

Cordula Neis (ed.)

Language and Language Awareness in the History of Linguistics — Sprache und Sprachbewusstsein in der Geschichte der Sprachwissenschaft

Preface / *Cordula Neis*: Language and Language Awareness in the History of Linguistics / *Ana Kotarcic, Pierre Swiggers*: Language Consciousness in Aristotle / *Paola Cotticelli-Kurras*: *Congruitas* als Kriterium einer bewussten Sprachform. Ein *excursus* durch die Latinität / *René Pellen, Francis Tollis*: Entre latin et castillan. Antonio de Nebrija pionnier de la grammatisation d'un parler roman / *Roger Schöntag*: Alessandro Citolinis *Lettera in difesa de la lingua volgare* (1540) im Kontext der Entstehung des Konzeptes 'Vulgärlatein' / *Camiel Hamans*: Grotius as a linguistic patriot in the tradition of Goropius Becanus / *Christian Koch*: Die *Methodus linguarum novissima* von Comenius als Fundament einer bewussthetsorientierten Mehrsprachigkeitsdidaktik / *Gerda Haßler*: Sprachbewusstsein und metasprachliche Reflexion in den moralischen Wochenschriften des 18. Jahrhunderts / *Ariane Wittkowski*: Synonyme in der *Encyclopédie* — Die Bandbreite ihrer Vermittlung von kumulativ bis distinktiv / *Karsten Rinas*: Von der Darstellung zum Ausdruck. Wandlungen des Sprachbewusstseins im ausgehenden 18. Jahrhundert / *Jacques-Philippe Saint-Gérard*: Philologie, histoire de la langue, dialectologie. Trois étapes d'une prise de conscience des pouvoirs de la langue / *Friederike Spitzl-Dupic*: Die Behandlung der Negation im Wandel des Sprachbewusstseins / *Wolfert von Rahden*: Ironie als Missverständnis. Wie die 'Wau-Wau-Theorie' in die Sprachwissenschaft kam / *Rolf Kemmler*: Die deutschsprachigen Prosalektüre- und Übersetzungstücke in Emilie Hellingring d'Espineys *Novo Methodo Popular: O Allemão sem Mestre* / *Kiran van Bentum*: Das Niederländische als Kultursprache. Sprachbewusstsein und Sprachbewertung im niederländischen Sprachraum des 19. Jahrhunderts / *Eva Janečková*: Der deutsche Sprachpurismus und die böhmischen Länder im 19. und 20. Jahrhundert / *Frank Vonk*: Die Thematisierung der 'Sprache' bei Walter Benjamin. Das zeitgenössische und konzeptuelle Umfeld seiner Sprachauffassung / *Silvia Verdian*: Die *Testologia Semiotica* von János Sándor Petöfi. Auf dem Weg zu einer semiotischen Theorie der menschlichen Multimedia-Kommunikation / *Martin Gärtner*: „En France colonisée, c'est Halloween tous les jours!“. Frankreichs-Diskussion um den Status des Englischen in Europa und im eigenen Land / *Nataschia Leonardi*: The construction of language and facets of language awareness / *Ursula Topczewska, Michał Fijałkiewicz*: German Modal Particles as a Grammatical Category / *Tommaso Pellin*: The ideology of language awareness in China — INDEX NOMINUM

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Preface

This volume emerged from a conference on “Language and language awareness in the history of linguistics”, which took place from 8th–11th June 2022 at the Europa Universität-Flensburg (Germany). As can be seen from this collection of contributions, a broad spectrum of topics is covered, ranging from studies on the linguistic heritage of antiquity to those dealing with current issues, focusing primarily on the European language area and to a smaller extent the non-European language area. Among the variety of topics observed, linguistic apologetics of various epochs in the context of linguistic discourse as well as the impact of foreign language teaching on language awareness or the use of certain linguistic forms in relation to linguistic awareness will be taken into consideration.

