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On February 14, 1984, Professor Bohumil Trnka died at the age of 88 as a consequence of a street accident. Since 1925 he was Professor of English language and older English literature at the Faculty of Philosophy, Charles University, Prague, lecturing until his retirement in 1975. Throughout his long and fruitful University career he produced a vast linguistic work of remarkable methodological consistency and originality. As one of the oldest pupils of Prof. Vilém Mathesius, he was co-founder and first scientific secretary of the Linguistic Circle of Prague. He evolved the Circle's theory of language as a system of subsystems, of partial linguistic levels, i.e. of phonology, morphology, syntax and utterance, each level being composed of units that stand in opposition to one another.

From the Circle's viewpoint, Professor Trnka was the first to produce a comprehensive phonological description of modern English (in 1935), a book that won him international acclaim, and was revised and re-published in 1966 in Japan, and reprinted in 1968 in the *Alabama Linguistic and Philological Series*, vol. 17, Alabama University Press. He also wrote a substantial monograph on the syntax of the earliest Anglo-Saxon literature (1925), and the syntax of the English

verb from Caxton to Dryden (in 1930); the latter was later published in Japanese translation in Tokyo, in 1956, and reprinted by Kraus in Liechtenstein in 1974. The two monographs also bear witness to another feature of Prague functionalism, an organic methodological unity of synchronic and diachronic treatment of language, a feature that distinguished the Prague linguistic school from other contemporary linguistic groups.

After the extinction of the Prague Linguistic Circle in 1951, Professor Trnka set up a new base to continue and elaborate the functional linguistic approach. Within the Circle of Modern Philology, a learned association affiliated with the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, he founded a working group for functional linguistics which, in 1956, produced a paper, "Prague Structural Linguistics", published in Russian in the journal *Voprosy jazykoznanija* in 1957 (vol. 6, no. 3, pp. 44–52) in Moscow, and subsequently also in English in *Philologica Pragensia* (vol. 1, pp. 33–44) in 1958. Presenting the Prague theory of linguistics in a nutshell, the paper was reprinted in several anthologies abroad.

It was only proper and just that Professor Trnka's many articles on structural linguistics were gathered into one volume, *Selected Papers in Structural Linguistics*, in 1982 in *Janua linguarum*, series practica vol. 88, published by Mouton in Berlin (West) — New York — Amsterdam.

Professor B. Trnka also took an active part in the organization of scholarly life in Czechoslovakia. He was co-founder of the Linguistic Circle of Prague, founder and first chairman (and later honorary chairman) of the Circle of Modern Philology, and chairman of the working group for structural linguistics. He served as editor of learned journals such as *Časopis pro moderní filologii*, *Philologica Pragensia*, *Prague Studies in English*, *Poetica* (in Tokyo) etc.

Many of his articles were published or re-published abroad, in the USSR, Britain, German Federal Republic, Japan, USA, Spain, Uruguay, France and the German Democratic Republic.

Even in his later years, Professor Trnka did not lag behind in his linguistic thinking and produced many innovatory papers. After his death a number of his papers, mostly unpublished, were discovered. They have the following titles: On the principles of linguistic analysis, The theory of the linguistic sign, On the structural evolution of language and the linguistic methods, Linguistic levels and their strategy, The principles of the Prague Linguistic School, The problem of sign in linguistics, The description of language by means of invariant values, The sign conception of linguistic structure, and Long words in English. It is to be hoped that these papers will also be published in due course.

Professor Trnka's vast and manysided work entitles him to rank as one of the leading linguists both in his own country and abroad. The theory and method he evolved will undoubtedly remain a permanent asset and a stimulus for further generations of linguistic scholars. Professor Trnka is an example of a man thoroughly devoted to his work, a linguist who advanced linguistic studies very

substantially on international level. He wore his vast learning lightly: he had a modest and most human personality, with a shrewd and lively sense of humour.

The bibliography of Professor B. Trnka's writings was published by stages in different periodicals, viz.: *ČMF* vol. 37. 105–13 (1955), *Philologica Pragensia* vol. 8. 117–119 (1965), *Prague Studies in English* vol. 11. 69–83 (1965), vol. 14. 143–45 (1971), vol. 18. 159–61 (1975), vol. 23. 169 (1980). A supplement to the Bibliography is to appear in *Prague Studies in English* vol. 18, *Acta Universitatis Carolinae, Philologica*, 1985.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE BIBLIOGRAPHY OF PROFESSOR BOHUMIL TRNKA'S PUBLICATIONS

ABBREVIATIONS: PP *Philologica Pragensia*, SaS *Slovo a slovesnost*.

1968

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1984

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1985

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