Starting from a general consideration about the role of the hermeneutic it is affirmed that its central problem is to interpretate the written texts. This obvious fact implies a demarcation of two complementary issues, to which Paul Ricoeur pays special attention: A) the field of application of the interpretative activity; and b) its epistemological specificity. The fact that the problem of interpretation is related with other written works supposes a triple autonomy worthy to be considered: the intentions of the author, the situation of production of the work and the original reader. This autonomy reveals that the situation of interpretation of written texts acquires a rank of specificity which cannot establish an analogy with the situation of talking and, then, rank that cannot be analyzed from it.