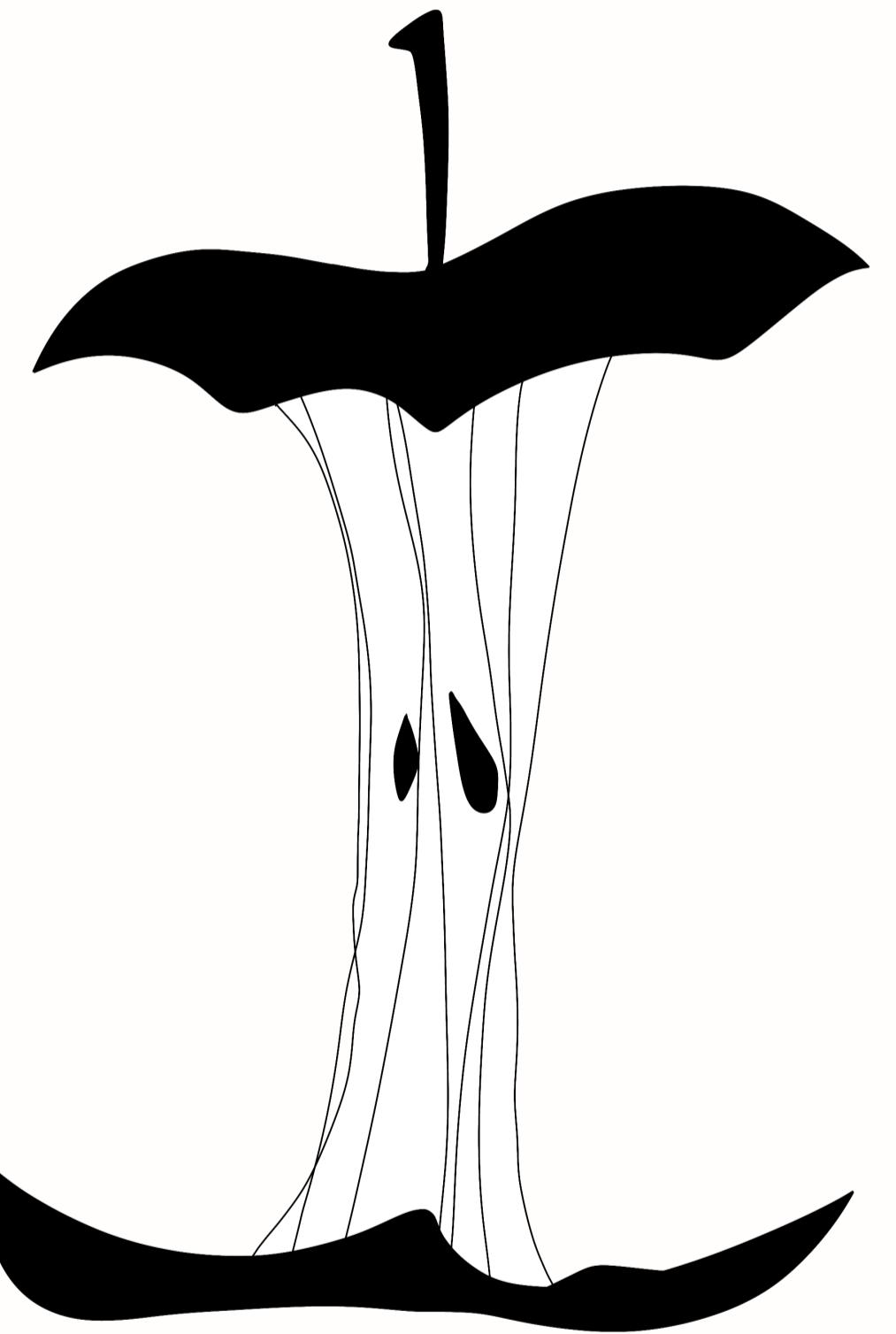
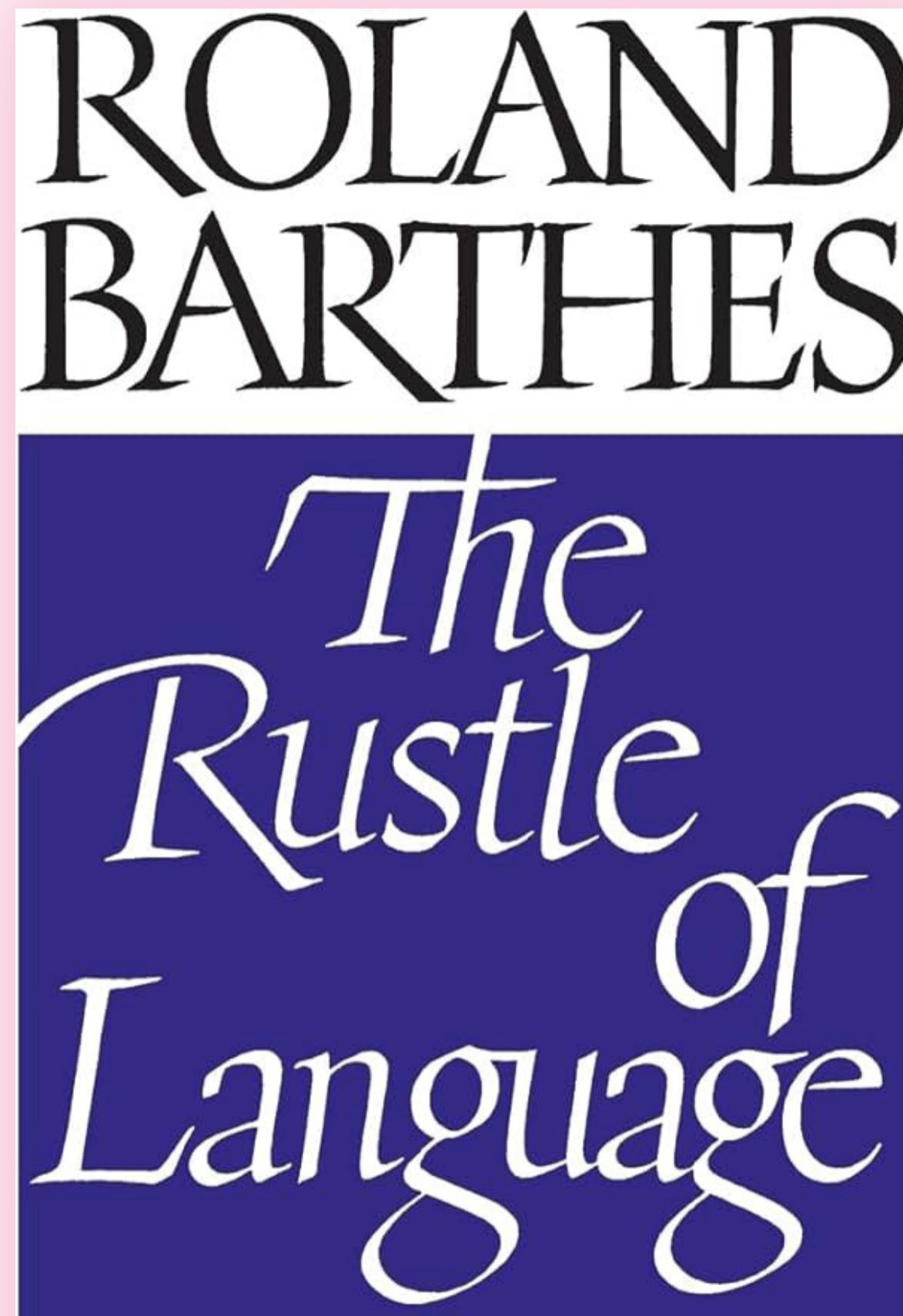


