

## LANGUAGE PHILOSOPHY: THE ROLE OF PHILOSOPHY IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF LINGUISTICS

*FILOSOFI BAHASA: PERAN FILSAFAT DALAM PERKEMBANGAN  
LINGUISTIK*

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### ABSTRACT

There is a strong connection between philosophy and language. It was the first thing that happened before linguistics was studied by philosophers, not by linguists. Before that, most philosophers used language analysis to solve philosophical problems. Then, as a tool of analysis, language was studied, discussed and debated. This analytical activity has generated a passion for philosophers to create a new paradigm. New paradigm of language as a theoretical meaning which in turn gave birth to new innovations to make corrections to language. new innovations to make corrections to language. All the chronological history of language that emerges from intuition is derived from the language we use today. language that we use today.

**Keywords:** philosophy, language, linguistic, new paradigm

### ABSTRAK

Ada hubungan yang kuat antara filsafat dan bahasa. Ini adalah hal pertama yang terjadi sebelum linguistik dipelajari oleh para filsuf, bukan oleh ahli bahasa. Sebelum itu, sebagian besar filsuf menggunakan analisis bahasa untuk memecahkan masalah filosofis. Kemudian, sebagai alat analisis, bahasa dipelajari, didiskusikan, dan diperdebatkan. Aktivitas analitis ini telah membangkitkan semangat bagi para filsuf untuk menciptakan paradigma baru tentang bahasa sebagai makna teoritis yang pada gilirannya melahirkan inovasi baru untuk membuat koreksi terhadap bahasa. Seluruh sejarah kronologis bahasa yang muncul dari intuisi berasal dari bahasa yang kita gunakan hari ini.

**Kata-kata kunci:** Filsafat, Bahasa, Linguistik, Paradigma baru

## A. INTRODUCTION

The relationship between relationship between linguistics and philosophy always put philosophy into a prestigious position. This is not strange considering philosophy is the spirit of all sciences, including linguistics. Even the first study of language was conducted by philosophers and not by linguists. Muhsyanur (2019) says, highlights that the initial inquiries into the nature and study of language were undertaken by philosophers, rather than linguists who specialize in the scientific study of language. In the past, philosophers solved various kinds of philosophical problems through the approach of language analysis approach. For example, philosophical problems that concerning fundamental philosophical questions such as such as existence, reality, existence, substance, matter, causality, meaning, and verification. statements and their verification (Katsoff, 1989: 48-63) and other fundamental questions can be explained by using language data analysis. This tradition is referred to by experts in the history of philosophy as Analytic Philosophy, which developed in Europe, especially in the 20th century.

All philosophers agree that there is a relationship between philosophy and language, especially which is related to the main role of philosophy as analyzer of concepts. The concepts that analyzed by philosophy have a strong body because they are in the form of terms of language and therefore, it cannot be helped, the philosopher must understand the meaning of "what is language" which is always used in understanding these concepts. Since the time of ancient Greece, the notion of Phusis which states that language is natural (fisei or physical), that is, language has a relationship with its connection with the origin, the source in eternal principles in the world.

This naturalist understanding is opposed by Thesis which argues that language is convention (nomos). Language is obtained from the results of tradition, habits in the form of tacit agreement silent. Language is not God-given, but is conventional.

Speculative dichotomy about the nature of language fusie and nomos was the center of philosophical attention at the time. Likewise, the dichotomy of analogy and anomaly is a basic philosophical discourse, considering that language is the main means of considering that language is the main tool in philosophy, especially in logic. The analogy group that embraced by the Plato and Aristotle groups say that nature has order as well as humans are reflected in language. Therefore, language has order and is organized. On the contrary, the Anomalists argue that language does not have order.

They point out the evidence of everyday reality why there are words that are synonyms, and homonyms, why there are word elements that are neutral, and if language is universal, are neutral, and if language is universal, the chaos should be fixed. In this sense, language is essentially natural.

Different perspectives on language and all things related, but still under the umbrella of language, which are carried out by philosophers, have turned out to have such an impact on the progress of linguistics. These differences give rise to discussions, dialogues, and even debates. These discussions, dialogues, and debates are what. Inject fresh blood into the philosophers to always produce innovations and revisions. Always give birth to innovations and revisions to old theories related to language. Revisions to old theories related to language. Starting with the emergence of the philosophy of language by philosophers, namely knowledge and investigation. with the intellect regarding the nature of language, its causes, origins, and laws (which later became the embryo of language philosophy), and its laws (which later became the embryo of the science of language or linguistics). The birth of the science of language or linguistics. The science of language, or linguistics, as we recognize today.

