

THE DEVELOPMENT OF POLISH SEMIOTICS IN THE POST-WAR YEARS

In the autumn of 1972 the Department of Logical Semiotics was established at the Institute of Philosophy of Warsaw University. The creation of a new establishment within a university is not, in itself, a significant act. But history keeps record not only of prominent events — it also registers facts that have had no precedents, and for this mere reason, if for none other, it is worth being noted that there is presently in Poland an academic institution having the word “semiotics” in its official name. For the first time in the history of this country, a legal act has opened institutional and organizational possibilities for the study and teaching of semiotics. For the first time, semiotics has been given its own place in the structure of a university. By no accident, I believe, the first department of semiotics was created at Warsaw University. Scientific analysis of signs has been conducted in Poland for a long time, and Warsaw has been the center of this study.

A serious-minded research in semiotics was initiated in Poland by logicians and philosophers of the Lwów—Warsaw school. Their efforts concentrated on problems of logical analysis of language, and particularly on questions of syntax and semantics. These investigations were started by Kazimierz Twardowski, a student of Franz Brentano, who in 1895 took the Chair of Philosophy at Lwów University, and directed it until 1930. In his articles and books¹ he dealt with semantic problems, and as a university professor carried out a program of concepts elucidation, holding that: “one is never obliged to rack his brains over a philosophical production written in obscure style”, since “the author who is not able to present his thoughts clearly does not think clearly”. In the writings of Professor Twardowski’s students problems and notions of logical theory of language are already quite explicit. Kazimierz Ajdukiewicz, logician and professor of philosophy, successively at Warsaw University (1925—28) and (1955—61), Lwów University (1928—1939), the underground Lwów University in the World War II times, Poznań University (1945—55) and (1955—61), and at the Polish Academy of Sciences, was the author of numerous publications in logical theory of language, as

¹ See for instance: *Zur Lehre vom Inhalt und Gegenstand der Vorstellungen*, Wien, 1894. *O czynnościach i wytworach kilka uwag z pogranicza psychologii, gramatyki i logiki* (On Acts and Products Some Remarks from the Border Area of Psychology, Grammar and Logic), Lwów, 1912. „Symbolomania i pragmatofobia” (Symbolomania and Pragmatophobia), *Ruch Filozoficzny*, Vol. 6 (1921). „Z logiki przymiotników” (Remarks on the Logic of Adjectives), *Przegląd Filozoficzny*, Vol. 30 (1927).

well as handbooks of logic that dealt extensively with semiotic problems.² Another student of Professor Twardowski, Tadeusz Kotarbiński, professor at Warsaw University (1919–1960) and Łódź University (1945–51) carried further the research in logical semiotics in his handbook and articles propounding the doctrine of reism.³ Tadeusz Czeżowski, also a student of Twardowski and himself a professor of logic and philosophy, who worked at Wilno University (1923–39) and Toruń University (1945–60), discussed semantic questions in several of his publications.⁴ Roman Ingarden, formerly a student of Twardowski and subsequently of Edmund Husserl, professor at Lwów University and after 1945 at Jagiellonian University of Kraków, devoted large parts of this voluminous work *Das literarische Kunstwerk* to the elaboration of phenomenological semiotics. Later on, he pursued these problems in several of his minor publications.⁵ Also the writings of Izydora Dąmbska, who attended Twardowski's lectures, are in a great part devoted to semiotics.⁶

² See for instance: *O znaczeniu wyrażen* (On the Meaning of Expressions), Lwów, 1931; „Sprache und Sinn; *Erkenntnis*, Vol. 4 (1934); „Die Syntaktische Konnexität”. *Studia Philosophica*, Vol. 1 (1935); *Język i poznanie* (Language and Cognition. Collected Writings), Warszawa, Vol. 1 (1960), Vol. 2 (1965); *Logika pragmatyczna* (Pragmatic Logic), Warszawa, 1965; “Proposition as the Connotation of Sentence”, *Studia Logica*, Vol. 20 (1967); “Intentional Expressions”, *Studia Logica*, Vol. 20 (1967).

³ See for instance: *Elementy teorii poznania, logiki formalnej i metodologii nauk* (Elements of Epistemology, Formal Logic and Methodology), Lwów, 1929 and Wrocław, 1961; *Przegląd problematyki logiczno-semantycznej* (A Survey of the Issues of Logical Semantics), Łódź 1947; „Humanistyka bez hipostaz” (Humanities without Hypostases), *Myśl Filozoficzna*, Vol. 1 (1952); *Z zagadnień klasyfikacji nazw* (On the Problems of Classification of Names), Łódź, 1954; *Wybór pism* (Collected Writings), Vol. 2, Warszawa, 1958; *Uwagi o znaczeniu wyrazów* (Remarks on the Meaning of Words), Łódź, 1962; „Spór o desygnat” (A Controversy over Designatum), *Prace Filologiczne*, Vol. 18 (1963).