# Symposium

## **Yike Liu**





## Inspirational Reference

Roland Barthes - The Rustle of Language

The word "rustle" is a word that Barthes chose on purpose.

It sits between "silence" and "sound."

It is not the clear sound of language, and not total silence either.

It is a soft, unclear, and continuous sound without a fixed direction.

## My snippet

### Door

"Door" is a word, a piece of language that can be included in what Barthes refers to as language.

### Door

It is a word with a clear and specific meaning.



Dictionary

Definitions from Oxford Languages · [Learn more](#)

 **door**  
/dɔ:/

noun

a hinged, sliding, or revolving barrier at the entrance to a building, room, or vehicle, or in the framework of a cupboard.

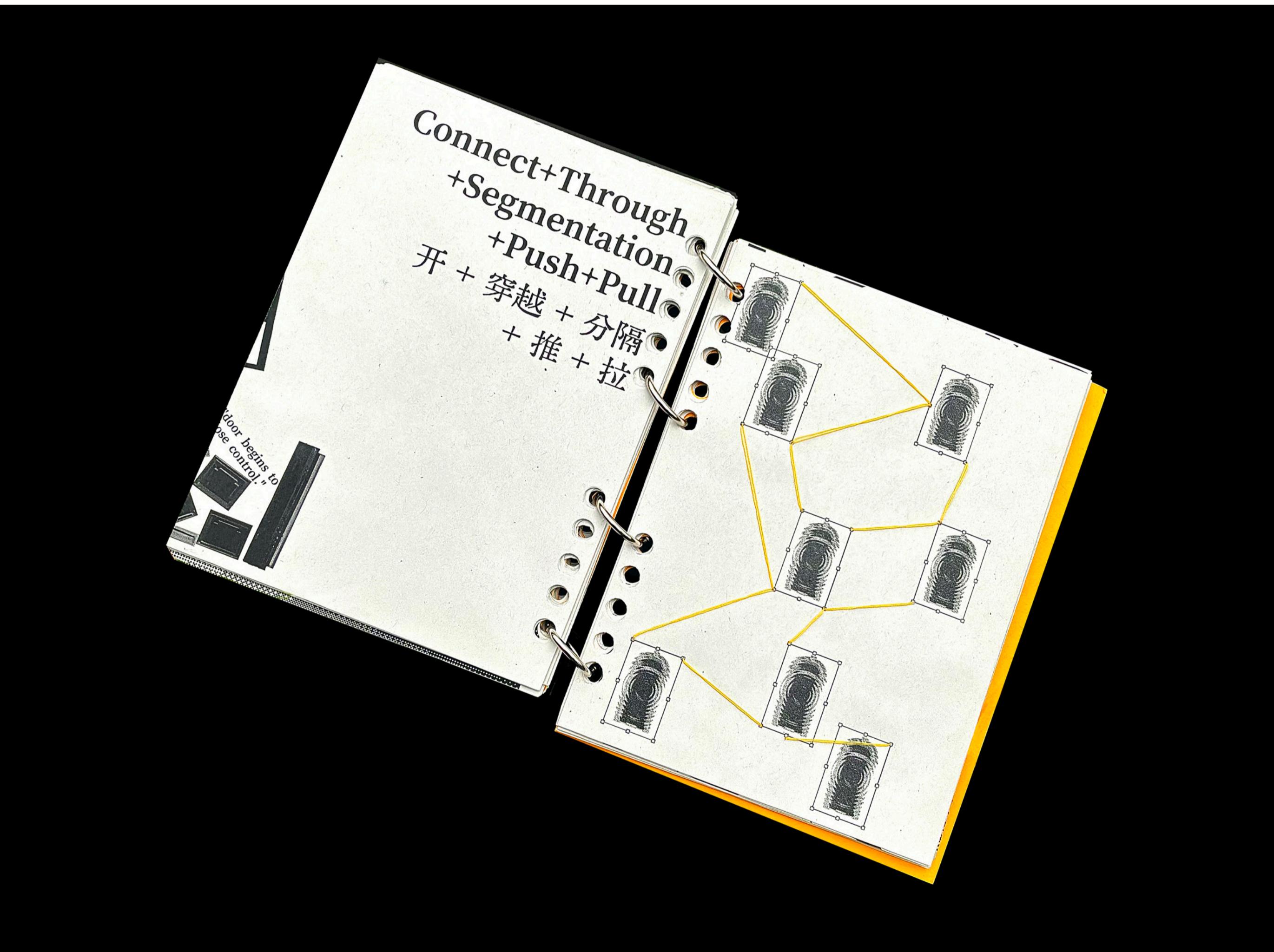
"she looked for her key and opened the door"

## My key question

Is the meaning of language **innate**?

Can it **lose** its meaning and then be **reborn** with new meaning?

My Unit 2 research focuses on the relationship between language and meaning. My project begins by exploring how a word can be defined, deconstructed, and redefined.



