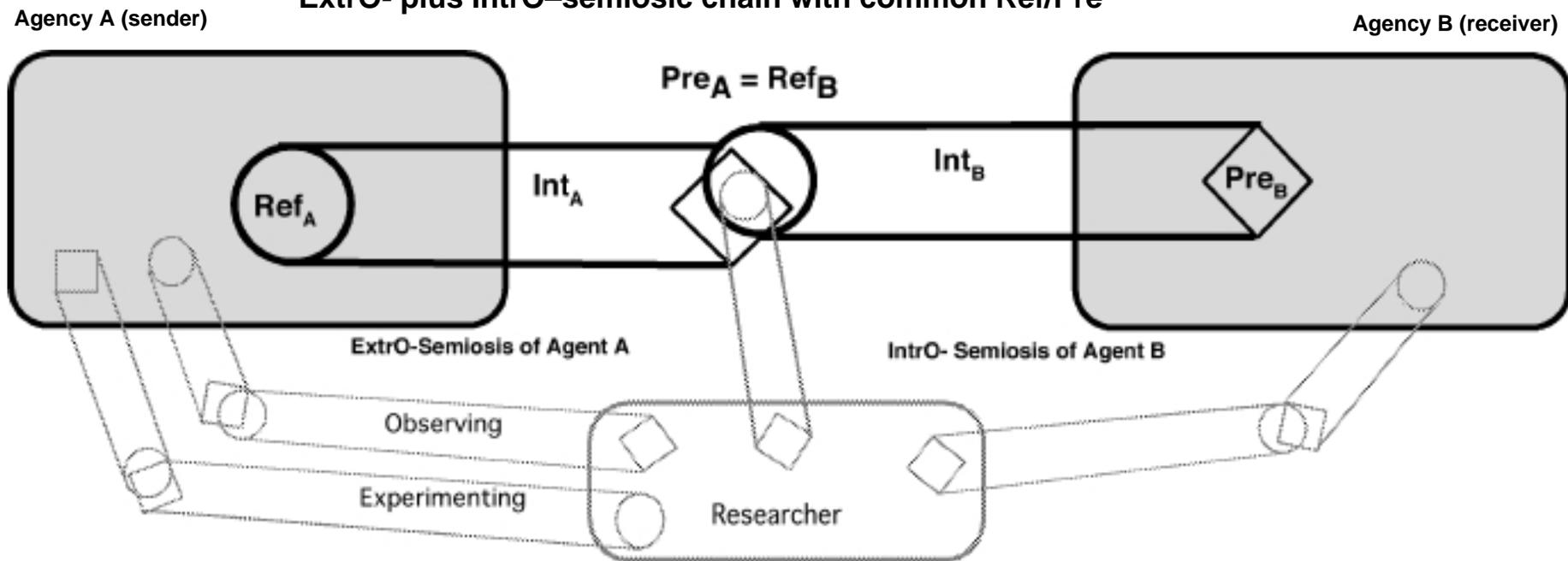


**"Minimal" Communication (semiotic-ecologically conceived):**  
**ExtrO- plus IntrO-semiotic chain with common Ref/Pre**



The diagram "*minimal*" communication presents *the semiotic-ecological conception of the elementary building block for communication* between two agencies such as individual persons, institutions or machines. Communication is conceived as a *double semiosis* or a chain formed by an ExtrO-Semiosis of the sender and an IntrO-Semiosis of the receiver, the ExtrO-Presentant being identical with the IntrO-Referent. Dialogic communication chains such blocks in succession with exchanged ExtrO- and IntrO-roles.

The conception is applicable to any kind of potential influence the sender may (strive to) have on the receiver. Sender and receiver are active agents. Only by taking up the profference of the sender the receiver completes the communicative act; the receiver thus is not forced to comply. Implied are extensive semiotic structures existing in both the sender and receiver. An actual state of the sender ( $Ref_A$ , no matter whether it is knowledge, feeling, mood, routine; intended or instinctive or whatever) is interpreted by some expressive capability of the sender ( $Int_A$ , e.g. gestural, actional, linguistic competence) into some external structure or artefact ( $Pre_A$ , which may be transient or enduring, a new or replicate item or some complex built of such items, or something innovative). Exactly this item, insofar as it is part of the environment common to both, sender and

receiver, is then taken as a Referent ( $Ref_B$ ) for an interpretation by the agency B.

The receiver must be endowed with a suitable Interpretant ( $Int_B$ , which may or may not be completely compatible to  $Int_A$ ) so that the IntrO-Semiosis results in the elicitation or generation of some semiotic structures in the receiver affine to but rarely identical with those in the sender's fundus. The ensuing semiotic processes within the receiver do not belong to the communication proper but are, of course, essential for what the communication means for the receiver. There may be in reality several communicative chains running in parallel or in succession with which A may intend to or actually does qualify or modify the focal communicative chain or its effects. One of them may imply addressing of the prime communication to B or to a larger set of receivers. The IntrO-Semiosis of B need not immediately succeed to the ExtrO-Semiosis of A. Obviously, transient speech utterances, or gestures etc. need be taken up simultaneously; but any work proffered by any agency, whether modified or not by another agency in the meantime can build a communicative chain with any receiving agency, such as e.g. in an archeological or a library study or in taking up a document of any kind. The grayed portion at the bottom indicates the semioses needed to be reconstruct the communicative semioses proper in researching communication. The common Ref/Pre can be observed, the pertinent states of sender and receiver must be inferred. Alfred Lang, 1992/2002