PhiLang2013 – Third International Conference
on Philosophy of Language and Linguistics

In May, 9-11 2013, the University of Łódź hosted a conference on the relationship between philosophy of language and linguistics entitled *PhiLang2013 – Third International Conference on Philosophy of Language and Linguistics*. Organized by Piotr Stalmaszczyk, the conference put together philosophers and linguists from all around the world and so provided an excellent opportunity for them to discuss.

The conference commenced with the opening lecture given by Emma Borg (Reading). In her 'Semantics Minimalism: What Does It Claim and Why?', Borg went through the main semantic positions including minimalism, indexicalism, relativism, occasionalism or contextualism and, consequently, motivated the first one. A fantastic introduction to the conference.

The first plenary lecture was given by Gary Kemp (Glasgow). Kemp outlined and further elaborated the relationship between 'Quine and Wittgenstein as regards Linguistics as a Science' and their objections to ontological weirdness of philosophical theories. After that, participants split up into three (rather monotematic) sessions one of which, section B, started with Mark Pinder's (Bristol) 'Borg's Minimalism, Modularity and the Problem of Paradox'. In it, Pinder challenged the claim that speakers cognize minimal semantic theory that yields truth conditions for their language's sentences. Marián Zouhar (Bratislava) in his 'On Underdetermination of Contextualism' argued that arguments for contextualism could be used in non-contextualist's theories too, leaving thus contextualism rather underdetermined. In 'Some Remarks about Nonindexical Contextualism', Tadeusz Ciecierski (Warsaw) outlined several arguments for nonindexical contextualism, namely evaluation arguments, operator arguments and epistemic arguments. Finally, Tim Pritchard's (London) 'Semantics and the Understanding of Artifact Words' explored the difference between account of constitution of our basic understanding on one side, denotationally-focused account of word meaning on the other.

The second plenary lecture, called 'Categorial Grammar and the Foundations of the Philosophy of Language', was given by Mieszko Tałasiewics (Warsaw). Tałasiewics argued that it is a new subject-predicate distinction that could elucidate a lot of problems of philosophy of language. The section B

continued with 'Kripke, Putnam and the Description Theory' by Luis Fernández Moreno (Madrid). In it, Fernándes Moreno discussed such a version of the description theory of reference as to substitute the resort to causal chains by a social alternative. 'Referential Thinking and Putnam's Brain in a Vat' by Roman Godlewski (Bydgoszcz) proposed to meet Putnam's argument by means of various referential considerations. Piotr Stalmaszczyk (Łódź) and Bartosz Stopel (Silesia) were concerned with literary theory. While '(Un)translability of Proper Names and (Im)Possible Worlds' of the former discussed an option to analyze literary texts using possible worlds apparatus, 'Philosophy of Language and Literary Theory: a Problematic Relation?' of the latter focused on several issues of meaning, interpretation and intention in literary studies.

The second day of the conference started with a co-authored plenary lecture given by Kasia M. Jaszczolt (Cambridge) and Chi-Hé Elder (Cambridge). Their 'Conditional Utterances and Conditional Thoughts: A Radical Contextualist Account' focused primarily on the relationship between antecedent and consequent of conditionals when it comes to direct as well as indirect conditionals. Siu-Fan Lee (Hong Kong) in her 'Who Wants To Be a Russellian about Names' as a first A-section speaker of the day, presented several arguments against Russell's project of names, while Gabriele M. Mras's (Vienna) 'Relations-Russell with Frege against Bradley' discussed Russell's stance about external and internal relations. Definite description played the crucial role also in Wojciech Rostworowski's (Warsaw) 'Free Logical Theory of Definite Descriptions' and Thomas J. Hughes's (Durham) 'The Origin of Referential Definite Descriptions'. The last speaker before lunch was Filip Kawczyński (Warsaw) with a paper called 'New Approaches towards Frege's Puzzle'. After lunch, Paul Livingston's plenary lecture (New Mexico) wondered into 'The Sense of Finitude and the Finitude of Sense' in which he quite interestingly scrutinized the relation between the finite and the infinite in language. After that lecture, Section A continued with 'What Can Be (precisely) Said about Perception' by Pawel Grabarczyk (Łódź) and Ali's Abasnezhad's (Lille) 'Precise Reference and Vague Referent'. Interestingly though, both papers went rather behind the philosophy of language and discussed it's cognitional and metaphysical aspects, respectively. Alicja Chybińska (Warsaw) introduced (at least to some of us) 'The Concept of Truth and Falsehood in the Philosophy of Kazimierz Twardowski', Jiří Raclavský (Brno) presented 'Language in Synchronic/Diachronic Sense and some Puzzles in the Philosophy of Language' and, finally, Başak Aray told us something about 'Ogden and Analytic Philosophy'.

The last day of the conference commenced with the fifth plenary lecture called 'The Meaning of Formal Semantics'. In it, Chris Fox (Essex) compared truth conditional and truth theoretic perspectives of the analysis of proposi-

tional statements and explored the criteria as how to decide between them. An experimental approach to philosophy was presented by Barcz Michal's and Leon Ciechanowski's (both from Warsaw) paper entitled 'An Ambiguity of 'Intentionally': Has Ascombe's Thesis Been Experimentally Refuted?' followed by Tabea Reiner's (München) 'Semantics and Semantics'. The last plenary lecture gave John Collins (East Anglia) on 'What is a Variable such that a (Natural) Language May Realize One'. In it, Collins clarified the notion of variable as well as argued for several grades of variable involvement. Finally, Natalia Karzewska (Warsaw) discussed the problem as 'What Kind of Disagreement is there in Faultless Disagreement? Revision of Kölbel's Relativist Refutation against the Possibility Thereof' and Krysztof Kosecki (Łódź) took a look at the status of categories in signed languages.

Of course, the above talks are just a part of all what was presented at the conference. But even that suffices for the claim that PhiLang belongs among the best conferences dedicated to the philosophy of language and linguistics in Europe.

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Z obsahu

Jesús Padilla Gálvez: Euklidovský prostor a zorný prostor jako estetický prob-lém
Iva Svačinová: Epistemologické výzvy platonismu a Gödelovo pojetí matematické intuice
Jan Votava: Parapsychologie a pojem replikace
Monika Bečvárová: „Nature's Bastards" z Royal Society: Obhajoba přírodní filosofie v díle Margaret Cavendishové (1623-1673)
Miloš Kratochvíl: K hermeneutice vědeckých teorií cestou Hélène Metzgerové
František Škvrnda: Čo iné je Platónov Sókratés, než len Platón vpredu, Platón vzadu a v strede Chiméra?
Marek Hrubec: Idea otroctví v dějinách evropského a severoamerického myšlení
Lukáš Likavčan: Význam kontextu

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