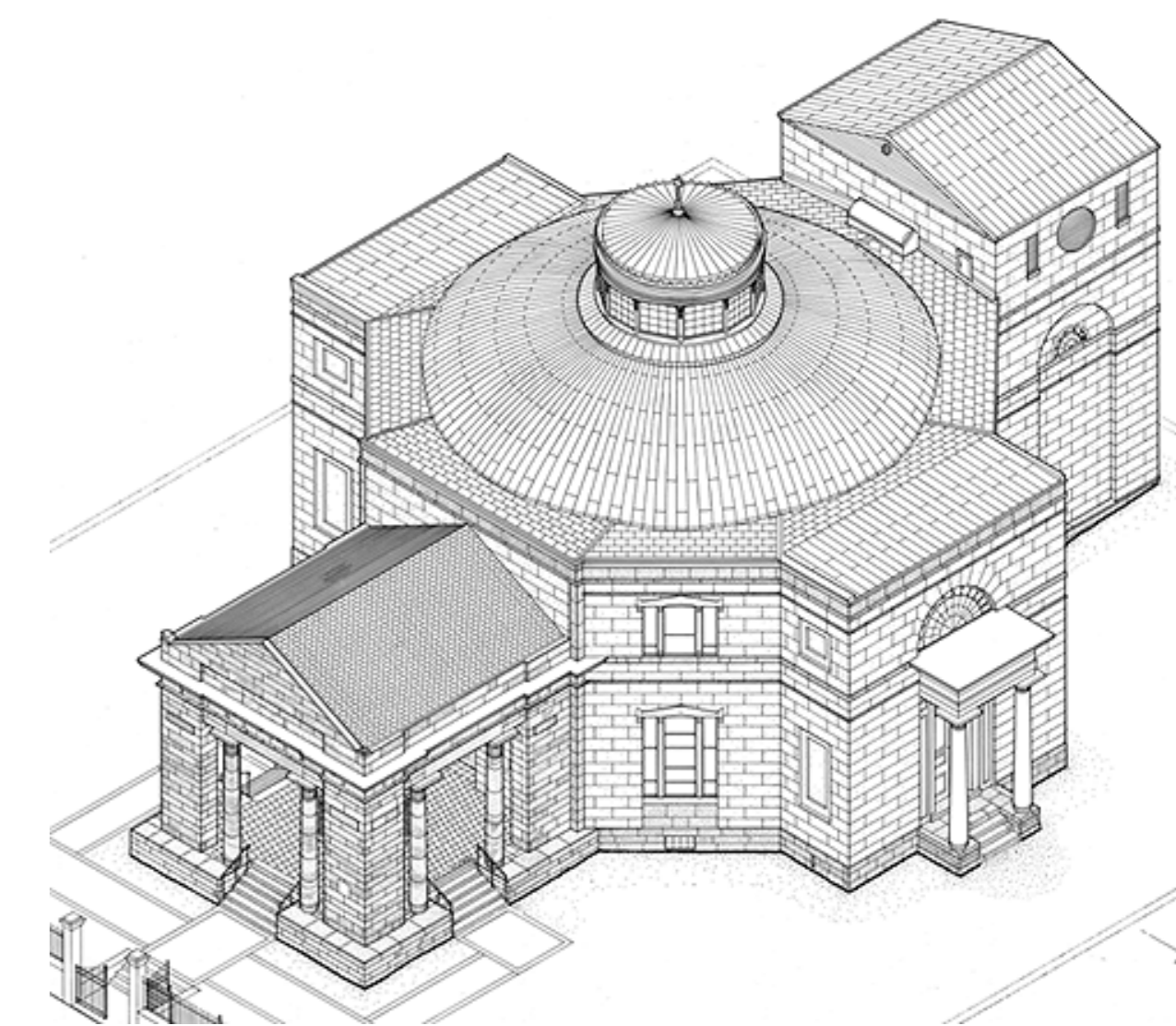


Consider a realistic picture, painted in ordinary perspective and normal color, and a second picture just like the first except that the perspective is reversed and each color is replaced by its complementary. The second picture, appropriately interpreted, yields exactly the same information as the first. (35)