⁴ See for instance: *Logika, podręcznik dla studiujących nauki filozoficzne* (Logic, A Manual for Students of Philosophy), Warszawa, 1949 and 1968; *Odczyty filozoficzne* (Philosophical Lectures), Toruń, 1958 and 1969; *Filozofia na rozdwoju* (Philosophy Perplexed), Warszawa, 1965.

⁵ See for instance: *Das literarische Kunstwerk*, 1930; *Szkice z filozofii literatury* (Essays in the Philosophy of Literature) Łódź, 1947; *Studia z estetyki* (Studies in Aesthetics), Vol. 1, Warszawa, 1955; *Z teorii języka i filozoficznych podstaw logiki* (On the Theory of Language and Philosophical Foundations of Logic), Warszawa, 1972.

⁶ See for instance: „Z semantyki zadań warunkowych” (On the Semantics of Hypothetical Statements) *Przegląd Filozoficzny*, Vol. 41 (1938); „W sprawie tak zwanych nazw pustych” (About the, so Called, Empty Names), *ibidem*, Vol. 44 (1948), „Z filozofii imion własnych” (On the Philosophy of Proper Names), *Kwartalnik Filozoficzny*, Vol. 43 (1949); *Niektóre pojęcia gramatyki w świetle logiki* (Certain Notions of Grammar in the Light of Logic), Warszawa, 1964, *Concept de langue et vérité* Louvain-Paris, 1964; „Koncepcja języka w filozofii K. Ajdukiewicza” (The Concept of Language in the Philosophy of K. Ajdukiewicz), *Ruch Filozoficzny*, Vol. 24 (1965); *Sur certains aspects de philosophie linguistique*, Neuchatel, 1966; *O narzędziach i przedmiotach poznania* (On Instruments and Objects of Cognition), Warszawa, 1967; „O funkcjach semiotycznych milczenia” (On Semiotic Functions of Silence), *Studia semiotyczne*, Vol. 2 (1971); „Analiza pojęcia oznaki w semiotyce stoickiej” (An Analysis of the Notion of Symptom in Stoic Philosophy), *Studia z historii semiotyki*, Wrocław, 1971.

In the period between the World Wars I and II a whole generation of Twardowski's followers and students: Ajdukiewicz, Kotarbiński, Czeżowski and Łukasiewicz began their own teaching at Polish universities. Alfred Tarski,⁷ the author of outstanding studies in logical semantics, who holds professorship at University of California at Berkeley, was also a member of that group. And so was Henryk Hiż, former student of Kotarbiński, who delivers lectures on logical theory of language at University of Pennsylvania.

After the World War II a large staff of logicians, younger and older students of Ajdukiewicz, Kotarbiński, and of other successors of Twardowski, took over the university teaching⁸ and continued inquiries in the logical theory of language and philosophy of language.

The achievements of Polish researchers in the fields of theory of sign and theory of language are both abundant and noteworthy. They have been frequently recognized and appreciated abroad.

Long tradition reflected in voluminous literature, outstanding dissertations and books, lectures continued for long years, seminars, and effective eager work of individual scholars helped to create intellectual atmosphere, indispensable and expedient to the development of semiotics. This favourable ambience first embraced the logical circles, and then spread out to encompass linguists and theorists of art and literature. In the post-war years they all shared an ever more widespread feeling that the work in logic and linguistics could be profitably continued in the form of interdisciplinary studies of language and sign theories. The advocates and promoters of this idea were Ajdukiewicz and Kotarbiński. The two were followed by Roman Suszko, who prolonged their attempts to hold common meetings, where the logicians and the linguists could confront their views. Even though these efforts may have proved unsuccessful in establishing regular contacts between representatives of the two disciplines, they certainly showed the way for future undertakings. They facilitated the creation in 1961 of a seminar devoted to logical semiotics of natural language, directed by Jerzy Pelc of the Department of Logic at Warsaw University, and presently the Head of the Department of Logical Semiotics, and another seminar, also directed by Jerzy Pelc, organized in 1970 and devoted to the study of original texts in semiotics. The participants of the former seminar have been professors and readers from various scientific centers of Poland, representatives of such disciplines as logic, philosophy, linguistics, theory of information, theory of art, theory of literature, theory of culture, theory of law, etc. 169 sessions were held since the foundation of the seminar in 1961 until May 1973 (since December 1968 they were held jointly with the Polish Se-

⁷ See for instance: „Der Wahrheitsbegriff in den formalisierten Sprachen”, *Studia Philosophica*, Vol. 1 (1963); “The Semantic Conception of Truth”, *Philosophy — and Phenomenological Research*, Vol. 4 (1944); *Logic, Semantics, Mathematics*, 1956.