Within Definition - Yike Liu

## Project experiment 1 <Define meaning>

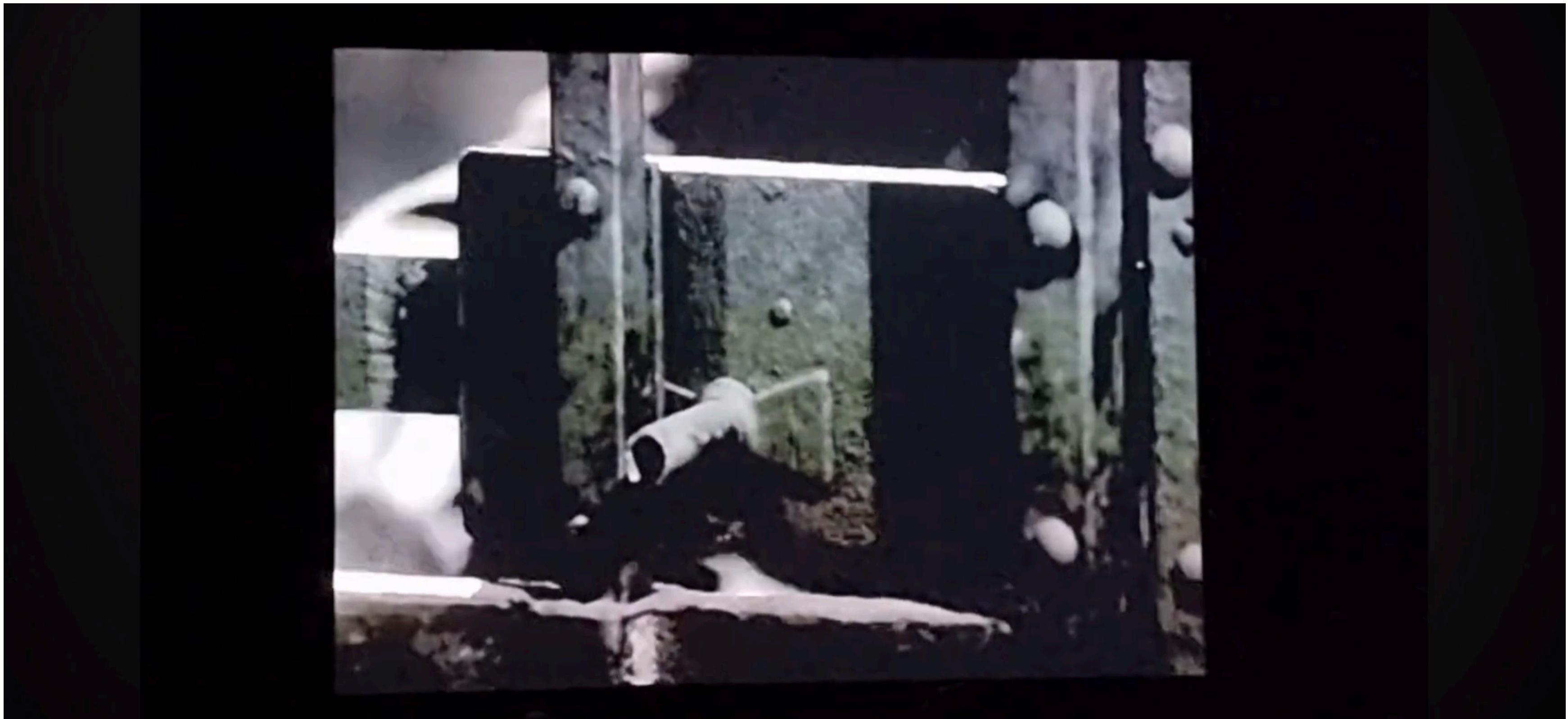
### Define meaning - Within Definition

Through this idea, I found that the definition of “door” has a blurred boundary. Too few or too many words both fail to define what a door is.

Language is not a stable system, it is a structure that both generates and destroys meaning.

