SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
'PHILOSOPHY OF LANGUAGE AND LINGUISTICS
PhiLang2011'

DRUGA MIĘDZYNARODOWA KONFERENCJA
'FILOZOFIA JĘZYKA I JĘZYKOZNAWSTWA *PhiLang2011*'

The research areas of linguistics and philosophy of language often overlap. Certain crucial questions posed within linguistic research (such as those regarding the ontological status of linguistic entities and linguistic theories) are genuinely philosophical. On the other hand, issues traditionally studied by the philosophy of language (such as truth, reference, meaning) are of considerable interest for linguistic research conducted within various frameworks.

These and several other issues were discussed during the two editions of the international conferences on Philosophy of Language and Linguistics organized in May 2009 (*PhiLang2009*) and May 2011 (*PhiLang2011*) by the Chair of English and General Linguistics at the University of Łódź. The papers collected in this issue of *Kwartalnik Neofilologiczny*, presented during *PhiLang2011*, are concerned with different aspects of language analysis and philosophical problems involved in such analysis.

Obszary badawcze językoznawstwa i filozofii języka niejednokrotnie wzajemnie się zazębiają. Niektóre istotne pytania dotyczące języka i językoznawstwa (takie jak, np. dotyczące statusu ontologicznego bytów językowych i sposobów weryfikacji teorii językoznawczych) mają zdecydowanie filozoficzny charakter. Z drugiej zaś strony, typowe problemy badawcze filozofii języka (np. zagadnienia prawdy, znaczenia, nazywania) cieszą się zainteresowaniem różnych podejść językoznawczych.

Wspomnianym tu tematom poświęcone były kolejne edycje międzynarodowych konferencji 'Filozofia języka i językoznawstwa' (*PhiLang2009* w maju 2009 i *PhiLang2011* w maju 2011) zorganizowanych przez Katedrę Językoznawstwa Angielskiego i Ogólnego Uniwersytetu Łódzkiego. Zebrane w niniejszym tomie *Kwartalnika Neofilologicznego* artykuły, przedstawione w trakcie konferencji *PhiLang2011*, podejmują różne zagadnienia związane z językoznawstwem i filozoficznymi problemami analizy lingwistycznej.

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WSTĘP

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TOPICS IN LINGUISTICS AND THE PHILOSOPHY OF LANGUAGE. INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

The research areas of linguistics and philosophy of language often overlap. Certain crucial questions posed within linguistic research (such as those regarding the ontological status of linguistic entities) are genuinely philosophical, on the other hand, issues traditionally studied by the philosophy of language (such as truth, reference, meaning) are of considerable interest for linguistic research conducted within various frameworks.

It is probably not possible to delimit precisely those two disciplines, although different attempts have been made. The relation between linguistics and philosophy of language, and linguistic philosophy has been described by Mackenzie (1997: ix) in the following way:

> Linguistics is the empirical study of natural language. Philosophy of language is concerned with the underlying nature of the phenomena that linguists study. And linguistic philosophy is an approach to the philosophy of language.

However, philosophers differ considerably in their understanding of the discussed notions (and disciplines). Vendler (1974: 5) claims that *philosophy of language* is a catch-all phrase, whereas *linguistic philosophy* "would comprise conceptual investigations of any kind based upon the structure and functioning of natural or artificial languages"; on the other hand for Rorty (1967: 3) 'linguistic philosophy' is "the view that philosophical problems are problems which may be solved (or dissolved) either by reforming language, or by understanding more about the language we presently use". Additionally, Vendler (1974: 5) distinguishes *philosophy of linguistics*, which "comprises philosophical reflections on such linguistic universals as meaning, synonymy, paraphrase, syntax, and translation, and a study of the logical status and verification of linguistic theories". To these, by now classical, descriptions one may add a recent formulation by Soames (2010: 1):

> Philosophy of language is, above all else, the midwife of the scientific study of language, and language use. By *language*, I mean both natural languages line English, and invented languages like those of logic and mathematics. By *language use* I mean its private use in thoughts, as well as its public use to communicate thoughts.

He also observes that the foundational concepts of philosophy of language (and philosophy as a whole) are "truth, reference, meaning, possibility, propositions, assertion, and implicature" (Soames 2010: 1).

The above observations do not mean that philosophy of language is a homogenous field; on the contrary, it is possible to distinguish different stages, or, to borrow Rorty's term, "turns",[1] in its historical and contemporary development. Early attempts at reforming natural language led to considerable development and application of formal tools in linguistic analysis, hence triggering the "formal turn", strongly related to Analytic Philosophy, and the achievements of Bertrand Russell, early Ludwig Wittgenstein, Rudolf Carnap, Jan Łukasiewicz, Kazimierz Ajdukiewicz, Alfred Tarski. Elucidations concerning different aspects of speech act theory, communication, language use, and the role of presupposition, implicature, and context resulted in the "philosophical turn", associated with the later Wittgenstein, John Austin, Paul Grice, John Searle, Hilary Putnam, and Richard Rorty, to mention the most prominent names only. Further on, the various cognitive approaches to language (from Noam Chomsky and Ray Jackendoff, to George Lakoff and Ronald Langacker) resulted in the "cognitive turn" (or rather several successive turns), focused on, among others, the relation between language and cognition, the distinction between the literal and non-literal in language and thought, metaphors in language and thought, identification of meaning with conceptualization, and non-formal approaches to meaning.