⁸ To this group belong: Janina Kotarbińska, Seweryna Łuszczewska-Romahnowa, Maria Kokoszyńska-Lutmanowa, Roman Suszko, Tadeusz Kubiński, Marian Przełęcki, Jerzy Pelc, Leon Koj, Witold Marciszewski, Ryszard Wójcicki, Barbara Stanosz, Adam Nowaczyk, and others. The semiotic output of the logicians and philosophers that have been mentioned, and also of some of those who have not been named, is partly contained in the volume: *Semiotyka polska 1894—1969* (Polish Semiotics 1894—1969), collected articles, foreword and footnotes by Jerzy Pelc, Warszawa, 1971.

miotic Society). Seminar papers were presented by numerous foreign visitors from the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, Germany — DDR, the United States, Great Britain, Australia, France and other countries. The papers prepared in Poland have been almost in one third contributed by the guests to Warsaw University, scholars from the Poznań, Lublin, Kraków and Łódź universities. Approximately one half of the papers were delivered by logicians, about one third by linguists, and the rest by representatives of other disciplines: theorists of art, literature or culture. The fact that the majority of participants in the seminar were professors and readers made it desirable to organize another, texts reading seminar, meant primarily for students preparing their M. A. papers or working toward Ph. D. degrees. Since its creation in 1970 until May 1973 the seminar met at 38 sessions and was attended by postgraduate students of Warsaw University, specializing in logic, philosophy and linguistics. As a matter of fact, the M. A. theses in logical semiotics originated at both seminars, and also both of them occasioned preparation of four doctoral dissertations, of which two have been already completed, and another two are well advanced. At the former seminar scholars with Ph. D. degrees presented parts of their papers to be submitted later as reader's degree dissertations, and most of these were subsequently published by the Polish Semiotic Society in *Studia Semiotyczne*⁹ (Semiotic Studies). Some have also appear in the quarterly *Semiotica*¹⁰, published by Association Internationale de Sémiotique. The first four volumes of *Studia Semiotyczne* contained almost 40 articles presented at the semiotic seminars.

Another form of interdisciplinary cooperation in semiotics is the organization of international semiotic conferences in Poland.

The first meeting of this kind, called the Conference on Poetics, was organized by the Institute of Literary Studies at the Polish Academy of Sciences in 1960 in Warsaw. Along with papers in theory of literature, poetics and stylistics, for the first time in the post-war Poland, an international audience of theorists of literature, logicians and philosophers could hear papers in pure and applied semiotics. Papers of the Conference were next published in two volumes under a tripartite title: *Poetics — Poetyka — Poietika*, jointly by the Polish PWN and Mouton and Co., in 1961 and 1965.

The first international specialistic meeting devoted specifically to problems of semiotics was held in Warsaw from August 27 to August 29, 1965. It was convened by the Department of Social Sciences of the Polish Academy of Sciences. Specialists in linguistics, logic, philosophy, sociology, theory of literature and theory of culture took part in it, representing the Soviet Union, Germany — DDR, the United States, France, Denmark and Poland.

In the next year, from September 12 to September 19, the International Colloquy on Semiotics was held in Kazimierz on the Vistula.

⁹ *Studia semiotyczne*, edited and foreword by Jerzy Pelc, Vol. 1, Wrocław, 1970; Vol. 2, Wrocław, 1971; Vol. 3, Wrocław, 1972.

¹⁰ *Semiotica, An International Quarterly Journal*, The Hague, Vol. 1, 1969; Vol. 2, 1970; Vol. 3 and 4, 1971; Vol. 5 and 6, 1972. Editorial Board: Thomas A. Sebeok (Editor-in-Chief, USA), Roland Barthes (France), Umberto Eco (Italy), Henryk Hiż (USA), Julia Kristeva (France), Juri M. Lotman (USSR), Jerzy Pelc (Poland), Nicolas Ruwet (Belgium), Mayer Shapiro (USA), Hansjakob Seiler (Germany-BRD).

