

## FROM LAMBERT TO ZAWADOWSKI:

A Chronological Microreview of Excerpts on the Relationship Between  
Linguistics and Semiotics

...with apologies to Roland Barthes

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In der Semiotic wird man sehr viele und verschiedene Absichten finden, und wo ich nicht irre, alle, die man sich in Ansehung der Sprache und Zeichen vorstellen kann.

Lambert 1764:1 [A6].

La linguistique entre dans une science plus générale, la sémiologie, qui a pour objet les systèmes de signes, dont la langue est le type le plus important.

de Saussure, Cours II (1908-1909  
[Godel 1957:66]).

La linguistique, étude scientifique du langage...  
Son objet: ...délimiter son propre domaine par rapport à ceux d'autres sciences (le lien avec la psychologie est à chercher dans la sémiologie).

de Saussure, Cours III (1910-1911  
[Godel, 1957:77]).

... nous la nommerons sémiologie (du grec *sēmeion* "signe"). Elle nous apprendrait en quoi consistent les signes, quelles lois les régissent. Puisqu'elle n'existe pas encore, on ne peut dire ce qu'elle sera; mais elle a droit à l'existence, sa place est déterminée d'avance. La linguistique n'est qu'une partie de cette science générale...

de Saussure 1915:33.

Semiotic has a double relation to the sciences: it is both a science among the sciences and an instrument of the sciences. The significance of semiotic as a science lies in the fact that it is a step in the unification of science, since it supplies the foundations for any special science of signs, such as linguistics, logic, mathematics, rhetoric, and (to some extent at least), aesthetics.

Morris 1938:2.

-Ra2-

Language is a "symbol form." It consists of symbols, and symbols are no part of our physical world. They belong to an entirely different universe of discourse. Natural things and symbols cannot be brought to the same denominator. Linguistics is a part of semiotics, not of physics.

Cassirer 1945:114-115.

The place of linguistics within semiotics cannot be questioned, since no linguist could reject the definition of his discipline as dealing with the coding of a form of human communication.

Bateson 1958:5.

In the final, and more general, form of these two definitions, the word linguistic will be replaced by semiotic.

Hjelmslev 1961:29.

Each [discipline] will be able to contribute in its own way to the general science of semiotics...

Hjelmslev 1961:108.

Secondo me la semiotica non deve sottostare al giogo della linguistica. La linguistica ha un'esperienza importantissima, ma bisogna tener presente che essa non è se non una parte, anche se importante, ma solamente una parte della semiotica, della teoria delle forme diverse dei segni.

Jakobson 1971  
(Caprettini 1976:4).

In semiotics, the study of signs and sign systems, one calls the relation of the sign to their referents semantic, that of signs to other signs in the code syntactic, and the relation of signs to their users pragmatic. Linguistics is but a part of semiotics (the dominating one)...

Anttila 1972:18.

Yet it is precisely in this dimension [a problem of methodology and research strategy] that a semiological approach is found to be most fruitful and stimulating for linguists.

Ramat 1975:11.

-Ra3-

L'égocentrisme des linguistes qui tiennent à exclure de la sphère sémiotique les signes organisés de façon différente que ne le sont ceux de la langue réduit en fait la sémiotique à un simple synonyme de la linguistique.

Jakobson 1975:14.

Semiotics may be defined as a science of sign systems in general, whether artificial or natural. And we may define linguistics as a part of semiotics that deals with natural sign systems, that is, with natural languages.

Shaumyan 1976:60.

When the name semiotics is used with reference to signs and semantic systems, it becomes obvious that since languages are a class of semantic systems, all linguistics is a subdivision of semiotics.

Zawadowski 1976:1977:57.

-Ra4-

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