

## Meaning and Etymology of "Personality"

Definition of Personality from the World Book Dictionary: *Noun*

1. The personal or individual quality that makes one person be different and act differently from another. In psychology, personality is the total physical, intellectual, and emotional structure of an individual, including abilities, interests, and attitudes.
2. The qualities of a person; distinctive personal character.
3. A person; personage
4. The quality of being a person, not a thing.

Definition of Person from World Book: *Noun*

1. A man, woman, or child; human being.
2. Person is the ordinary word for referring to a human being. Individual has the same meaning (though it is applied to single objects and animals as well) but emphasizes the person's singleness, aloneness, and is slightly heavy or pretentious unless emphasis is needed.

Etymology of Personality from Allport, G. W. (1937). *Personality: A psychological interpretation*. New York: Holt. (p. 27)

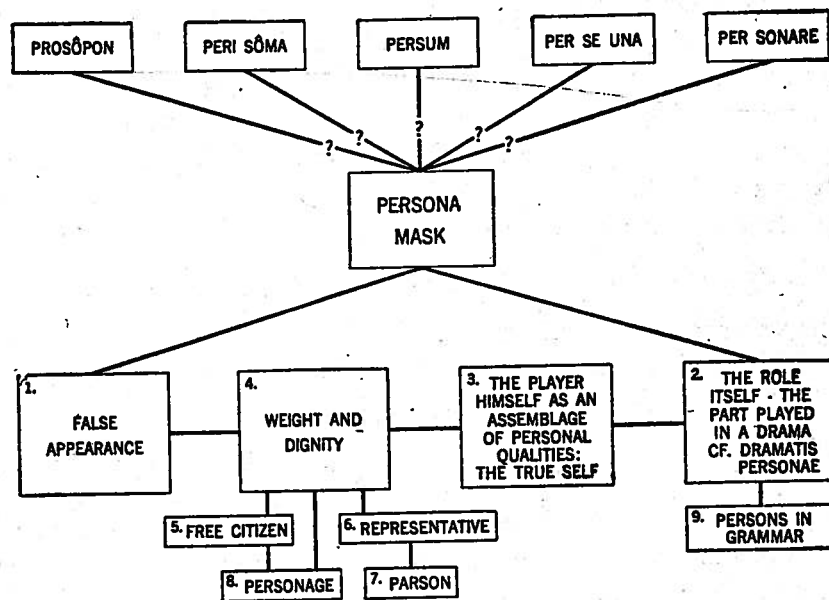


FIGURE 3

The Early Derivative Meaning of *Persona*

Greek

Prosôpon = mask

Peri sôma = around the body

Latin

Persum = head or face

Per se una = self-containing

Per sonare = to sound through

Persona: character in a drama; actor; mask worn by an actor