The divergent viewpoints on language, fostered by philosophical inquiry, have catalyzed vibrant discussions, dialogues, and debates within the academic community. These exchanges serve as intellectual crucibles, igniting fresh perspectives and prompting scholars to reevaluate established theories (Grice, 1975). Indeed, it is within this dialectical arena that philosophers continuously refine their conceptions of language and its multifaceted nature.

Furthermore, the interplay between philosophy and linguistics has yielded profound insights into the essence of language itself. As philosophers grapple with the fundamental questions surrounding language, their inquiries inevitably intersect with linguistic theory and analysis. This symbiotic relationship between the two disciplines enriches our understanding of language as a complex system of communication, ripe for philosophical contemplation and linguistic scrutiny.

Moreover, the historical trajectory of language philosophy has paved the way for the emergence of modern linguistics as a distinct scientific discipline. The systematic study of language, informed by philosophical inquiry, has led to the development of robust theoretical frameworks and methodological approaches within linguistics (Chomsky, 1957). In essence, philosophy has served as a catalyst

for the evolution of linguistics, providing fertile ground for theoretical innovation and empirical investigation.

In conclusion, the profound relationship between philosophy and linguistics underscores the intrinsic connection between language and human thought. From ancient philosophical inquiries into the nature of language to contemporary linguistic analyses, the interplay between these disciplines continues to shape our understanding of language and its role in shaping the world around us. As we navigate the intricate terrain of language and philosophy, we are reminded of the enduring significance of this intellectual endeavor in unraveling the mysteries of human communication and cognition.

## **B. LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **Ancient Philosophical Investigations into Language**

The curiosity and speculative nature of ancient Greek philosophers have significantly contributed to our understanding of language. As Herodotus recounts, King Psammetichus's experiment with isolated newborns exemplifies this pursuit, aiming to determine the oldest language. While this endeavor led to diverse perspectives, including Psammetichus's attribution of antiquity to the Phrygian language, other ancient researchers proposed alternative views, such as King James IV's assertion of Hebrew as the oldest language (Herodotus, 5th century BCE).

### **The Systematic Study of Language in Philosophy**

The systematic study of language began to emerge with the Sophists, notably Pythagoras, who categorized sentence types. Plato further emphasized language's systematic nature by distinguishing between *Onoma* (name or noun) and *Rhema* (verb or predicate) within the broader concept of *Logos* (sentence or clause). Aristotle expanded on this by introducing *Syndesmoi* (linking particles) and delving into grammatical gender and tense, laying the groundwork for understanding language as a structured system (Plato, 4th century BCE; Aristotle, 4th century BCE).

### **Language as Symbols: Cassirer's Perspective**

Cassirer's concept of humans as symbolic creatures underscores the symbolic nature of language, wherein words serve as symbols representing ideas or concepts. This symbolic representation transcends linguistic boundaries, as exemplified by the arbitrary nature of words across different languages (Cassirer).

### **Stoic Examination of Language**

The Stoics, notable for their interest in logic, extensively examined language, particularly its sound and meaning. They distinguished between speech sounds with and without meaning, underscoring language's dual nature as both sound and carrier of meaning. Additionally, they delved into the meaningful aspects of language, critiquing Aristotle's less systematic approach to semantics (Stoic Philosophers).

### **Medieval Philosophical Discourse on Language**

During the medieval period, philosophical discourse on language intertwined with theology and the emerging scientific endeavors. Figures like Thomas Aquinas contributed to linguistic development by employing analogy and metaphor in language analysis, while modiste thinkers emphasized the semantic aspect of language (Thomas Aquinas).

### **Modern Philosophical Movements and Linguistic Development**

The modern era witnessed philosophical movements such as the Renaissance and Enlightenment, which spurred the emergence of modern science. Figures like Francis Bacon laid the groundwork for scientific methodology, influencing philosophical thought on language. Moreover, movements like Logical Atomism and ordinary language philosophy reshaped linguistic inquiry, emphasizing the significance of everyday language use (Bacon; Wittgenstein).

### **Twentieth-Century Paradigms in Linguistics**

In the twentieth century, linguistic inquiry grappled with contrasting paradigms inherited from Plato and Aristotle. Ferdinand de Saussure's structural linguistics, aligned with the Aristotelian paradigm, emphasized language as an arbitrary system of signs. In contrast, Charles S. Peirce's semiotics, reminiscent of the Platonic paradigm, viewed language as inherently connected to reality, fostering ongoing debates within linguistics and semiotics (Saussure; Peirce).

