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## **ABSTRACT**

Traffic signs and symbols convey message and meaning to drivers and road users to ensure safety. The ability to comprehend and interpret accurately the intended meaning of road signs and symbols play a significant role in road traffic safety and overall efficiency of the road traffic system.

Despite all efforts and steps taken by the Philippine government to ensure the safety of our roads and traffic system, road traffic incidents and traffic related accidents in Metro Manila are threats faced by both road users and pedestrians, and likewise, takes its toll among the public utility drivers, especially in Metro Manila - which is the focus of this study. Among the highest numbers of driving violations and apprehensions in Metro Manila, the failure to adhere to road signs, symbols and markings was attributed as a major cause among the recorded road traffic apprehensions. These errors in the correct interpretations of traffic signs systems are caused by barriers to semiotic interpretations of road signs and symbols.

This paper studied the barriers to semiotic interpretations of road signs and symbols by public utility drivers in Metro Manila.