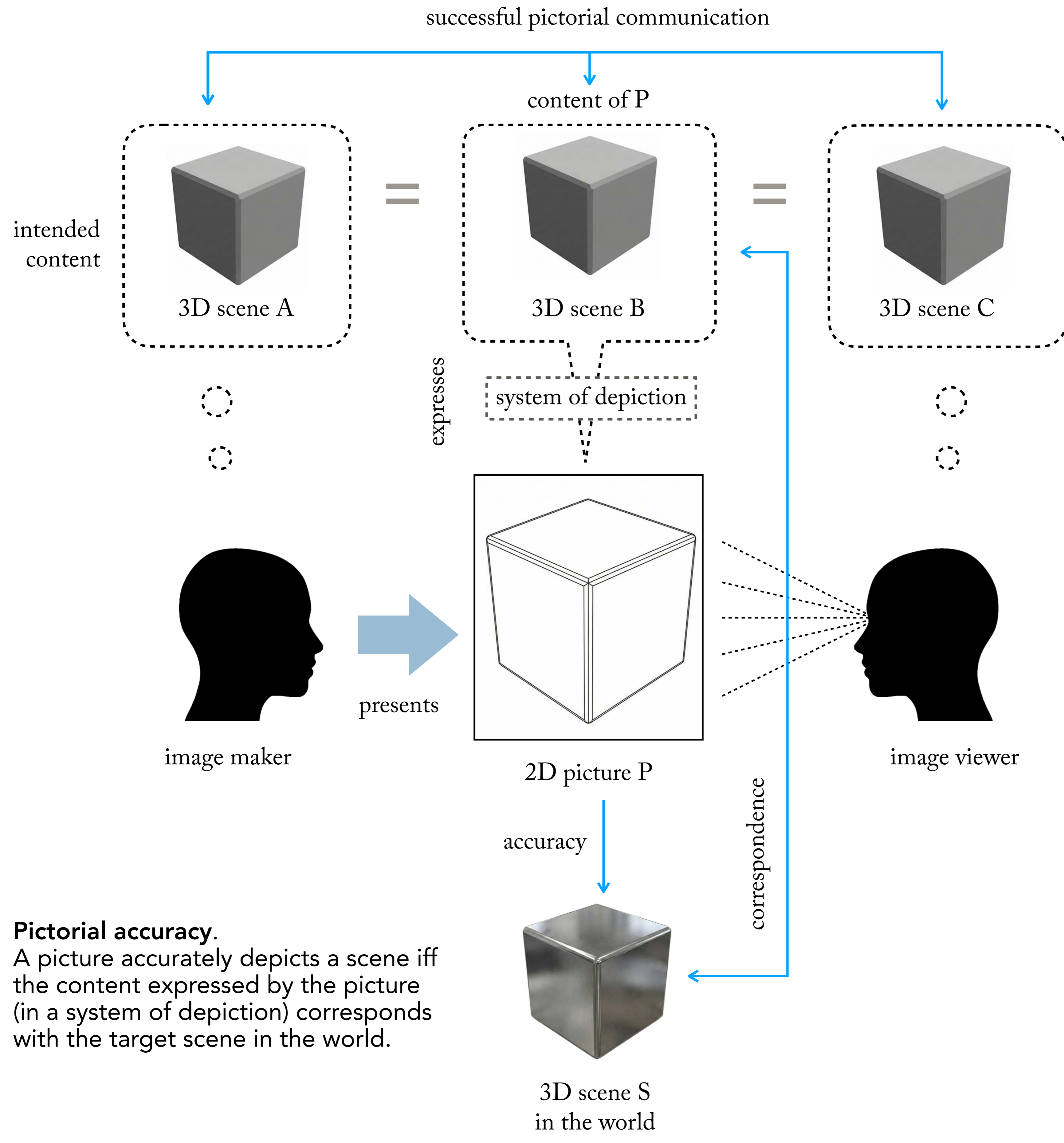
So far, we have not needed to distinguish between fidelity and realism. The criteria considered earlier have been as unsatisfactory for the one as for the other. But we can no longer equate them. The two pictures just described are equally correct, equally faithful to what they represent, provide the same and hence equally true information; yet they are not equally realistic or literal. For a picture to be faithful is simply for the object represented to have the properties that the picture in effect ascribes to it. But such fidelity or correctness or truth is not a sufficient condition for literalism or realism. (36)