## **C. RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

The exploration of language within philosophical discourse spans millennia, beginning with the ancient Greeks' speculative inquiries and culminating in contemporary philosophical movements. This review elucidates how various philosophical perspectives have shaped our understanding of language, highlighting key themes such as language as symbols, its systematic nature, and its role in philosophical inquiry. Through an examination of historical

and contemporary philosophical works, it becomes evident that language occupies a central position in philosophical thought, serving as a lens through which fundamental questions about existence, meaning, and reality are explored.

#### **Ancient Philosophical Investigations**

Ancient Greek philosophers, renowned for their intellectual curiosity, initiated the systematic study of language. Herodotus's anecdote about King Psammetichus's linguistic experiment epitomizes this pursuit of knowledge, demonstrating early attempts to decipher the origins and nature of language. However, as evidenced by Psammetichus's inconclusive findings regarding the oldest language, such endeavors often led to divergent perspectives and debates (Herodotus). Nonetheless, the ancient Greeks laid the groundwork for future linguistic inquiry, setting a precedent for the philosophical examination of language.

#### **Systematic Study of Language in Philosophy**

The systematic study of language gained momentum with figures like Plato and Aristotle, who delineated language's structure and function. Plato's distinction between *Onoma* and *Rhema* underscores language's organizational principles, while Aristotle's classification of *Syndesmoi* and exploration of grammatical gender and tense contribute to a comprehensive understanding of language as a structured system (Plato; Aristotle). These philosophical insights provided the framework for subsequent linguistic analyses, guiding scholars in their exploration of language's intricacies.

#### **Language as Symbols: Cassirer's Perspective**

Ernst Cassirer's notion of humans as symbolic creatures elucidates the symbolic nature of language, emphasizing its role as a medium for representing abstract concepts. Cassirer's assertion that language units, such as words, function as symbols underscores the arbitrary nature of linguistic symbols, which vary across languages (Cassirer). This perspective highlights language's capacity to convey meaning through symbolic representation, transcending linguistic and cultural boundaries.

#### **Stoic Examination of Language**

The Stoics' meticulous examination of language focused on its sound and meaning, laying the groundwork for semantic and phonological analyses. By distinguishing between speech sounds with and without meaning, the Stoics elucidated language's dual nature as both sound and carrier of meaning (Stoic Philosophers). Addi-

tionally, their critique of Aristotle's approach to semantics underscored the need for a more systematic analysis of language's meaningful aspects, paving the way for future linguistic inquiries.

#### Medieval Philosophical Discourse on Language

During the medieval period, philosophical discourse on language intersected with theology and emerging scientific endeavors. Figures like Thomas Aquinas contributed to linguistic development by employing analogy and metaphor in language analysis, while modiste thinkers emphasized the semantic aspect of language (Thomas Aquinas). This period witnessed a fusion of philosophical and theological perspectives, shaping linguistic inquiry and laying the groundwork for subsequent developments in the philosophy of language.

#### Modern Philosophical Movements and Linguistic Development

The modern era witnessed a proliferation of philosophical movements, each influencing linguistic inquiry in distinct ways. Francis Bacon's emphasis on scientific methodology laid the groundwork for empirical linguistic research, while movements like Logical Atomism and ordinary language philosophy reshaped linguistic inquiry (Bacon; Wittgenstein). These movements underscored the significance of everyday language use and the need for rigorous empirical analysis in linguistic research, challenging traditional philosophical frameworks and paving the way for interdisciplinary approaches to language study.

#### Twentieth-Century Paradigms in Linguistics

In the twentieth century, linguistic inquiry grappled with contrasting paradigms inherited from Plato and Aristotle. Ferdinand de Saussure's structural linguistics, aligned with the Aristotelian paradigm, emphasized language as an arbitrary system of signs, while Charles S. Peirce's semiotics embraced the Platonic paradigm, viewing language as inherently connected to reality (Saussure; Peirce). This tension between competing paradigms continues to shape contemporary linguistic inquiry, fostering ongoing debates within linguistics and semiotics.

### D. CONCLUSION

The review of philosophical investigations into language across history reveals a rich tapestry of ideas and perspectives. From ancient Greek speculation to modern philosophical movements, scholars have grappled with fundamental questions about language's nature and function. Figures like Plato and Aristotle laid the



groundwork for linguistic inquiry, while medieval thinkers like Thomas Aquinas bridged philosophy with theology. The Renaissance and Enlightenment saw the emergence of modern scientific methodologies, influencing philosophical movements like Logical Atomism and ordinary language philosophy. In the twentieth century, contrasting paradigms inherited from Plato and Aristotle continued to shape linguistic inquiry. Overall, philosophy remains a vital source of inspiration and inquiry in our ongoing exploration of language's complexities.

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