## Project experiment 2 <Lose meaning>

### Lose meaning - Door



Doors - Christian Marclay <https://www.youtube.com/shorts/Dn3DdRNYZDQ>

## Reference

### Christian Marclay - Doors

The editing structure  
of the door sequence.

Repetition can cause an  
action or a gesture to lose  
its original meaning.

# Lose meaning



## 1 Building perception:

sound brings up what can be seen.

<https://youtube.com/shorts/jFbJcebXCNo?feature=shared>



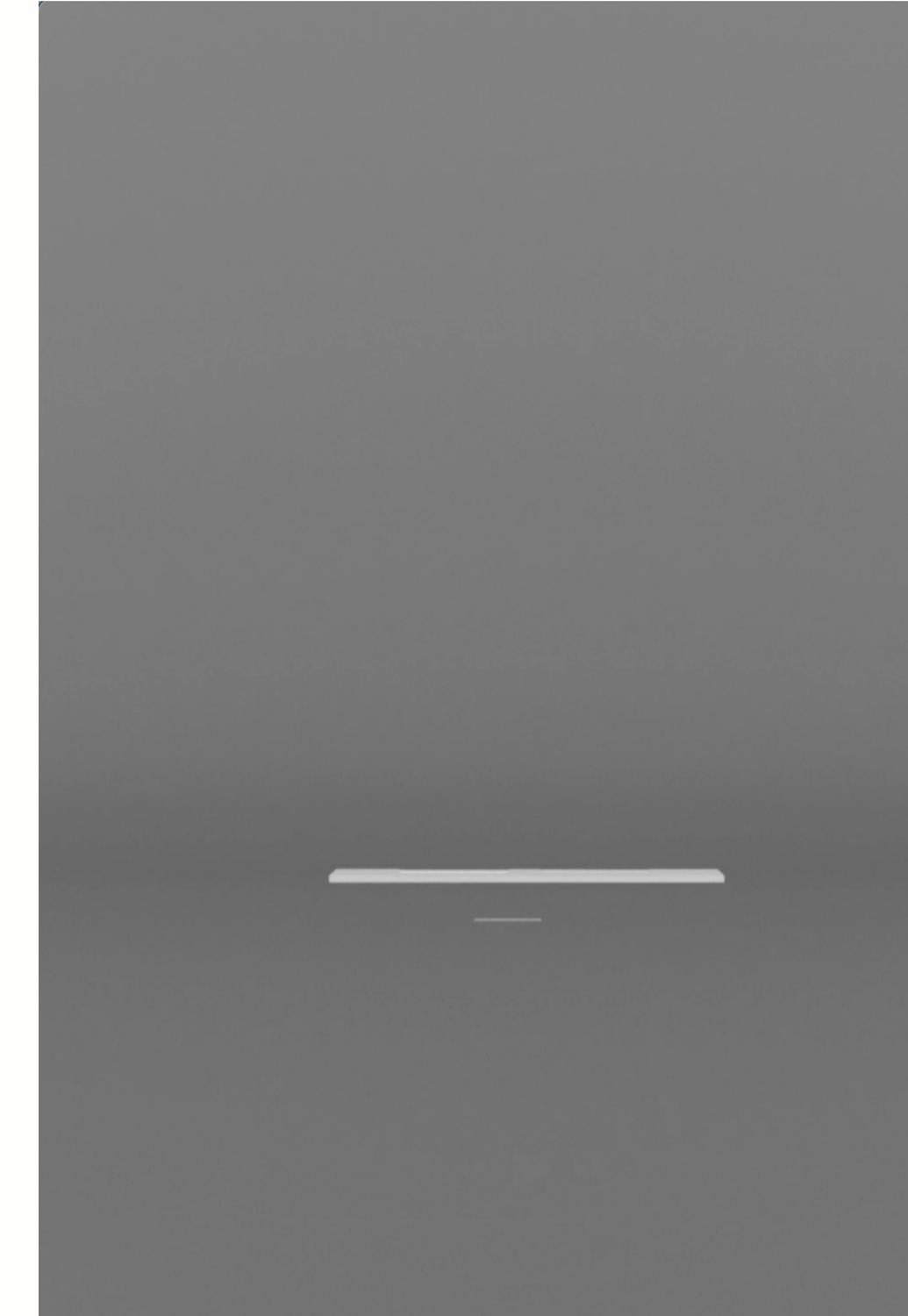
## 2 Language entering:

