
Summaries

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Tekst jest udostępniony do wykorzystania w ramach dozwolonego użytku.

Summaries

Jerzy Bobryk

Homogenization, Automatization and Externalization. The Influence of Computer Technology on the Course and Organization of Human Cognitive Processes.

Cognitive activity, which essentially consists of the use of signs, depends not only on the “internal” (mental or brain) processes. The hypothesis of the “extracortical organization of higher nervous activity” assumes that internal mental functions occur at times due to the existence of functional sets in which “internal” cognitive activity is supported by cultural means instruments. The simplest example of such an activity based on internal cognitive processes and external means is calculation which, although possible to perform without a calculator, necessitates at least a piece of paper and a pencil, together with the socially acquired skill of doing arithmetics on paper. The use of computer is another example of the coordination between internal cognitive or nervous processes and external use of cultural instruments. This coordination is, in fact, the extracortical modification of individual’s cognitive activity. Human mentality has changed after the invention of the alphabet and writing. The invention of the computer caused the other revolution in human mentality.

Jan Czerniawski

Idealism and the Nature of Intentional Relation

If metaphysical realism could be equated with epistemological realism and the latter with representationism, then impossibility of representationism would imply impossibility of both realisms. However, at least the second identification is illegitimate, since a presentationist realism is possible. Its alleged impossibility results from misconceiving the intentional relation as consisting in creating the intentional

correlate of mental act. In fact, such act, at least in the case of non-divine subject, never creates its intentional object, but only ascribes various properties – and sometimes real existence or non-existence – to it. Even in the case of literary fiction there is no genuine creation of invented characters, since the author is unable of making them existing. If the intentional object exists, then some of its actual properties may differ from the ones ascribed to it. The above solution makes possible to relate our cognitive acts directly to the reality «in itself» and not to its phenomenal «representation» in Kantian style.

Adam Olech

On Universal and Transcendental Concepts

In this paper the particularity of universal and transcendental concepts is analyzed. The thesis of the article is following: as for the content of concepts – the transcendental ones are empty, contrary to the universal ones which always have some content. It is the author's intention to address his article not only to philosophers – hence he passes over some complicated problems and keeps the use of logical appermetns – within reasonable limits.

Arianna Betti

Sempiternal Truth. The Bolzano-Twardowski-Leśniewski Axis

The article is devoted to the discussion of absoluteness, eternity and sempiternity of truth, i.e. truth for ever and truth since ever, that took place in the Lvov-Warsaw School. Kazimierz Twardowski attacked the relativity of truth, reviving Bernard Bolzano's views on the subject. Stanisław Leśniewski defended absolutism contrasting Tadeusz Kotarbiński's positions. Ontological presuppositions of Bolzano, Twardowski and Leśniewski were different; they presented actually three different definitions of truth along with procedures showing that the logical value of a sentence cannot be dependent on time (and place) of utterances.

Arkadiusz Chrudzinski

Epistemological Foundationalism

Chisholm's theory of knowledge is a classical formulation of the contemporary epistemological foundationalism. The theory consists of the formal part, where the hierarchy of the basic epistemic values is formulated and of the material part, containing the material rules that allow to correlate the epistemic values with the particular mental states.

In the paper Chisholm's hierarchy of the epistemic values and his material rules are discussed. Chisholm's thesis of the privileged access to the private mental states and the so called adverbial theory of sense data which is a characteristic feature of Chisholm's approach are analyzed. His foundationalism proves to be an iterative foundationalism in Alston's sense and his adverbial theory of the sense data allows to avoid some philosophical misconceptions.

Janusz Mączka

Logical Foundations of Physics

Whitehead's paper „On Mathematical Concepts of the Material World”, published in 1906, is subject to the detailed analysis. In his paper Whitehead presents five quasi-axiomatic systems describing a network of relations between space, time, and objects existing in space and time. Although the systems have a purely formal character, in Whitehead's opinion, they could be helpful in determining the structure of the real world. Some comments are made concerning the fact that it was Einstein's operational method rather than Whitehead's formal speculations that solved the crisis in physics at the beginning of our century. The impact of ideas expressed in this work on Whitehead's later philosophy is also discussed.