It was again organized by the Institute of Literary Studies of the P.A.S. and sponsored by the UNESCO. Linguists, logicians, philosophers, zoo- and praxeosemioticians, theorists of literature, art, music, culture, theatre and film, mathematicians and neurophysiologists of the Soviet Union, Germany — DDR, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, the United States, France, Italy, Germany — BRD, Denmark and Poland presented their papers, which subsequently were published by Mouton and Co., of Holland, in a book of a fourfold title: *Sign, Language, Culture — Signe, langage, culture — Znak, język, kultura — Znak, jazyk, kultura* (The Hague — Paris 1970). The volume includes 23 articles by Polish authors, which constitute almost one half of the total number of contained publications.

Then followed the International Semiotic Symposium, held from August 25 to September 1, 1968 in Warsaw. It was attended by logicians, philosophers, linguists, theorists of literature, art, culture, music, film, TV, by sociologists, psychologists, zoosemioticians — scholars from Europe and America. Discussions and lectures were held at plenary sessions, and besides, in three sections: I — of general semiotics and semiotics of culture, II — of semiotics of natural and artificial languages, III — of semiotics of art. More than ten lectures were offered by Polish participants, which had been expected to constitute one fifth of the total number of lectures; but due to numerous absences, the Polish contribution played an even more conspicuous role. The materials of the conference have also been sent to the Hague for publication by Mouton and Co.

The International Colloquy on Semiotics, held in Kazimierz on the Vistula (September 1966) decided to undertake a permanent publication of international semiotic news in *Studies in Semiotics — Recherches sémiotiques*, as a part of the international journal *Social Science Information — Information sur les sciences sociales*¹¹. At the same occasion, a special session was devoted to the discussion, upon the initiative of the Polish team, of the possibilities to create l'Association Internationale de Sémiotique in Paris. It was also debated how national semiotic societies should be organized. Both initiatives soon brought results.

At the beginning of 1968 the Polish Semiotic Society was created¹² as one of the societies within the Polish Academy of Sciences. It offered membership to about 100 logicians, philosophers, linguists, theorists of art, literature, culture, theatre, film, and music, to sociologists and

¹¹ *Studies in Semiotics — Recherches sémiotiques* are part of international periodical *Social Science Information — Information sur les sciences sociales*, published by the International Social Science Council with financial assistance of the UNESCO and the 6th Department of École Pratique des Hautes Études in Paris. The following persons have been elected members of the Editorial Board of *Studies in Semiotics*: T. A. Sebeok (Editor-in-Chief, USA), A. J. Greimas (France), J. M. Lotman (USSR), J. Pelc (Poland). The periodical is sponsored by two institutions: International Council for Philosophy and Humanistic Studies and by International Social Science Council.

¹² The Executive Committee of the Polish Semiotic Society consists of: Stefan Zółkiewski (Chairman, history of literature), Jerzy Kuryłowicz (Vice-Chairman, linguistics), Jerzy Pelc (Secretary, logic), Witold Marciszewski (logic), Olgierd Wojtasiewicz (linguistics), Mieczysław Porębski (until 1970 theory of art), Janusz Chmielewski (sinology), Maria Mayenowa (theory of literature), Adam Schaff (until 1970, philosophy), Wiesław Kotański (since 1970, Japanese philology), Zdzisław Pawlak (since 1970, mathematics).

praxeologists from all scientific centres of Poland. In January 1968, upon the motion of Jerzy Pelc, the Society resolved to initiate two serial publications: *Studia semiotyczne*¹³, an annual presenting papers by different authors, supplemented with Russian and English summaries, and a series of monographic analyses. The first four volumes of *Studia semiotyczne* contained 48 papers, of which more than one third dealt with problems of logical semiotics, about one third with problems of linguistic semiotics, and the rest with problems of philosophy of language and semiotics of art and culture.

The monographic series was primarily meant for presentation of separate works or collections of articles by one author. It should also include readers, biographic and bibliographic reference books and semiotic

¹³ Compare footnote 9. The first four volumes of *Studia semiotyczne* contain the following papers:

Vol. 1: W. Tatarkiewicz, "Art and Language: Two Polysemic Terms"; J. Kuryłowicz, "Extrapolation of a Linguistic Law"; I. Judycka, "Relationships between Word Formation and Logical Semiotics"; R. Ohly, "Modification of Verbs in Gikuyu"; K. Bogacki, "The Functioning of Meta-Signs in French Texts"; J. Kmita, W. Ławniczak, "Sign, Symbol, Allegory"; I. Nowak, "Some Comments on the Requirement of Clarity and on the Concept of Linguistic Analysis"; L. Koj, "The Foundations of Denoting"; B. Stanosz, "The Concept of Prelogical Language"; W. Marciszewski, "Methods of Summarizing and Types of Summaries"; J. Pelc, "Meaning as an Instrument";

