

Specimen

Marina De Palo, Stefano Gensini (eds)

With Saussure, beyond Saussure

Between linguistics and philosophy of language

CONTENTS: Foreword / *Ilaria Tani*: About the Early Reception of Saussure in Italy. Historicity and Sociality of Language in Benvenuto Terracini / *Stefano Gensini*: The Social Dimension of Language in the Postwar Italian Debates / *Matteo Servilio*: The Debate on Arbitrariness and Mario Lucidi's Contribution / *Grazia Basile*: From Associative Relationships to the Birth of Stylistics / *Mariacristina Falco*: Saussure, Bühler, Benveniste. Sign and enunciation / *Filomena Diodato*: The Botanist and the Gardner. Norm and Meaning in Coseriu's Semantics / *Marina De Palo*: Phenomenology of Language, Saussure and Structuralism Theories — NOTE ON THE AUTHORS — INDEX NOMINUM

ISBN 978-3-89323-027-3

Specimen

Marina De Palo, Stefano Gensini (eds)

With Saussure, beyond Saussure

Between linguistics
and philosophy of language



Nodus Publikationen
Münster

Specimen

Specimen

With Saussure, beyond Saussure
Between linguistics and philosophy of language

Specimen

Specimen

Marina De Palo, Stefano Gensini (eds)

With Saussure, beyond Saussure

Between linguistics and philosophy of language

Specimen

Bibliographic information published by Die Deutsche Bibliothek

Die Deutsche Bibliothek lists this publication in the Deutsche Nationalbibliografie; detailed bibliographic data is available in the internet at <http://dnb.dnb.de>.

This volume has been printed thank to the financial support
of the Sapienza, University of Rome

© Copyright 2022 Nodus Publikationen

Alle Rechte vorbehalten — Printed in Germany

Nachdruck oder Vervielfältigung, auch auszugsweise, verboten.

Gedruckt auf chlor- und säurefreiem, alterungsbeständigem Papier.

Umschlaggestaltung: Nodus Design unter Verwendung einer Photographie © Manon Dutz



Nodus Publikationen — Wissenschaftlicher Verlag

D-48 155 Münster • Germany

<http://www.nodus-publikationen.de>

ISBN 978-3-89323-027-3

Specimen

CONTENTS

- 7 FOREWORD
- 11 *Ilaria Tani*
About the Early Reception of Saussure in Italy.
Historicity and Sociality of Language in Benvenuto Terracini
- 39 *Stefano Gensini*
The Social Dimension of Language in the Postwar Italian Debates
- 63 *Matteo Servilio*
The Debate on Arbitrariness and Mario Lucidi's Contribution
- 79 *Grazia Basile*
From Associative Relationships to the Birth of Stylistics
- 99 *Mariacristina Falco*
Saussure, Bühler, Benveniste.
Sign and enunciation
- 113 *Filomena Diodato*
The Botanist and the Gardner.
Norm and Meaning in Coseriu's Semantics
- 133 *Marina De Palo*
Phenomenology of Language, Saussure and Structuralism Theories
- 161 NOTE ON THE AUTHORS
- 163 INDEX NOMINUM

FOREWORD

The centenary of the publication of CLG, which was celebrated in 2016, represented an important occasion for reviewing the dispersion and the influence of Saussurean thought in twentieth-century European linguistics and philosophy. Many scientific events in Geneva, Paris and Rome celebrated this anniversary, once again concentrating critical and theoretical reflection on this work which changed the orientation, not only of modern linguistics in the 1900s, but also of the whole gamut of human sciences, becoming the point of reference for structuralism and post-structuralism. The Laboratory of the History of Linguistic Ideas of the Department of Philosophy in the Sapienza University of Rome (*Labsil*) also contributed to organising a convention in Rome, in June of 2016, on the Roman school and Saussure's reception (see Marina De Palo, Stefano Gensini (eds.), *Saussure e la Scuola linguistica romana. Da Antonino Pagliaro a Tullio De Mauro*. Roma: Carocci 2018) following dialogue between the Roman school and the Genevan school — two schools which, through the interpretative and philological work of Gödel and Engler on the Genevan side, and De Mauro on the Roman side, explored the complex and uncertain relationship which the CLG has with its handwritten sources.

