

Contents

Acknowledgments — viii

Foreword (Kalevi Kull) — ix

Introduction — 1

- 1 Novelty and decentering — **1**
- 2 Three scientific personalities — **3**
- 3 “Suggestions from the East” — **5**
- 4 On traditions — **7**
- 5 Complementarity — **9**

First part: Background

Chapter 1

The question of boundaries — 13

- 1 Boundaries in time: Are there paradigm shifts in linguistics? — **13**
- 2 Boundaries in space: Russian science and European science, same or other? — **15**
- 3 The boundaries between science and ideology: What is at stake in comparative epistemology — **21**
- 4 The double helix — **22**

Chapter 2

The Eurasianist movement — 24

- 1 A brief institutional and political history of the movement — **26**
- 2 The main features of Eurasianist doctrine — **29**
- 3 Missing borders, imagined borders — **46**

Second part: Closure

Chapter 3

The space factor — 63

- 1 A brief overview of the question — **64**
- 2 Jakobson’s phonological language union — **68**
- 3 The “oil stain” metaphor — **78**

Chapter 4

Continuous and discontinuous — 91

- 1 Closure — **92**
- 2 Impossible closure — **99**
- 3 The overlap theory: synthesis or a backward move? — **110**
- 4 Where does a thing begin and end? — **113**

Chapter 5

Evolutionism or diffusionism? — 115

- 1 Marrism — **116**
- 2 Bringing together apparently opposed theories — **118**
- 3 Philosophical categories — **120**
- 4 The enigma of resemblances — **135**

Third part: Nature

Chapter 6

Affinities — 141

- 1 Two types of resemblance — **142**
- 2 A disconcerting ambiguity: acquired or innate resemblances in linguistics — **150**

Chapter 7

The biological model — 159

- 1 Teleology or causality? — **160**
- 2 Nomogenesis or chance occurrence? — **162**
- 3 Convergences or divergences? — **167**
- 4 The organic metaphor — **172**

Chapter 8

The theory of correspondences — 175

- 1 “Development locale”: a non-deterministic object of research? — **175**
- 2 The “linkage” method — **182**
- 3 Order and harmony — **190**

Fourth part: Science

Chapter 9

Personology and synthesizing the sciences — 211

- 1 Synthetic science — 211
- 2 “Personology” (*personologija*) — 223

Chapter 10

Holism: What is a whole? — 230

- 1 Through the looking glass — 230
- 2 Positivism and holism — 231
- 3 The question of naturalism — 234
- 4 Given object *versus* constructed object — 246
- 5 Structure or whole? — 248

Conclusion — 253

Appendix — 259

Bibliography — 261

Index of names — 281

Index of subjects — 290