
Abstracts

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Tekst jest udostępniony do wykorzystania w ramach dozwolonego użytku.

Abstracts

Mariusz Grygianiec, Anomalous Monism and Epiphenomenalism

In the text Jaegwon Kim's epiphenomenalist objection to anomalous monism is critically discussed and refuted. The author tries to show that the objection in question originates mainly on the basis of disregarding of Davidsonian ontology — particularly his views on properties and events. The main aim of the paper is to demonstrate that the epiphenomenalist objection does not arise, if we are prepared to take Davidson's ontology seriously.

Keywords: anomalous monism, epiphenomenalism, mind, causation, event, law

Joanna Gęgotek, Between Physics and History. A Place of Geology in the Classification of Sciences

Geology is an example of the „historical-natural” sciences, and it combines methodological elements of typical natural sciences, as physics, and the methodological elements of history. As a result, there are some problems with placing it in the classification of sciences. The article consists of two parts. In the first one there is presented in short form process of developing of modern geology. Using as examples the ideas of James Hutton, Georges Cuvier and Charles Lyell the author shows how the opinion about proper method and aims of geology was changing at the turn of 18th and 19th centuries. The final point of the process was the classification of sciences presented by William Whewell, who classified geology as a palaeontological science. The second part of the article is devoted to the place of geology in the contemporary classifications of sciences presented by main Polish methodologists. There are discussed the classifications of Kazimierz Twardowski, Tadeusz Kotarbiński, Władysław Tatarkiewicz, Kazimierz Ajdukiewicz, Władysław Krajewski and Adam Grobler.

Keywords: geology, history of geology, classification of sciences

Tomasz Marek Rzepiński, Experimental Models in the Process of Constituting Medical Knowledge

The primary objective of this article is to analyse functions that experimental models have in the process of creating medical knowledge. When fulfilling this objective, we will refer to findings proposed by R. Harre and like this author; we will distinguish a special type of experimental models do called domesticated models. We will claim that constructing such models initiates three independent cognition activities undertaken in the process of establishing medical knowledge that is applied in clinical practice. Stabilisation of the model process is the first activity. Recognising this process is the second one and its extrapolation is the third one. Findings that we will make, will enable us to bring the process of establishing medical knowledge closer and point out at a category of problems that hinder the development of this process.

Keywords: experimental models, medicine, medical knowledge

Zuzanna Kasprzyk, Moral Realism and Internal Realism; the Application of Putnam's Internal Realism Issue into the Field of Metaethics

Moral Realism is such theory in metaethics, which can be characterized by three theses: *ontological thesis* — according to which moral facts exist independently of human opinion; *epistemological thesis*, that moral judgements can be truth apt, and moral knowledge is possible; and *normativity thesis*, that asserting a moral claim is a sufficient reason for acting in accordance with its content. However, in contemporary metaethics there is no realistic theory which would embrace all three theses together. Naturalists assert first two theses, but reject the last one, on the other hand non-naturalists emphasize the third, but renounce first two. The author seeks to show that transferring this issue onto the ground of Putnam's Internal Realism, would help us to get rid of this problem in metaethics altogether.

Keywords: moral realism, internal realism, metaethics, Hilary Putnam

Waclaw Janikowski, Truth of analytic statements in a radically empiricist theory of meaning

The author presents his own conception of semantic analyticity accounted for from a thoroughly empiricist perspective on (descriptive) meaning. This conception includes the following theses. Meanings as entities constituted in social interactions should be investigated empirically by sociolinguistic methods. Each meaning is determined by a cluster of platitudes, i.e. sentences held as true or known in a given form by all (or almost all) competent language users. Each such sentence can be equivalently expressed in a form of conditional inference, or just possess this form. All these inferences are held, by competent language users, as connected to others, thus building a global semantic space. A sentence is accepted as meaningful only if it is inferentially connected to other sentences so that together they, at least hypothetically, relate to some determinate experiences. Hence all meaningful sentences are *a*

posteriori true. Analyticity/syntheticity of proposition is relative to a degree and scope of being accepted or known in a given form of sentence expressing it. Evidently analyticity/syntheticity is a psycho-social matter. Sufficient degree of analyticity is called 'platitude'. Analytic/synthetic distinction comes in degrees, is not strict, and a sentence's being analytic/synthetic may change over time. There are many cases in which we cannot determine whether a sentence is more analytic than synthetic, or conversely.

