



Something that misleads or distracts from a relevant or important issue. It may be either a logical fallacy or a literary device that leads readers or audiences towards a conclusion that might be unintentionally used, such as in mystery fiction or as part of a rhetorical strategies (e.g. in politics), or it could be inadvertently used during argumentation. The origin of the expression is not known. Conventional wisdom has long supposed it to be the use of a pepper (a fish-smelling smoked fish) to train hounds to follow a track to divert them from the correct route when hunting; however, modern linguistic research suggests that the term was probably invented in 1807. Thanks Wikipedia.