sound replaces action.



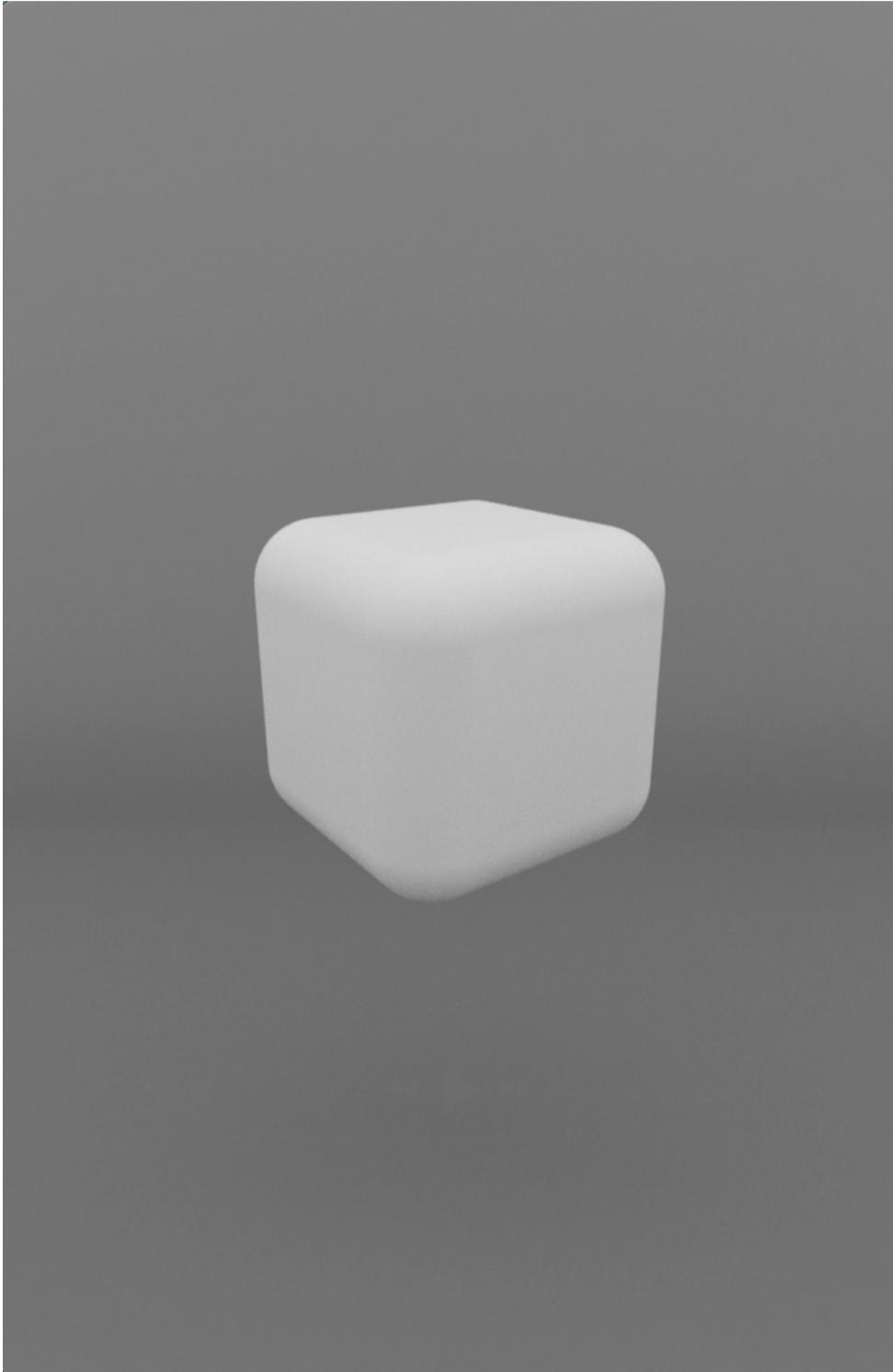
## 3 Structure shaking:

the door's outline disappears and comes back.