Vol. 2: W. Tatarkiewicz, "Form, The History of One Word and Five Concepts"; M. Wallis, "Inscriptions in Paintings"; W. Ławniczak, "Comments on the Concept of Iconic Sign"; I. Dąmbaska, "Semiotic Functions of Silence"; L. Nowak, "On the Notion of Expressing"; L. Koj, "An Analysis of Questions"; W. Marciszewski, "Hume's Empiricist Theory of Judgements"; Z. Najder, "Descriptive and Evaluative Statements"; A. Nowaczyk, "Pronouns Instead of Variables and Operators"; B. Stanosz, "A System of Rules for Natural Language"; R. Ohly, "Some Semiotic Aspects of Texts"; J. Pelc, "On the Concept of Narration";

Vol. 3: P. T. Geach, "Why Sentences Are not Names"; L. Koj, "An Analysis of Questions II"; W. Ławniczak, "Semantic Assumptions for a Syntactic Description of Works of Visual Arts"; J. Kmita, "Some Comments on Idealizations in the Logical Study of the Language of Science"; L. Nowak, "Comments on the Relation between Logic and Linguistics"; W. Marciszewski, "The Formal Characteristics of the Universe of Discourse as a Basis of a Subject Index"; B. Starosta, "Statistical Information"; O. A. Wojtasiewicz, "A Formal and Semantic Analysis of Sentential Connectives and Related Words in Polish"; J. Lalewicz, "Language, Utterance, Speech Acts"; M. Grochowski, "The Meaning of the Polish Adjectives: Actual, Potential, Habitual, Universal"; W. Kortański, "Semiotic Foundations of the Interpretation of Religious Symbols"; S. Żółkiewski, "Classification of Culture Texts";

Vol. 4: B. Stanosz, "Language and Communication"; A. Bogusławski, "On Semantic Analysis"; S. Piekarczyk, "Culture and Culture Polysemantization"; B. Starosta, "Comments on the Concept of Information"; J. Kmita, "On the Axiological Heterogeneity of Evaluative Predicates"; L. Koj, "Katz's Theory of Meanings"; T. Hołówna, "The Logical Subject of Sentences in K. Ajdukiewicz's Interpretation"; J. Jadacki, "Russell's Theory of Descriptions"; W. Marciszewski, "The Problem of Existence of Intentional Objects"; U. Niklas, "Some Semantic Aspects of Meinong's Theory of Objects"; M. Swidziński, "A Semantic Analysis of Interrogative Utterances in Contemporary Polish"; R. Laskowski, "The Formal Structure *versus* Semantic Structure of Nouns Decomposable at Their Word Formation".

lexicons. The series has been opened by the volume *O użyciu wyrażeń* (On the Use of Expressions)¹⁴. The next publication, presently under preparation, will contain Polish and foreign articles in linguistic semiotics, written from the 17th to the 20th centuries. Although the book has not come out of press yet, the Society already possesses new materials for the future volumes.

As I have mentioned, the Polish Semiotic Society together with Warsaw University organizes seminars in logical semiotics of natural language, arranges lectures and discussions (64 meetings of this kind were held from December 1968 to May 1973). The Society subsidizes French and English translations of papers published in *Semiotica*, and thereby works as an agency responsible for the presentation of Polish work in semiotics to the scientific circles of the world. It also assists international contacts in the field of semiotics through its representation in the Executive Committee of the Association Internationale de Sémiotique and in the Editorial Board of *Semiotica*. Polish representation takes an active part in international semiotic symposia, editorial meetings and organizational conferences. It was present at the semiotic symposia held in Urbino, Italy, in 1968, 1969, 1971 and 1972, and at the joint conference of the Executive Committee of the A. I. S. and the *Semiotica* Editorial Board, held in Parma in October 1971.

At all those occasions Polish representatives delivered lectures and participated in discussions. Since 1971 they have also been invited as visiting professors to Centre Internazionale di Semiotica e Linguistica, a postgraduate establishment for research in semiotics. In July 1972 the first dissertation was prepared within the Centre, and together with Professors Halliday and Bennett of the London University, we were reviewers of the paper and members of the examining board.

In January 1969 l'Association Internationale de Sémiotique was created in Paris, having in its Executive Board representations of the Soviet Union, Poland (Stefan Żółkiewski and Jerzy Pelc), Bulgaria, Hungary, Germany — DDR, Czechoslovakia, Romania, France, Italy, Switzerland, Belgium, Great Britain, Germany — BRD, Denmark, Turkey, the United States, Brazil, Argentina, Holland, Israel, Japan and Canada. The Association Internationale de Sémiotique has transformed *Recherches sémiotiques* into a separate quarterly *Semiotica*, edited by an international committee, including a Pole as one of the members¹⁵.

