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Editors' introduction

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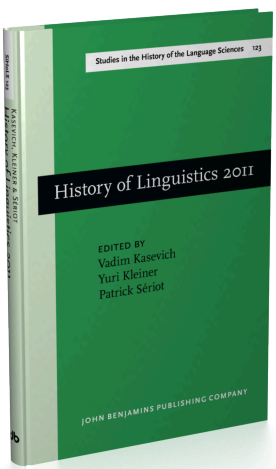

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Editors' introduction

The present volume is divided chronologically into four parts concerned with various linguistic theoretical writings from the 1600s to the second half of the 20th century.

The papers of Part I, "European linguistics: 17th to late 18th centuries", are devoted to various aspects of the immediate 'pre-history' of linguistics. Studies carried out during this period, be they purely practical (orthoepy) or philosophical in nature, necessarily touched upon topics which were to develop into problems of language theory. The controversy around the *ordo naturalis* and deviations from it, from the point of view of both logic and grammar, is discussed in "'Inversions of word order generate higher costs': Continuity and development of a topos since the rationalist language theories of the 17th century" by Gerda Haßler. As the author has demonstrated, the seventeenth- and eighteenth-century criticism of the *ordo naturalis* doctrine relied on linguistic considerations, while the hypothesis of a 'natural' word order that "would save cognitive costs has experienced an astonishing continuity to the present day".

In "Qui a écrit la *Grammaire générale et raisonnée*?" Bernard Colombat discusses the contribution of one of the authors of the *GGR*, published anonymously in 1660, viz. Claude Lancelot. On the basis of textual analysis of the *Grammaire* and its dependence on Lancelot's other works Colombat comes to the conclusion that Lancelot's role was greater than he had claimed and that he was the real author of the *GGR*.

Francine Mazière's "Travail du pouvoir et productions sur la 'langue française' au XVIIe siècle" is concerned with extralinguistic factors involved in the formation of French, in particular, the political situation conducive to the deployment of the 'collective speaker' concept, the publication, at the end of the 17th century, of *Le Dictionnaire de l'Académie* that put an end to various processes at work, etc. According to Mazière, at the center of the work on the formation of the French language, on the part of the authority, was Richelieu.

Kozma Ahačič's paper "The main characteristics of grammar-writing in Slovenia between 1584 and 1758" is devoted to the principles underlying books on grammar created in 1584–1758 in the territory of today's Slovenia, focusing on adaptation of foreign models by Adam Bohorič (1584), the parallel presentation of paradigms from different languages in the four-language dictionary by

Hieronymus Megiser (1592) and various later works, mostly revisions of Bohorič (1715, 1755, 1758), written in the atmosphere of the growing discrepancy between the traditional written norm and the spoken language.

The articles of Part II, "Linguistics in the late 18th and 19th centuries", begin with the paper by Mariarosaria Gianninoto entitled "Western grammars of the Chinese language in the 18th and 19th centuries: Studies on 'cenemes' and word formation". The paper discusses missionaries' bilingual grammars based on Western linguistic models in combination with certain aspects of Chinese linguistics, as well as categories developed by the authors, which were absent both in Latin and Chinese traditions.

The article by Serhii Wakoulenko, "L'universalité du discours et le génie des langues dans la *Grammaire générale philosophique et littéraire* (1823–1824) de Nicolas Paquis de Sauvigny", is devoted to the Kharkiv professor Nicolas Paquis de Sauvigny's grammatical theory based on the correlation of discourse as a universal category and the specificity of particular languages.

In "The reception of Court de Gébelin in 19th-century Portuguese grammar: The case of the anonymous *Regras de Grammatica Portugueza* (1841)" Rolf Kemmler traces the sources of the anonymous work, in particular the *Histoire naturelle de la parole, ou grammaire universelle* by Antoine Court de Gébelin (1776) and the Élémens de grammaire générale, appliqués a la langue française (1799) by Roch-Ambroise Cucuron Sicard, with the focus on the former's impact on the anonymous grammarian.

"Morphologie du langage et typologie linguistique: La connexion 'Schleicher – Saint-Petersbourg'" by Pierre Swiggers and Toon Van Hal is devoted to an innovatingtive classification of the languages of the world, based on the theory of the formal structure of the word (four typological classes, with several subtypes and structural formulae) proposed by August Schleicher in his memoir *Zur Morphologie der Sprache* (St. Petersburg 1859), which has certain affinities with the typological writings affiliated associated with the St. Petersburg Academy (e.g., Böhtlingk, Schiefner).