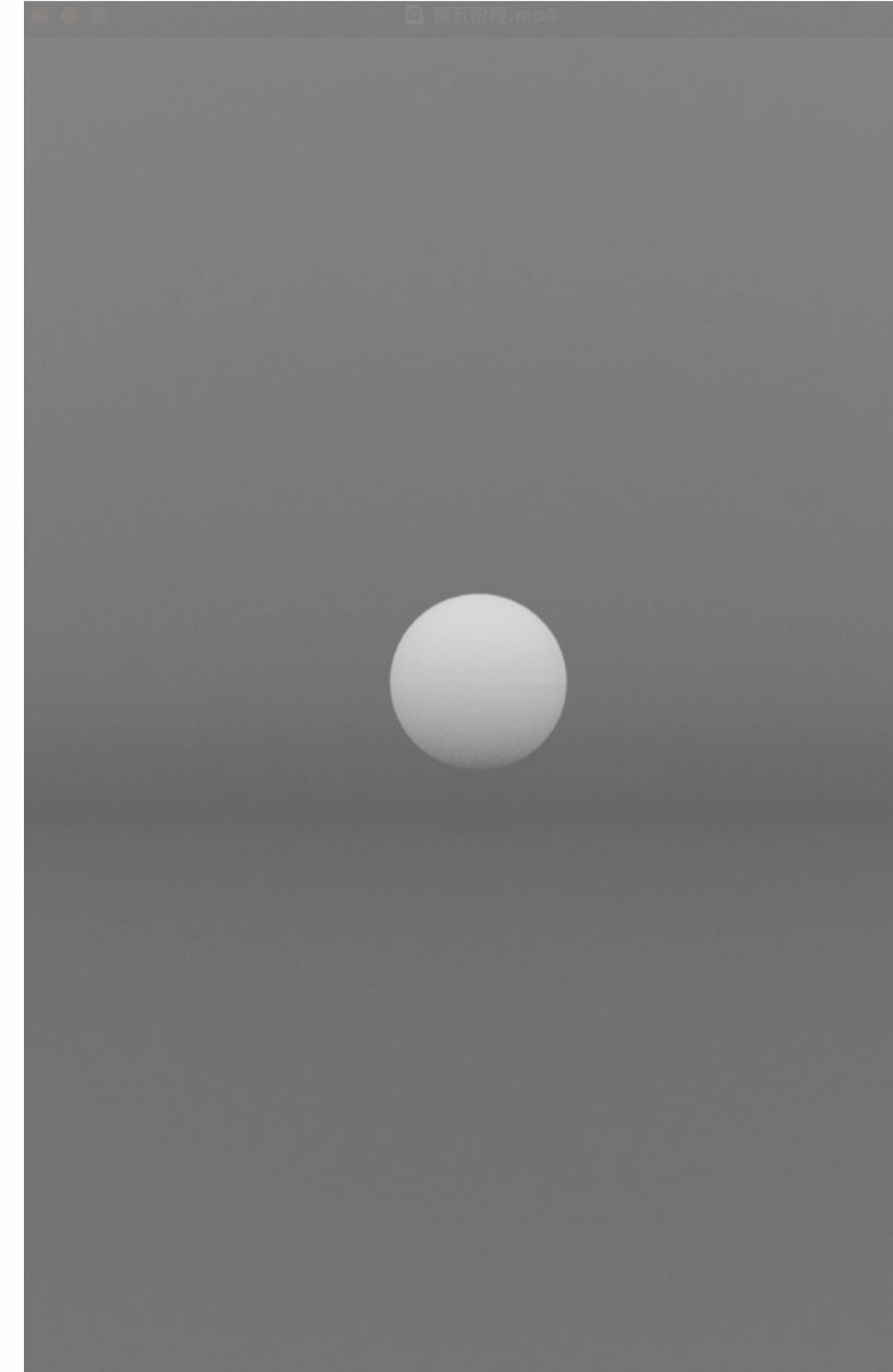


## 4 Meaning breaking down:

the door itself disappears.

**5 Rebuilding and shifting:**

meaning attaches to random objects.

**6 Ending:**

objects disappears.

**7 Symbol changing:**

language becomes shapes and nonsense.

When a word is repeated again and again, it gradually loses its original meaning and becomes something abstract.

# Project experiment 3 <Regenerate meaning>

## Regenerate meaning - New species discovery



New species discovery - Yike Liu

## Regenerate meaning

As information keeps repeating, door and original meaning become detached, and door starts to link with the "cat", forming a new kind of living being.