Since antiquity, there has been a lively debate on questions dealing with language and language awareness. One only needs to think of Plato's reflections on the role of language as an instrument of knowledge and of Truth Seeking in his *Cratylus* or on the factual dispute between the Anomalists and Analogists.

Over the centuries, the Renaissance especially turned out not merely to be an age of discovery, but also an age of an arising language awareness, as evidenced by the whole range of apologetic texts which spread all over Europe at that time. In this context, the following authors were exemplary with their apologetic writings: Sperone Speroni, *Dialogo della lingua* (1542), Joachim Du Bellay, *Deffence et illustration de la langue françoise* (1549), Richard Carew, *On the Excellency of the English Tongue* or Martin Opitz, *De contemptu linguae teutonicae* (1617) and Schottelius and his *Lob der Teutschen Haubtsprache* (1663).

During the 17th century, especially in France, tendencies of linguistic standardisation come to the fore which are reflected in the purism of the *Académie française*. Apologetic texts on the French language and its alleged clarity are expressed in a large number of treatises published in France during the 17th and 18th centuries such as Dominique Bouhours' *Entretiens d'Ariste et d'Eugène*, Voltaire's *Dictionnaire philosophique* or Rivarol's *Discours sur l'universalité de la langue française*.

Such apologetic manner of discourse is echoed even today in French linguistic discussions as well as in France's language policy. On the one hand, an increasing demand for an appropriate appreciation of regional and minority languages together with their social and political acceptance has to be noticed. On the other hand, due to globalisation, there is the worldwide usage of English as an indispensable and universal lingua franca.

Over the centuries, language in Europe turned out to be an essential component of cultural identity. Thus, the development of a European linguistic awareness has been closely linked to the formation of European nations and nation states. The emergence of nation states in Europe in the 19th century facilitated the evolution of social and cultural mentalities as well as the manifestation of individual and collective language awareness.

As our thematic overview of the present contributions shows, the main interest of this volume lies in the expression of language awareness in different European countries in past and present times. The contributions discuss comments and opinions about specific European and non-European languages, language assessment, language criticism as a manifestation of language awareness, key terms which serve as expressions of language awareness as well as the evaluation of specific language usage. This usage can be expressed as the acceptance or rejection of particular linguistic forms.

In a brief summary, the reader will now be given an overview of the topics covered in this volume.

I have prefaced the individual contributions with an introductory text on “Language and Language Awareness in the History of Linguistics”, which outlines some of the fundamental issues surrounding this subject of investigation.

Based on a problematisation of the often controversially discussed term “language awareness”, the contribution of professional and lay linguistics to language criticism and language evaluation is examined. In doing so, the handling of highly publicised topics in the language debate will be discussed. Hereby, topics such as Anglicisms or the use of gender in the German-speaking world as well as the special language awareness of the French, which has stood out for centuries and is still evident in an extremely pronounced *mentalité orthographique* to this day, deserve special attention. A treatment of selected language apologies of the Renaissance, especially in Italy and France, documents the emergence of language awareness in Europe in the early modern period.

The example of France is used to exhibit how the conception of the special character of a language, the *génie de la langue française*, passionately advocated by achim Du Bellay, has influenced French language awareness for centuries. A comparison with the current language debate in Germany shows how similar the language-related topics discussed in public and in the media are in both countries. The historical overview reveals that in the course of European history, especially the Humanistic categories of *perspicuitas*, *energeia*, *abundantia* und *harmonia* were evoked for the comparison and evaluation of languages. Today, comments on the web that reflect the author’s opinions or prejudice faced with other languages reveal that certain *topoi* concerning the judgment of languages are still very much alive and form part of the linguistic awareness of the speaker community.

In the contribution “Language Consciousness in Aristotle” by ANA KOTARCIC and PIERRE SWIGGERS, Aristotle’s awareness of language is analysed in its various dimensions. By combining the epistemological and ethological facets of language consciousness, the Greek philosopher’s thoughts on the nature and the function of human language as well as its semiotic capacities to create (imaginary) worlds are addressed. In

doing so, the authors demonstrate that Aristotle’s views on language show his awareness of the creative nature of language in a broader cognitive-anthropological meaning.