As I have already shown, the tradition of semiotic studies in Poland dated back to the last years of the 19th century. Then, it was continued by logicians and philosophers throughout the first half of the 20th century, and flourished as never before in the sixties, when semiotics became a field of interdisciplinary studies. This development clearly deserved to have its history written down, and the task was assigned to *Studia z historii semiotyki* (Studies in the History of Semiotics)¹⁶, a periodical presenting historical articles and bibliographic material.

¹⁴ Jerzy Pelc, *O użyciu wyrażeń* (On Uses of Expressions) Wrocław, 1971.

¹⁵ Cf. footnote 10.

¹⁶ *Studia z historii semiotyki* (Studies in the History of Semiotics), ed. Jan Sułowski, Wrocław, 1971; *Monografie z dziejów nauki i techniki* (Monographies on the History of Science and Technique), a series of the Department of History of Science and Technique of the Polish Academy of Sciences. Second volume under preparation.

The scope of semiotic publications is a good evidence of the progress of semiotics research in Poland. Articles and reports come out in specialistic periodicals, such as: *Studia semiotyczne* and *Studia z historii semiotyki*, or in several other periodicals of wider philosophical interests: *Studia Logica*, *Studia Filozoficzne* (Philosophical Studies), *Ruch Filozoficzny* (Philosophical Works), *Studia Estetyczne* (Aesthetic Studies), or in linguistic periodicals. A remarkable increase in the number of new publications has been noted in the sixties, when various kinds of scientific production appeared: books and articles¹⁷, popularized scientific publications in semiotics, both original¹⁸, and translated¹⁹, translations of out-

¹⁷ Besides those mentioned earlier, see for instance: A. Schaff, *Wstęp do semantyki* (Introduction to Semantics), Warszawa, 1960; A. Schaff, *Język a poznanie* (Language and Cognition), Warszawa, 1964, 2nd ed. 1967; L. Zawadowski, *Lingwistyczna teoria języka* (Linguistic Theory of Language), Warszawa, 1966; J. Kmita, *Problematyka terminów teoretycznych w odniesieniu do pojęć językoznawczych* (The Problems of Theoretical Terms with Reference to Linguistic Concepts), Poznań, 1967; T. Wójcik, *Prakseosemiotyka, zarys teorii optymalnego znaku* (Praxeosemiotics, An Outline of the Theory of Optimal Sign), Warszawa, 1969; A. Wierzbicka, *Dociekania semantyczne* (Semantic Investigations), Wrocław, 1969; *Mała encyklopedia logiki* (A Small Encyclopaedia of Logic), ed. by W. Marciszewski, Wrocław, 1970; I. Kustrzeba, *Znak i znaczenie w psychologii behawiorystycznej* (Sign and Significance in Behaviouristic Psychology), Warszawa, 1971; T. Kubiński, *Wstęp do logicznej teorii pytań* (An Introduction to the Logical Theory of Questions), Warszawa, 1971; L. Koj, *Semantyka a pragmatyka, stosunek językoznawstwa i psychologii do semantyki* (Semantics and Pragmatics, The Relation of Linguistics and Psychology to Semantics), Warszawa, 1971; J. Pelc, *Studies in Functional Logical Semiotics of Natural Language*, The Hague — Paris, 1971, Mouton and Co., *Janua Linguarum*, Series Minor, Vol. 90; J. Kmita, *Z metodologicznych problemów interpretacji humanistycznej* (On Methodological Problems of Interpretation in the Humanities), Warszawa, 1971; J. Kotarbińska, „Wyrażenia okazjonalne” (Occasional Expressions), *Studia Filozoficzne*, Vol. 1 (68), 1971; R. Suszko, „Reifikacja sytuacji” (Reification of Situations), *Studia Filozoficzne*, Vol. 2 (69), 1971; B. Stanosz, „Definicja prawdy dla języka naturalnego” (Definition of Truth for Natural Language), *Studia Filozoficzne*, Vol. 5 (72), 1971.

¹⁸ See for instance: H. Stonert, *Język i nauka* (Language and Science), Warszawa, 1964; A. Wierzbicka, *O języku dla wszystkich* (On Language for Everyone), Warszawa, 1965; Z. Pawlak, *Gramatyka i matematyka* (Grammar and Mathematics), Warszawa, 1965; W. Marciszewski, *Sztuka dyskusowania* (The Art of Discussion), Warszawa, 1969.