Language can lose its meaning through repetition, it can also gain new meaning through repetition.

# Early research of Unit 2

The meaning of language is not innate but given by humans later.  
It can be lost and reconstructed.



# Studio Project

## A Card



# A is for Apple



A is for apple.

A

A is the grade on a quiz — I wish every test result could be an A.

— Zilu 14

A is the pointed roof of a little house.

— Quan 8

A is “abandon,” always the first word in the vocabulary book.

— Zirui 16

A is the open mouth making the sound “ah~”.

— Miaomiao 8

A is ànliàn (secret crush) everyone has had a crush, right?

— Yilan 16

A is a slide you can climb up and slide down.

— Yudi 8

A is “Ah?” — that confused sound when you don’t know or aren’t sure.

— Yizhuo 17

A is the subway exit. The nearest one to my home is Exit A — I pass through it every day.

— Mengyuan 24

A is AI — I need AI to help me with many things. These days, everyone uses AI for work.

— Yumo 24

A is the work team. In our company’s marketing department, there are two teams, and we often compare our results with Team A.

— Yalun 24

A is the apartment building — in the new housing complex, Building A is the most expensive.

— Qian 44

A is the “Section A” clause in an insurance contract.

— Lingling 47

A is the shape of the overpass I drive across on the way to work in the morning.

— Jing 55

A is “āyí” (auntie). Kids now call me auntie instead of sister — does that mean I’m getting old?

— Xuan 23

A is my granddaughter’s first word: “Ah—”.

— Shuyu 76

A is “Āmítuōfó” (Amitabha, a Buddhist prayer).

— Xi 77

A is… “āi…” (a sigh).

— Zhongrong 80

A is the clothes-drying rack — housework, everyday life.

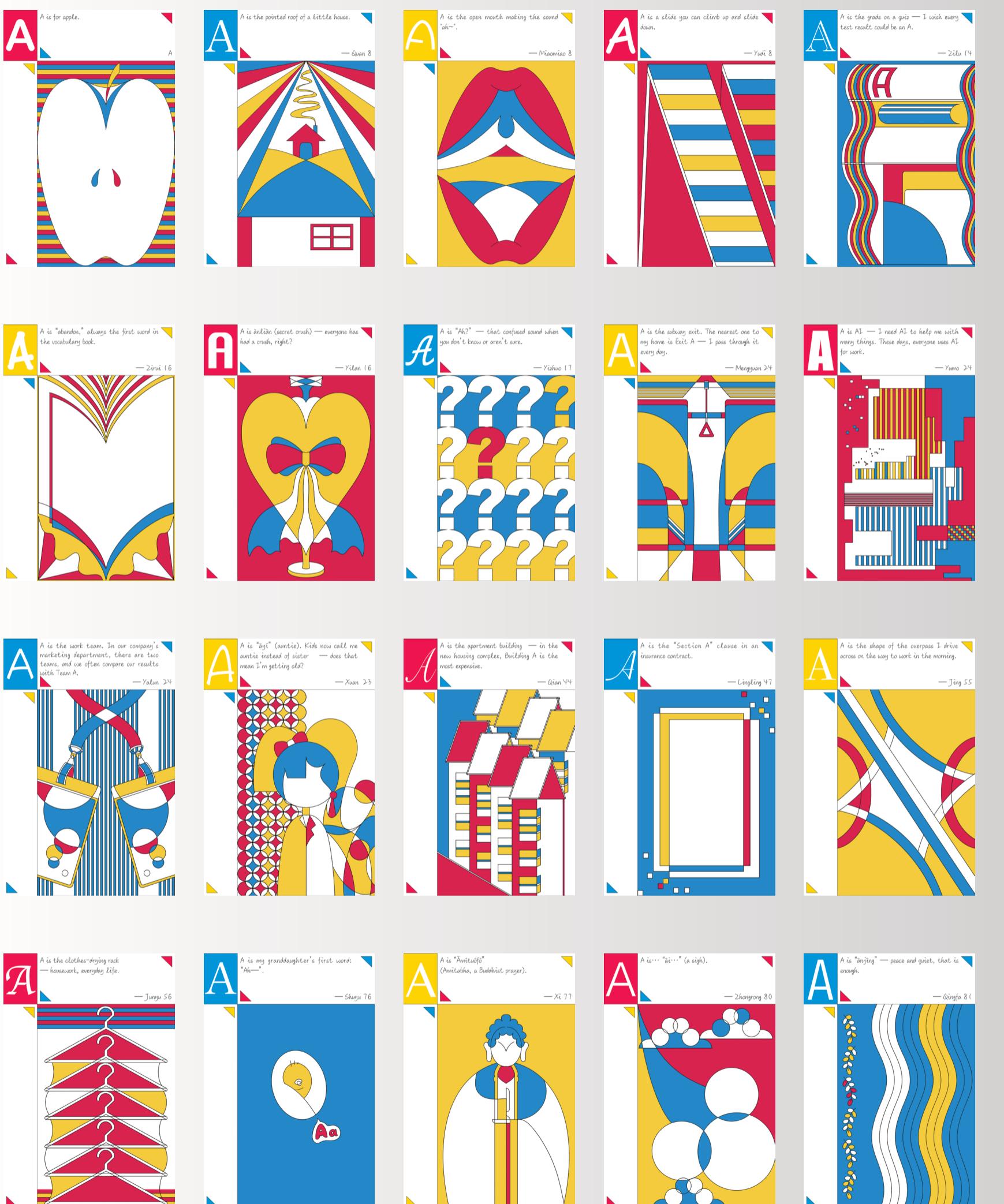
A is “ānjìng” — peace and quiet, that is enough.