The above mentioned turns were broadly discussed during the first international conference on Philosophy of Language and Linguistics (*PhiLang2009*) organized in May 2009 by the Chair of English and General Linguistics at the University of Łódź. The event resulted in a series of publications: Stalmaszczyk (ed.) (2010a, b), and Stalmaszczyk (ed.) (2011).

The second edition of the conference, *PhiLang2011*, held in May 2011, has resulted in further broadening of the respective fields of research with plenary lectures and section papers covering issues as diverse as Dynamic Syntax, Game-Theoretic approaches to natural language, problems of intensional semantics, context and contextualism, the contribution of Ernst Cassirer, and numerous others.[2]

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[1] On the origin of the term 'linguistic turn' in philosophy, see Rorty (1967); see also the papers in Sawyers (ed.) (2010). For some general background on the formal and philosophical turns in the philosophy of language, see the respective introductions in Stalmaszczyk (ed.) (2010a, b); the introduction to Stalmaszczyk (ed.) (2011) discusses the cognitive turn(s).

[2] Two further publications, dealing with philosophical and formal approaches to linguistic analysis, are planned.

CONTENTS

The articles collected in this issue are concerned with different aspects of language analysis and philosophical problems involved in such analysis.

Janusz Badio focuses on construal of events and attention in philosophy, psychology and cognitive linguistics. He provides an overview of relevant literature and sets the stage for the study of construal operations of events in natural language, especially within the framework of Cognitive Linguistics.

Roberta Colonna Dahlman investigates semantic and syntactic properties of verbs of propositional attitude (such as *believe*, *doubt*, *know*, *fear*, etc), using data from English, German, Swedish, Italian, and Gallipolino, a dialect from South Italy; in her research she employs the approach advocated by Ray Jackendoff.

Justyna Grudzińska discusses different approaches to polysemy, and critically assesses the semantic accounts, especially the recent proposal made by Michael Devitt. She also demonstrates how pragmatic accounts of polysemy can help avoid the proliferation of senses, and claims that words may often have one single general sense which is augmentable in a context-sensitive way.

Pius ten Hacken and Renáta Panocová observe that language can be seen as a knowledge component in the speaker's mind and/or as a system of communication shared by a speech community; they further show that an appropriate discussion of word-formation may offer a complete perspective on the nature of language. They illustrate this position by comparing Pavol Štekauer's onomasiological approach to word-formation and Ray Jackendoff's conception of Parallel Architecture.

Krzysztof Kosecki presents four different attempts at accounting for the concept of reality: William James's conception of 'sub-universes', Lawrence LeShan's idea of 'alternate realities', Leon Chwistek's conception of multiple realities in philosophy and art, and Alfred Schütz's idea of 'limited areas of sense'. Additionally, he compares these approaches to the cognitive linguistic theory of conceptual metaphor (as developed by George Lakoff and Mark Johnson) considered by the author as yet another attempt to cope with the concept of reality.

Alina Kwiatkowska argues for such an approach to the analysis of verbal and pictorial representations, which would bring together cognitively-oriented linguistics and cognitively-based pictorial semiotics. She claims that these two approaches to signification cohere and could be seen as complementary or compatible.

Wiktor Pskit is concerned in his contribution with the concept of language expressed in Nicolás Gómez Dávila's short notes or aphorisms (*scholia*). Although Gómez Dávila does not explicitly present any theory of language; the author claims that it is possible to juxtapose Gómez Dávila's remarks on language, scattered throughout his writings, with the current thinking in linguistic theory.

Monika Rymaszewska examines verb-particle constructions and the nature of their composition in order to discover the mechanisms that account for the

figurative reading of phrasal verbs. In her analysis she assumes the perspective of Cognitive Linguistics.

William J. Sullivan and Sarah Tsiang discuss the ontological status of the morpheme. Their study of speech errors in English and Polish shows that morphemes do exist, however, not as a part of the sound stream, but rather as elements at a certain level of the relational network that constitutes a human linguistic system.

Magdalena Sztencel argues that Relevance Theory rightly abandons the search for non-truth theoretic semantics. However, Relevance Theory adheres to the traditional Chomskyan double-interface view of linguistic expressions which undercuts the underdeterminacy thesis. In order to overcome this inconsistency the author presents a semiotic, wholly inferential account of the relation between words and concepts.

Urszula Zaliwska-Okrutna introduces Etholinguistics, understood as a study of human language behavior, which follows the individual-oriented and context-bound traditions in linguistics, initiated by, respectively Jan Baudouin de Courtenay and Bronisław Malinowski. The author also discusses glottic identity (as understood by Roy Harris), and the issues of orality and literacy.

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