Keywords: analytic, synthetic, meaning, truth, platitude, a posteriori, sociolinguistics

Maciej Witek, The Theory of a Theory Meaning

The aim of the paper is to evaluate critically Waclaw Janikowski's radically empiricist theory of meaning. In the first section, the author offers a critical analysis of the main theses and definitions proposed by Janikowski. His conclusion is that Janikowski fails to provide a coherent theory of meaning, balancing between functionalism, mentalism and behaviorism. In the second section, the author offers a more general reflection on the actual aim and expected form of a theory of meaning. He claims that in order to construct a comprehensive and adequate account of meaning one should start with the ontological question on the nature of linguistic items, and then ask the epistemological question on the structure of linguistic or communicative competence and end with considerations on the methodology of linguistic studies. In other words, the author rejects the approach tacitly adopted by Janikowski, who starts his theoretical reflection by deriving ontological conclusions on the nature of meaning from the previously accepted methodological principles.

Keywords: semantics, methodology of semantics, metaphysics of meaning, epistemology of meaning

Waclaw Janikowski, Response to Maciej Witek

Author of „Truth of analytic statements in a radically empiricist theory of meaning” answers to a critical essay written by Maciej Witek. He clarifies the metaphysical assumptions and implications of proposed conception, dealing with such issues as: sense/reference distinction; methodological versus realistic approach to theory of meaning; inferential/causal relations among meaningful items; mental aspect of meanings. Next, he makes explicit a view on the concept of truth to which this theory is committed. In addition, he formulates ways of sociolinguistic operationalization of concepts of 'platitude' and 'meaning'.

Keywords: analytic, synthetic, meaning, truth, platitude, a posteriori, sociolinguistics

Leopold Hess, Proper Names — the Facts and the Myths

The aim of the paper is to reveal and criticize some of the hidden assumptions of the discussion on the nature of proper names. Those assumptions work in favor of

the New Theory of Reference (NTR), which in fact seems more plausible than it should, were the assumptions made explicit. Three theses, it is argued, are assumed with no proof by all sides of the proper names debate: (1) proper names refer to their objects in a different way than common names do; (2) proper names are rigid designators; (3) „we know what we say”, i.e. the meaning of a sentence is identical to some cognitive content that is associated with it by the speaker. It is shown that the main source of plausibility of those assumptions, which serve as premises in arguments for the NTR, is the NTR itself.

Keywords: proper names, new theory of reference, descriptionism

Tadeusz Ciecierski, Pseudo-Facts and Pseudo-Myths

The paper is a reply to Leopold Hess' article „Proper Names — the Facts and the Myths”. It is shown that the author misunderstood the issue of proper names and misconceived main ideas of the new theory of reference. The most important mistakes made by the author are: (i) considering the category of proper names in detachment from linguistic usage ;(ii) wrong reconstruction of the so-called modal argument and the notion of rigid designator; (iii) equivocating between two meanings of „a priori”. All those mistakes are carefully analysed.

Keywords: proper names, rigidity, direct reference

Leopold Hess, In Response to „Pseudo-Facts and Pseudo-Myths”

The paper is a response to Tadeusz Ciecierski's „Pseudo-Facts and Pseudo-Myths”. Ciecierski argues that the arguments in favor of the New Theory of Reference are sound because they (and the theory itself) concern the class of expressions that have a direct reference, and not proper names. It is argued that those arguments are implausible in such interpretation, because they take as premises some intuitions about proper names (and not about expressions that have a direct reference).

Keywords: proper names, new theory of reference, descriptionism

Mieszko Tałasiewicz, Proper names and nominal use

The editor rounds up the discussion between Tadeusz Ciecierski and Leopold Hess by pointing out that their conclusions are not as opposed as they are trying to show. On the contrary, on some interpretation one may even suggest that both views can convergently approach to some picture of the semantics of proper names. Roughly, the interpretation is that historical form of the debate about proper names has some drawbacks (as Hess points out) that could be mended if shifted to the problem of nominal use (as Ciecierski would have it).

Keywords: proper names, nominal use, direct reference, descriptionism