

## Summary

The present anthology is a supplementary volume accompanying the monograph *Soukromé jazyky* (*Private Languages*) by Ondřej Beran, published in the previous year (2012). It comprises translated texts relating directly or indirectly to the problem of private language. The point of reference is provided by the later Wittgenstein's private language argument, according to which language cannot work on the basis of private semantics: its meaning has to have a public normative anchor that allows for distinguishing between the correct and the incorrect.

The (mostly) empiric studies concentrated in the anthology demonstrate that language is a heterogeneous practice the normativity of which is local, diversified and has open boundaries. Though it is not the ambition of all the texts to set a counterpoint to Wittgenstein's argument and not all of them refer to his work or to the private language question, they provide a valuable empirical correction to Wittgenstein's philosophical intuition in its over generality.

Henry Sussman's text analyzes literature as the private pole of the private-public scale permeating whole language: he points that it is constitutive for literature that it displays no universal rules easy to follow and breaks the established ones, being genuinely idiosyncratic, though only to the measure of idiosyncrasy recognizable as such publicly. Sussman also pays attention to the context of psychotherapy where certain artificial privacy is created between the client and the therapist.

Roy Wolcott deals with the linguistic situation of schizophrenic patients in which they are enclosed. "Schizophrenese" provides field for controversy whether it is a language in itself or only a language disorder that has to be treated as such (eradicated). Wolcott favors the former option (since "schizophrenese" proves to be a relatively stable

artifact), but points that despite that it represents a considerable pragmatic disadvantage for its speakers.

René Zazzo departs from the viewpoint of development psychology and studies linguistic anomalies of twins in early childhood. He discusses the putative origins of the “secret languages” and their influence on establishing the awareness of self in the twins. Zazzo presents twin languages as widely synpractical, with open and indefinite meaning of many their expressions and poor (poorly structured) pragmatics. In the end, they are a condition to treat in order that a normal full-fledged development of the children is possible.

William Samarin offers a complex treatise of the phenomenon of tongue-speaking. He elucidates that in the significant features, glosolalia is only a facade of language: with poor phonology and no traceable morphology or grammar. On the other hand, it is interesting that it has rather rich and solidly established *pragmatics*, i.e. the key distinction between the correct and the incorrect can be preserved *publicly* (unlike other examples discussed in this volume), if not analyzed or explained.

Daniel Maltz and Ruth Borker study gender-specific idiolects and summarize extensive scholarly literature dealing with different regimes of linguistic practice specific for male and female speakers. Maltz and Borker draw an analogy with different cultures the backgrounds of which cause serious misunderstandings among speakers from them, since no part (gender/culture) has a clear grasp of the rules (conventions, stereotypes) governing the linguistic practice of its counterpart.

Deborah Cameron criticizes this “difference approach” in studying gender oppositions in language. She points that the difference theorists construe the situation in terms of genuine misunderstanding, while misunderstanding is no technical condition here but is rather promoted as such, because it suits the interests of some group of speakers. In these cases, the “misunderstanding interpretation” can have serious implications and be abused for burdening the weaker group of speakers (typically women) with menial linguistic jobs or even for oppressing and exploiting them.