— Junyu 56

— Qingfa 81



A Card I - Yike Liu



## A Card II - Reference

Book from the sky - Bing Xu



Book from the Sky - Bing Xu

Xu's Book from the Sky creates "fake Chinese characters," causing the meaning of language to collapse instantly, leaving only its visual form.

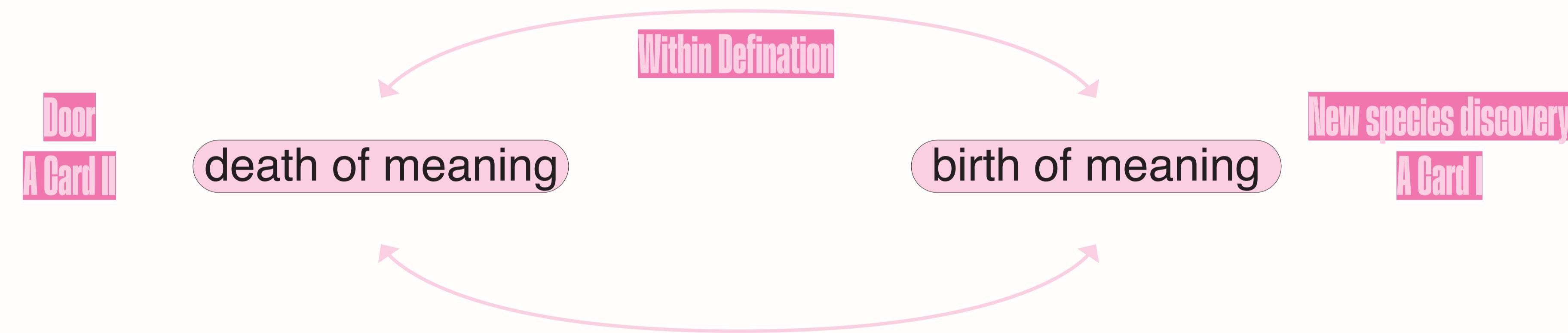
Without human experience or perception text instantly loses its meaning.



A Card II - Yike Liu

## Synthesis Unit 2

Through all the project, I realized that my entire Unit 2 is essentially an exploration of the “life cycle of language.”



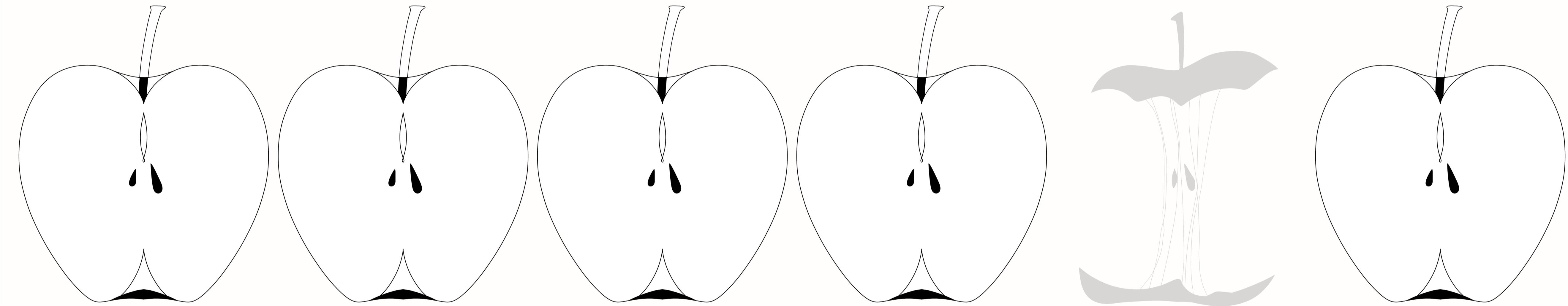
language is alive, it grows, changes, and eventually dies.

Its meanings are never fixed; instead, they change, emerge, and fade through human experience.

# Future

Our **feelings and experiences** shape how we give meaning to words.

When feelings and experience meet, language becomes more than just communication  
it becomes a reflection of our life and emotions.



## My position

language is alive, it grows, changes, and eventually dies.

Its meanings are never fixed; instead, they change, emerge, and fade through human experience.