The last paper of in this Part II, "L'évolution du terme 'sémiologie' chez Saussure: 1881–1891" by Alessandro Chidichimo, analyzes the evolution of the term 'sémiologie' in Saussure's texts and manuscripts, disclosing some aspects of it, not present in the *CLG*.

The first article of Part III, "Theoretical issues in the 20th-century linguistic thought", is "Questioning the idea of 'founding text': Harris's *Discourse Analysis* and French *Analyse du discours*" by Jacqueline Léon. This article deals with the notion of the 'founding text' exemplified by Zellig Harris's *Discourse Analysis* (1952), which was a founding text for the French Discourse Analysis of the late

1960s, represented by two trends, Jean Dubois' and Michel Pêcheux's, with their respective versions of the notion in question.

Els Elffers, in "Earlier and later anti-psychologism in linguistics" discusses the earlier and later varieties of anti-psychologism, viz. specifically that of the first half of the 20th century (in European structuralism) and the anti-psychologism that appeared the 1970s as a reaction to Chomsky's psychologism.

Béatrice Godart-Wendling's article "Looking for a semantic theory: The path taken by Kazimierz Ajdukiewicz (1931–1960)" is devoted to the formal approach to natural language put forward in the early 1930s by the Polish philosopher and logician Ajdukiewicz (1890–1963), and different conceptions of meaning implementable in a syntactical algorithm derived from it.

Margaret Thomas's article "Jakobson's circles" is devoted to Roman Jakobson's participation and role in a number of 'circles', self-consciously established groups of scholars who, irrespective of their institutional affiliations, shared interests and supported each others' work, e.g., in Moscow and Prague, as well as in Scandinavia, and lastly, his co-founding of the Linguistic Circle of New York.

It is probably not a coincidence that Part IV, "Russian and Soviet linguistics", constitutes the most conspicuous section, reflecting the proportion of the materials offered at the St. Petersburg conference. Vladimir Alpatov, in "Soviet linguistics and world linguistics", presentsed an overview of the history of Soviet linguistics, with its schools and trends, stressesing that, contrary to a widespread view, its formation did not take place either in absolute isolation from or in opposition to Western linguistics.

In "Anti-positivism in early Soviet linguistics: A Marxist or idealist stance?" Patrick Sériot discusses his vision of the philosophical background of Soviet linguistics in the 1920s and 1930s. He argues that, in order to characterize Soviet linguistics, with its various trends, in the inter-war period, it would be more accurate to define it not as a quest for a Marxist science of language, but as an original blend of German romanticism, Neo-Platonistic tradition and new 'social' theories of language.

In "De la fusion des langues au repli sur soi (URSS 1917–1953)" Sébastien Moret analyzes the reflection, in linguistic texts, of two periods in the history of the USSR, one immediately following the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution, and the other in the 1920s. The texts of the two periods reveal two ideologically and politically different images of the country.

In "Semantics as a background for (pre)semiotic trends in Russian intellectual history of the 1920s–1930s (and beyond)" Ekaterina Velmezova discusses the role that semantics played in the ideas of the predecessors of Russian semiotics in the 1920s–1930s, in particular, those of the school of Nikolaj Marr and those

who, although not in opposition, did not belong to it (R. O. Šor, V. N. Vološinov, G. G. Špet).

Enrica Galazzi's "Présence de la Russie dans le réseau phonétique international (1886–1940)" is concerned with the Western European connections of Soviet Russian experimental phonetics in the first third of the 20th century, as represented by Lev Ščerba who was a research fellow in Paris under Paul Passy and Father Rousselot. Ščerba participated in the International Congresses of Phonetic Sciences (1932, 1935, 1938) and, earlier, in a meeting devoted to experimental phonetics (Hamburg 1914); he was member of the Société de linguistique de Paris (SLP) and the International Phonetic Association (IPA), and contributed to *Archives néerlandaises de phonétique expérimentale*, *Le Maître phonétique*, *La Revue de phonétique*, *Parole*, the *Bulletin* and the *Mémoires de la Société Linguistique de Paris*.

Unlike in previous ICHoLS meetings, this Conference did not have a sufficient number of papers on the Classical Antiquity or the Renaissance to form another section for the present volume.