¹⁹ See for instance: *Logika i język* (Logic and Language), collected articles; selection, translation, introduction and footnotes by Jerzy Pelc, Warszawa, 1967; W. v. O. Quine, *Z punktu widzenia logiki, eseje logiczno-filozoficzne* (From a Logical Point of View), translation and foreword by Barbara Stanosz; Warszawa, 1969; R. Carnap, *Filozofia jako analiza języka nauki* (the title given by Editors means: Philosophy as an Analysis of the Language of Science), the volume contains excerpts from: *Philosophy and Logical Syntax*; *Testability and Meaning*, and *Foundations of Logical Mathematics*; translated by Andrzej Zabłudowski, Warszawa, 1969; L. Wittgenstein, *Tractatus logico-philosophicus*, translated by Bogusław Wolniewicz, Warszawa, 1970; L. Wittgenstein, *Dociekania filozoficzne* (Philosophical Investigations), translation, foreword and footnotes by Bogusław Wolniewicz.

standing works, primarily ²⁰, or peripherally ²¹ discussing semiotic problems. Polish original output aroused interest spreading beyond the circle of the Polish language readers. The fact may well be witnessed by a proposal of Professor T. A. Sebeok of Indiana University, Editor-in-Chief of *Approaches to Semiotics*, who on behalf of Mouton and Co., and his own, offered to arrange for an English language publications of a collection of articles in logical semiotics, written by Polish authors in the past seventy five years. What is worth mentioning, the proposal had been made before the original, Polish version of the volume *Semiotyka polska 1894—62* ²² was published. Then, upon the request of the same publishers, Jerzy Pelc prepared a list of over one hundred and twenty papers or books devoted to semiotics for possible publication in an English language series "Polish Semiotic Thought". The project is already under way.

All these facts and factors: the advancement of semiotic research in Poland, the high quality and wide scope of Polish publications, a fine tradition of several decades, vast didactic experience and organizational competence, together with the strengthening cooperation between specialistic in logic, semiotics and other disciplines concerned with the analysis of signs and language theories, the widening international contacts and valuable activity of both the Polish Semiotic Society and l'Association Internationale de Sémiotique, finally, a favourable general attitude toward semiotics prevailing all over the world, has made it possible to create in

²⁰ M. Ivić, *Kierunki w lingwistyce* (Schools in Linguistics, original title: *Pravci u lingvistici*), translated by Anna Wierzbicka, Wrocław, 1966; B. Malmberg, *Nowe drogi w językoznawstwie, przegląd szkół i metod* (New Approaches to Linguistics, A Survey of Schools and Methods, original title: *Nya vägar inom sprakforskningen, en orientering i modern lingvistik*), translated by Aleksander Szulc, Warszawa, 1969; G. Ryle, *Czym jest umysł* (*The Concept of Mind*), translation and foreword by Witold Marciszewski, Warszawa, 1970; Sextus Empiricus, *Przeciw logikom* (Sextus Empiricus, *Against Logicians*, original: (Πρὸς Λογικούς), translation, commentary and glossary by Izydora Dąmbska, epilogue by Maria Pąkcińska, Warszawa, 1970; A. Martinet, *Podstawy lingwistyki funkcjonalnej* (Foundations of Functional Linguistics), selection, translation and Polish title by Leon Zawadowski, the volume contains excerpts of: *Éléments de linguistique générale; A Functional View of Language; La linguistique synchronique, études et recherches*, Warszawa, 1970; J. Lyons, *Chomsky*, translated by Barbara Stanosz, Warszawa, 1972; *Semantyka i słownik* (Semantics and Vocabulary) collected papers, edited by Anna Wierzbicka, Wrocław, 1972.

²¹ See for instance: M. Schlauch, *Język i językoznawstwo współczesne* (Language and Contemporary Linguistics) translated by Leszek Biedrzycki, Warszawa, 1967; J. Lewin, J. Gastiew, J. Rozanow, *Język, matematyka, cybernetyka* (original title: *O niekotorykh voprosakh sevmiennoi matematiki i kibernetiki*, *sbornik statiei*), translated by Ignacy Roman, Warszawa, 1967; J. R. Pierce, *Symbole, sygnały i szumy, wprowadzenie do teorii informacji* (original title: *Symbols, Signals and Noise, The Nature and Processes of Communication*), translated by Jerzy Mieścicki, and Roger Gomulicki, Warszawa, 1967; L. J. Prieto, *Przekazy i sygnały* (original title: *Messages et signaux*), translated by Janusz Lalewicz, Warszawa, 1970; U. Eco, *Pejzaż semiotyczny* (original title: *La struttura assente, introduzione alla ricerca semiologica*), translated by Adam Weinsberg, introduction by Marcin Czerwiński, Warszawa 1972.

²² Cf. footnote 8.