In “*Congruitas* als Kriterium einer bewussten Sprachform. Ein *excursus* durch die Latinität”, PAOLA COTTICELLI-KURRAS forwards the concept of *congruitas* in Latin grammar up to the *Modistae*. For example, terms such as *latinitas* and *hellenismós* accompanied the development of language reflection and marked out the areas of the foundations of the grammatical components used to formulate terms. Consequently, terms like *logos*, *lexis*, *oratio*, *partes orationis* and their composition (*syntaxis/construction*) are analysed as expressions of language consciousness from the Antiquity to the *Modistae*.

Three contributions of this volume are dedicated to the Renaissance as the era of the awakening of language consciousness. They reflect the linguistic thinking of leading figures of the age of Humanism in three different European countries. The first of these contributions, “Entre latin et castellan. Antonio de Nebrija pionnier de la grammatisation d’un parler roman” was written by RENÉ PELLEN and FRANCIS TOLLIS. It is dedicated to the first grammar of a Romance vernacular, Antonio de Nebrija’s *Gramática castellana* (1492). Although it was conceived on the basis of Latin grammar, Nebrija emphasised with a remarkable linguistic awareness the new status of Castilian as a language of culture and opened the way to a generalised grammatisation of Romance languages.

Equally dedicated to the linguistic thinking of the Renaissance is ROGER SCHÖNTAG’s contribution “Alessandro Citolinis *Lettera in difesa de la lingua volgare* (1540) im Kontext der Entstehung des Konzeptes ‘Vulgärlatein’”. This treatise, which has to be considered in the broader context of the Italian *Questione della lingua*, belongs to the Renaissance’s apologetic tradition of the *lingua volgare*. Citolini ties in with the discussion between Flavio Biondo (1392–1463) and Leonardo Bruni (ca. 1370–1444) about the nature of the *volgare* in ancient Rome. Although Biondo can be credited with being one of the inventors of the concept of ‘Vulgar Latin’, it is Citolini who deserves our attention for having defined this concept more precisely and for having introduced the difference between *lingua viva* and *lingua morta* into the discussion.

The defence of a vernacular is also the subject of CAMIEL HAMAN’s contribution “Grotius as a linguistic patriot in the tradition of Goropius Becanus”, in which the apology of Dutch, as exposed by leading figures like Goropius Becanus (1519–1573) and his follower Simon Stevin (1548/49–1620) as well as the linguistic ideas of the famous state theorist and jurist Hugo Grotius (1583–1645) are treated. Although Goropius Becanus with his fierce defence of the Dutch language was ridiculed by Leibniz, not least because of his curious etymologies, his ideas about the position and value of his Dutch mother tongue have been influential for more than a century. HAMANS demonstrates that — despite these reservations — Goropius Becanus and his supporter Simon Stevin should be appreciated as linguistic patriots who fought for equal rights for their language.

In his contribution “Die *Methodus linguarum novissima* von Comenius als Fundament einer bewusstseitsorientierten Mehrsprachigkeitsdidaktik”, CHRISTIAN KOCH

turns to a scholar who can be located at the transition from the Renaissance to the Enlightenment and who can justifiably be regarded as the founder of modern foreign language didactics. By comparing central perspectives in this little-used work with modern views of foreign language teaching, the modernity of this Bohemian scholar becomes apparent.

A section of three contributions is devoted to the linguistic thinking and the language awareness of the Enlightenment.

In “Sprachbewusstsein und metasprachliche Reflexion in den Moralischen Wochenschriften des 18. Jahrhunderts”, GERDA HÄBLER evinces that in this journalistic genre, not only the typical domains of the Enlightenment’s linguistic thinking aspiring at improvement and standardisation of languages, but also issues of language theory received wide attention. The interrelation of conceptual and narrative forms of representation is examined using the example of weeklies of different linguistic-cultural affiliations.