The present volume, setting out from the revival of the debate surrounding the *Cours de linguistique générale* (1916, 1922²), intends to offer reconsideration and rereadings of certain fundamental points in the light of the results of recent studies and of the knowledge acquired from the plurality of linguistic-philosophical traditions within which this work was received in the 1900s.

Several of the volume's contributors (Tani, Gensini, Servilio) aim to investigate Saussure's legacy in the Italian tradition, following the work done in recent years on the Roman school and the results of the first CISPELS conference (see Diodato 2021).

Gensini and Tani focus on the social dimension of language, a question which has generated one of the greatest errors of interpretation for Saussure's work, and a true fulcrum point in the history of Saussure's reception, which emerged as a consequence of the apocryphal sentence (“la linguistique a pour unique et véritable objet la langue envisagée en elle-même et pour elle-même”) with which the CLG (§ 305) concludes.

Gensini (“The Social Dimension of Language in the Postwar Italian Debates”) plunges into the Italian debates of the post-war period, which were in-

spired by two opposing points of view, that of Ascoli and that of Croce, tackling the theme of the relation between the individual dimension and the collective dimension of language, and of the famous dichotomies synchrony/diachrony and *langue/parole*, from which Terracini (Bartoli's student in Turin, and Meillet's and Gilliéron's in Paris) began to distance himself as early as 1919.

Terracini himself, along with the early reception of the CLG, becomes the focus of Ilaria Tani's essay ("About the Early Reception of Saussure in Italy: Historicity and Sociality of Language in Benvenuto Terracini"). Terracini's 1919 review of the *Cours* for the first time introduced the typical terminology of Saussurean linguistics into Italian, along with a rich critical analysis which traces the failure to develop a linguistics of the *parole* back to various difficulties highlighted in the *Cours* itself. Against the Saussurean concept of the linguistic system as a complex of rules which establish "the infinite possibilities of the game" (1963/70: 49), Terracini advocated the necessity of considering, beyond the game itself, the player (1957: 127), language in the act, thereby taking into consideration the speaking subject.

Servilio ("The Debate on Arbitrariness and Mario Lucidi's Contribution") draws attention to works of Mario Lucidi, an important representative of the Roman school, with regard to the classical question on the arbitrariness of the linguistic sign, starting with the famous essay by Benveniste in 1939.

Grazia Basile ("From Associative Relationships to the Birth of Stylistics") meanwhile focuses her attention on an author whose importance transcends Saussure's Italian reception: Charles Bally. In her consideration of Bally, Basile demonstrates the importance of the associative relations in affective language and in the constitution of what have become known as stylistics.

On the other hand, Diodato ("The Botanist and the Gardner: Norm and Meaning in Coseriu's Semantics") concentrates on Coseriu, with his close ties to the Italian tradition and the Roman school. Diodato's essay illustrates Coseriu's threefold definition of language as a human faculty, a social system and an individual *instrument*, in order to shed new light on the impasse of the current cognitive approaches, which are markedly unfamiliar with notions such as *norm* and (*linguistic*) *meaning*.

An important tribute is paid to Bühler and Benveniste, two of the central figures of Saussure's reception, in the contribution of Mariacristina Falco ("Saussure, Bühler, Benveniste. Sign and Enunciation"), which affirms the centrality of meaning and of the semiological perspective in the theoretical work of both Bühler and Benveniste.

These same two outstanding linguists appear once again in the contribution by Marina De Palo ("Phenomenology of Language, Saussure and Structuralism Theories") which investigates the relations between structuralist theories and phenomenology in the linguistic thought of the twentieth century, highlighting, among others, the role of scholars such as Pos and Merleau-Ponty, who engaged in a twofold analysis, first of Saussure's linguistics and then of Husserl's

phenomenology, concentrating their attention on the role of the speaking subject.

In this varied tableau of essays, interwoven with a dynamic Humboldtian conception of language, the reader will glimpse throughout the golden thread of the *speaking subject* — a question often placed in the background of traditional structuralist approaches and revived in the present-day debate, above all in the field of the cognitive sciences.

The Editors (December 2021)