1972, upon the initiative of Jerzy Pelc, the Department of Logical Semiotics at Warsaw University. This has been, perhaps, a first small step, but — *si fata sinant* — further ones will be made. They were presaged in favourable reception by the Philosophical Committee at the meeting in the Polish Academy of Sciences in 1972, of the belief expressed by Jerzy Pelc that it was high time to create in Poland semiotic establishments within universities and the Polish Academy of Sciences. Then, in the course of time, as they have acquired experience and due prerogatives, they should be transformed into interdisciplinary institutes of semiotics. This program would require in the initial phase a progressive introduction of semiotics into the university curriculum. Technically speaking, semiotics had not been officially taught at the Polish universities so far, but in fact, both the course of logic delivered to students of the humanities and the general linguistics lectures covered numerous semiotic problems.

Since the cooperation between the logicians and the linguists seems to be most practicable in Polish circumstances, it is desirable to create initially departments of semiotics incorporating specialists of these two disciplines. These common establishments should continue their separate specialistic studies before they can finally split into organizationally independent units. Then they will be able to establish new contacts and cooperation with theorists of art, literature, culture, theatre and film, and give them the possibility of complementing their knowledge with either logical semiotics or linguistic semiotics. As a prerequisite of this cooperation the specialists in semiotics should go through a course in logical and linguistic theories of language. It may be expected that those endeavours will lead to further specialization in the semiotic research, when at first, separate groups of scholars begin to concentrate on the applications of semiotics to several branches of art and culture, and then, create their own establishments of semiotics of art, culture, literature theatre, film, radio, TV, music, architecture, etc. By a similar process of specialization separate establishments devoted to psychosemiotics, sociosemiotics, the semiotic foundations of communication and information theory, praxeosemiotics, zoosemiotics and biosemiotics could be organized. Certain foreign academic centres have already embarked upon the specialized study of semiotics of myths, religion and folklore. A number of publications on these topics have also appeared in Poland, so it seems probable that the further specialization of semiotic studies may also become conducive to the separation of research in these three sub-branches.

These developments will make it necessary to arrange centers responsible for collecting semiotic bibliography and documentation, and for recording the history of semiotics. In no circumstances, however, organizational decisions should be taken before the real interdisciplinary cooperation has fully developed. It should be accepted as a general rule that institutional forms serve to sanction and strengthen the existent practice and serious scientific achievement.

The structure of envisaged institutes of semiotics should therefore include a department of logical semiotics and a department of linguistic semiotics as two leading units, plus several specialized departments: a department of semiotic foundations of communication and information theory; a department of semiotics of art, subdivided into sections of semiotics of visual arts, literature, theatre, film, radio, TV, music and architecture; a department of sociosemiotics; a department of semiotics of cul-

ture, subdivided into sections of semiotics of myths, religion and folklore; a department of praxeosemiotics, a department of biosemiotics, subdivided into genosemiotics and zoosemiotics; a department of history of semiotics with sections of bibliography and documentation; and finally, the institute should include an administrative department. It should be decided from accumulated experience, if it is desirable, having in mind the integrative and interdisciplinary character of semiotics, to create its institutes as inter-faculty units.

The project outlined here is a vision of a distant, but by no means, a fantastic future. It is well-rooted in the realities of past and present achievements in semiotics. Certainly, in some parts it may be subject to necessary corrections and changes. However, it has itself been based on the experience gained from certain attempts to organize semiotic research abroad. One warning seems to be of particular importance: whenever semiotic studies are organized, starting from the semiotics of art or the semiotics of culture, that is, from the applications of semiotics, with partial or total negligence of logical and linguistic research, the subsequent development shows the disquieting traits of dilettantism and unscientific approach. The right starting point is therefore only the logical semiotics and linguistic semiotics, in Poland the former more than the latter, and a patient and persistent cooperation between these two should ensue for quite a time, until it has become clear that the specialistic branches are able to lead their independent work competently.

The promotion of semiotic research and teaching, as well as the creation of semiotic institutes can be recommended with reasons that may not be used when similar initiatives are proposed by other, less general disciplines. Though its position is not absolutely exclusive in this respect, semiotics has a rare characteristic of being an interdisciplinary field of study that potentially integrates other sciences. Certain apparently unrelated branches of knowledge can be reinterpreted as coherent and uniform wholes if they are studied from the semiotic point of view. Typical traits of our times: the soaring specialization and the influx of seemingly loose and dismembered information from a multitude of sources point to semiotics as a science that can bring together the heterogenic and heteromorphic elements of the world and weave them into one picture. This ability to produce comprehensible unified wholes is to be valued for its own sake and for didactic reasons. And this last argument must be weighted separately, when all those usually given in similar circumstances have already been estimated and judged.

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