The apparatus (dispositif) is "... a thoroughly heterogeneous set consisting of discourses, institutions, architectural forms, regulatory decisions, laws, administrative measures, scientific statements, philosophic, moral and philanthropic propositions - in short, the said as much as the unsaid. ... The apparatus itself is the network that can be established between these elements ... The apparatus therefore has a dominant strategic function. ... The apparatus is thus also inscribed into a play of power ..."

Giorgio Agamben quoting Foucault in: What is an Apparatus?

Adelheid Mers 2014