Prologue

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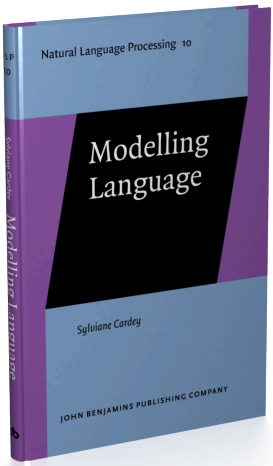

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Prologue

"Man is not merely *homo loquens*; he is *homo grammaticus*" (Palmer 1975: 8). The concept of language is represented through diverse languages which need to be situated in the flow of time. We can look at these languages as systems composed themselves of systems and micro-systems from the point of view of the whole or from the point of view of the components knowing that all the parts are interrelated as the stars in the galaxy and the macrocosm.

As Pascal said:

> But the parts of the world are all so related and linked to one another, that I believe it impossible to know one without the other and without the whole...Since everything then is cause and effect, dependent and supporting, mediate and immediate, and all is held together by a natural though imperceptible chain, which binds together things most distant and most different, I hold it equally impossible to know the parts without knowing the whole, and to know the whole without knowing the parts in detail. (Pascal, Pensées, English translation 1958: 12)
>
> Les parties du monde ont toutes un tel rapport et un tel enchaînement l'une avec l'autre, que je crois impossible de connoître l'une sans l'autre, et sans le tout... Donc toute chose étant causée et causante, aidée et aidante, médiatement et immédiatement, et toutes s'entretenant par un lien naturel et insensible, qui lie les plus éloignées et les plus différentes, je tiens impossible de connoître les parties sans connoître le tout, non plus que de connoître le tout sans connoître en détail les parties. (Pascal 1670: vol 4. 111–112)

Theory, methodologies and applications will meet here. From macro to micro or from micro to macro, which to choose, and how to represent what we call systems and micro-systems, components and the whole in the context of language and languages? We will start with our galaxy or languages as macro-systems and see why we need a micro-systemic approach.