accurate and realistic



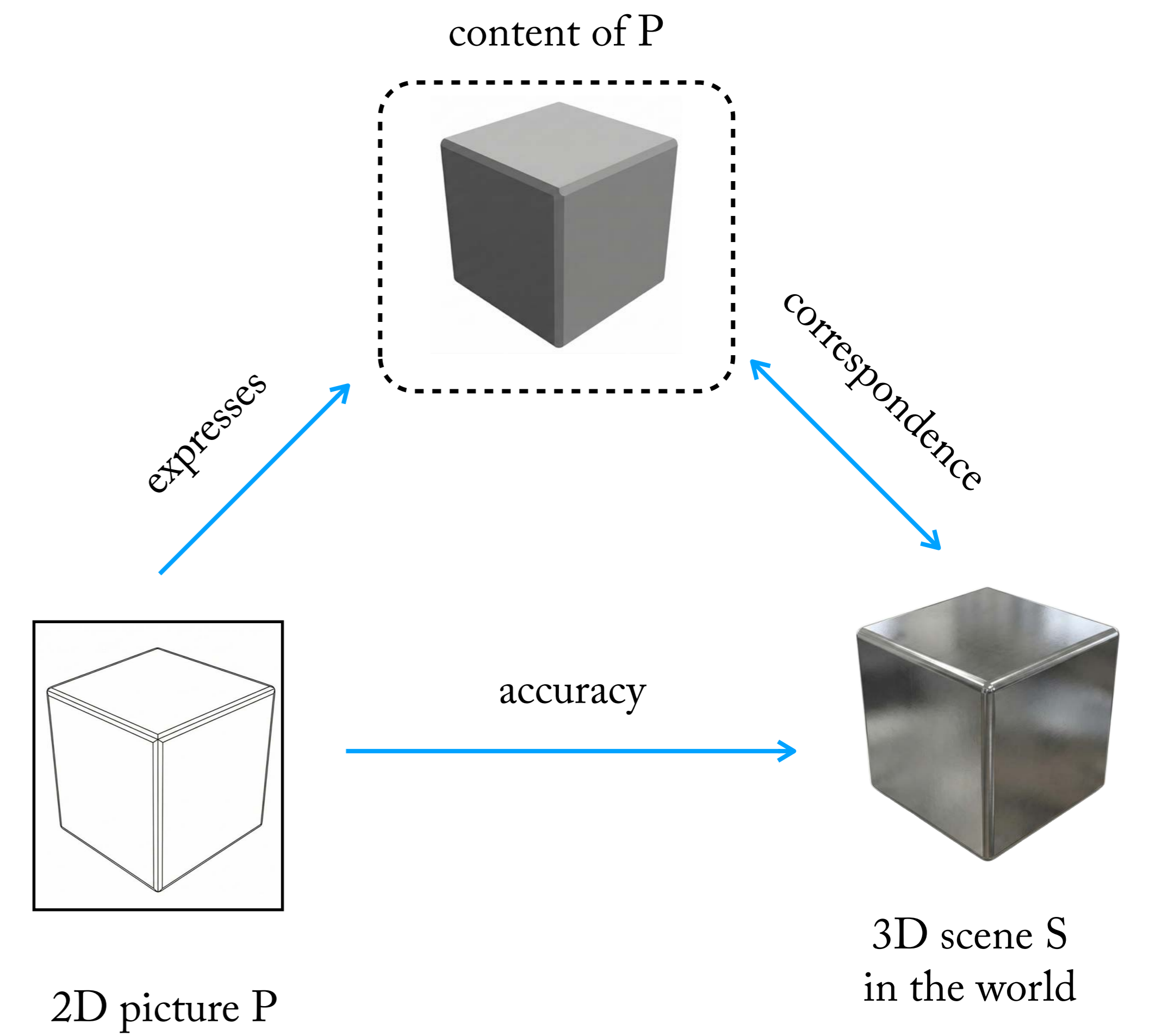
accurate and not realistic



**Pictorial accuracy.**  
 A picture accurately depicts a scene iff the content expressed by the picture (in a system of depiction) corresponds with the target scene in the world.

**Above:** An illustration of the relationship between successful pictorial communication and pictorial accuracy.

**Pictorial communication.**  
 Pictorial communication is successful iff the intended content = the content expressed by the picture (in a system of depiction) = the content received by the image viewer.



**Above:** An illustration of the elements involved in determining pictorial accuracy.