ARIANE WITTKOWSKI’s article “Synonyme in der *Encyclopédie* — Die Bandbreite ihrer Vermittlung von kumulativ bis distinktiv” introduces the discussion of synonyms in the first half of the 18th century and then focuses on their presentation in the *Encyclopédie* in the *Encyclopédie ou Dictionnaire raisonné des sciences, des arts et des métiers* (1751–80). About one thousand articles that deal with synonyms allow conclusions to be drawn about a differential approach as well as a varying synonymy.

In his article “Von der Darstellung zum Ausdruck. Wandlungen des Sprachbewusstseins im ausgehenden 18. Jahrhundert”, KARSTEN RINAS analyses how the use of language changed in the European culture in the period of ‘Sentiment’ (*Empfindsamkeit*) at the end of the Enlightenment. His aim is to identify the jump from explicit representation to emotional expression while explaining this shift in a cultural-historical context which also includes contemporary efforts to combat these freer modes of writing.

JACQUES-PHILIPPE SAINT-GÉRAND provides a broad historiographical overview of the development of language awareness in 19th century France in his article “Philologie, histoire de la langue, dialectologie. Trois étapes d’une prise de conscience des pouvoirs de la langue”. Based on the observation that epilinguistic discourse has also played an important role in the development of three selected fields of research, he intends to analyse each topic individually. Hereby, explanations for the achievements of the emerging philology, the impact of the upcoming history of the national language throughout the second third of the nineteenth century and the institutionalisation of dialectology, in its final third, will be forwarded by the text. The latter ought to exemplify the ideological aporia of a political project to normalise, standardise and unify a State language that stands in opposition to the hidden vitality of regional languages, dialects and *patois*.

In her article “Die Behandlung der Negation im Wandel des Sprachbewusstseins”, FRIEDRIKE SPITZL-DUPIC deals with the history of linguistic ideas of negation in the German-speaking world from the beginning of the 18th to the middle of the 19th century. She analyses the different linguistic means which are associated in the corpus

with the realisation of a negating sense and demonstrates to what extent the treatment of negation is altering due to the change in language awareness during this period.

In his contribution “Ironie als Missverständnis. Wie die ‘Wau-Wau-Theorie’ in die Sprachwissenschaft kam”, WOLFERT VON RAHDEN presents Friedrich Max Müller’s ironical approach to the origin-of-language debate by choosing terms of ‘baby talk’ like ‘bow-wow theory’ and ‘pooh-pooh theory’ to describe the dawn of language. Müller ridicules the impact of Darwinism on 19th-century linguistics, but his usage of irony as a rhetoric strategy in a scientific discourse turns out to create, before all, misunderstanding in the scientific community.

With his article “Die deutschsprachigen Prosalektüre- und Übersetzungstücke in Emilie Hellring d’Espineys *Novo Methodo Popular: O Allemão sem Mestre*”, ROLF KEMMLER turns to the German-born language teacher Emilie Hellring d’Espineys, who was the first female author in Portugal of a foreign language textbook dedicated to a modern foreign language that has been published there. As reading and translation competencies from German into Portuguese are the major concerns of the author, ROLF KEMMLER focuses on the identification of d’Espineys sources, including references to German reading books and related works used by learners of the time.

In the contribution “Das Niederländische als Kultursprache. Sprachbewusstsein und Sprachbewertung im niederländischen Sprachraum des 19. Jahrhunderts”, KIRAN VAN BENTUM analyses the notion of the Dutch language as a language of civility and culture, the ‘Algemeen Beschaafd Nederlands’ (General Cultivated Dutch), in the 19th century. VAN BENTUM describes its development and its implementation into the official discourse about a national language in the Netherlands and in Belgium by creating linguistic uniformity on the one hand and otherness of foreign linguistic influences on the other. Furthermore, in this contribution, the role of language ideologies which come into play to form language awareness for a civilised (‘beschaafd’) variety of the Dutch language is analysed.

EVA JANEČKOVÁ’s article “Der deutsche Sprachpurismus und die böhmischen Länder im 19. und 20. Jahrhundert” presents a project that was carried out at Palacký University in Olomouc and whose target was an analysis of the influence of German linguistic purism in the Bohemian lands. The main focus lays on lexicography, especially on Germanisation dictionaries by Johann Gottfried Sommer (Prague 1819) and by Josef Demuth (Brno 1853), and on the examination of the activities of the *Allgemeiner Deutscher Sprachverein in Bohemia and Moravia*. In a last step, it shall be determined whether the results indicate features of linguistic purism unique to the Bohemian lands.

In “Die Thematisierung der ‘Sprache’ bei Walter Benjamin. Das zeitgenössische und konzeptuelle Umfeld seiner Sprachauffassung”, FRANK VONK analyses the concept of language, the German philosopher and cultural critics exhibits in notebooks in which he collected political, literary, aesthetical, theological and linguistic observations. The concept of language and how it was perceived by Benjamin is going to offer insight into the idea that language can be more than an instrument and enables a fundamental knowledge of the created world that reveals the essential character of the objects created by God.

SELVIA VERDIANI dedicates her contribution, entitled “Die *Testologia Semiotica* von János Sándor Petőfi. Auf dem Weg zu einer semiotischen Theorie der menschlichen Multimedia-Kommunikation”, to one of the founders of Text Linguistics in Germany in the early 1970s. The aim was to go beyond the co-textual perspective and develop a contextual theory of the text that would consider the encyclopedic knowledge, the large variety of poetic, aesthetic, sociological and ideological dimensions as well as the communicative situation and the theory of linguistic actions. Petőfi’s concept of coherence (2011) inspired him to a redefinition of the semantic components of his *Testologia semiotica*, in which the fundamental unit of communication is no longer the single text, but which is based on a multi-media conception.

„En France colonisée, c’est Halloween tous les jours!“: Frankreichs Diskussion um den Status des Englischen in Europa und im eigenen Land” is the provocative title of MARTIN GÄRTNER’s contribution in which he analyses the long-lasting debates on English which is conceived as a constant threat to the existence of the French language. The decidedly Anglophobe manner in which the same arguments are always displayed is presented on the basis of a brief historical classification of the discussions.

In “The construction of language and facets of language awareness”, NATASCIA LEONARDI exhibits rationalist and empiricist approaches to the creation of language in the context of universal language projects in the 17th century, emphasising that this difference has been maintained for centuries and was echoed in the 20th-century divergence between the formal and the functional paradigm. Focusing on the speculation on artificial linguistic systems, she sketches a line of continuity from early modern to contemporary theories which involve the study of language (as an abstract system) and natural languages (as historical instances).

In their contribution “German Modal Particles as a Grammatical Category”, URSULA TOPCZEWSKA and MICHAŁ FIJAŁKIEWICZ seek to get further insights into the impact the grammaticalisation process exerted on the pragmatic functions fulfilled by modal particles, which, owing to the communicative-pragmatic turn, have been mostly considered by linguists in respect to their pragmatic functions. Their study is based on a collection of data that originated from over 100 publications on modal particles released in German and English since 1950. Based on the corpus encompassing the definitions of modal particles, a qualitative analysis has been conducted to obtain a linguistic picture of the prevalent approaches to defining the functions of modal particles in the German language.

“The ideology of language awareness in China” is the title of the last contribution of this volume written by TOMMASO PELLIN who analyses the impact that the expression “language awareness” (yuyan yishi 语言意识) has had in the last years both in Chinese political discourses and in academic debate. In general, the notion of “awareness” (yishi 意识) is a key political term. The author aims at discussing the most frequent usages of this term in Chinese political discourses and its connection with the language ideology in the background.

Flensburg, July 2024

Cordula Neis