

THE EIGHTY-FIFTH BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY  
OF PROFESSOR BOHUMIL TRNKA

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On June 3rd, 1980, Professor Bohumil Trnka reached the age of eighty-five years. He is emeritus professor of the English language and older English literature at the Faculty of Philosophy, Charles University, Prague, the oldest student of Vilém Mathesius, one of the founders of the Linguistic Circle of Prague, and honorary chairman of the Circle of Modern Philology, Prague.

He is the author of a vast linguistic output based on a functional-structural method of the Prague type.<sup>1</sup> Already before the Second World War, B. Trnka started to apply the methodological tenets of phonology to the other, bilateral linguistic levels. Elaborating his earlier views he has recently termed the theory of morphemes 'morphemology' (1978) defining it as an important subdivision of functional morphology. In his view, the sentence as an entity of a level higher than that of a word (such as for instance morphology) is already an abstraction from linguistic utterances in which the whole system of language is immediately and integrally manifested.

Recently Professor Trnka has deliberated on the existence of a zero phoneme (1977), which he regards as a fiction because a phoneme, which is not a bundle of distinctive phonological features, is no phoneme at all. The zero distinctive features may be found only at the meaningful (bilateral) levels of language, such as for instance morphology. B. Trnka has also presented important views on semantic relations, on the relations between logic and psychology and linguistics.

After the extinction of the Linguistic Circle of Prague, Professor Trnka transferred functional linguistic work to the group of functional linguistics, composed of younger workers, and organized within the Circle of Modern Philology, Prague. Under Professor Trnka's chairmanship the work of the group has won recognition abroad, in the USSR and in other countries. In the group, the details of linguistic methodology and the analysis of language as sign systems are being elaborated.

The extensive linguistic work of Professor B. Trnka has long been recognized in the scientific world. His theory is built on a unitary logical plan and has a remarkable integrity and complexity, the leading idea being to reveal a relatively finite system of values. It will undoubtedly remain a source of inspiration for present linguists and those to come.

<sup>1</sup> Previous articles evaluating the scholarly work of Prof. B. Trnka have been published on the occasion of his earlier anniversaries: in *PP* 8 (1965), 113; *ČMF* 52 (1970), 209—11; *PP* 14 (1971), 39—41; *PP* 18 (1975), 159. *Prague Studies in English* 16 (1975), 7—9. For the bibliography of his work, see *ČMF* 37 (1955), 105—113; *PP* 8 (1965), 117—119 (1955—1965); *Prague Studies in English* 14 (1971), 143—145 (1965—1970); *PP* 18 (1975), 160—161 (1970—1975).

A SUPPLEMENT TO THE BIBLIOGRAPHY OF PROFESSOR BOHUMIL TRNKA'S  
WRITINGS

ABBREVIATIONS: *SaS* Slovo a slovesnost, *SPN* Státní pedagogické nakladatelství.

1969

Ke změně středoanglického *-erC* > *-arC* v rané nové angličtině [On the change of *-erC* > *-arC* in Late Middle English and Early Modern English]. *SaS* 30. 246—49.

1975

The Old English Vowel System and the Problems of Monophonemes. *Studii și cercetări lingvistice*. 26. 429—31. București, Academia.

1976

Nekatorije nabljudenija odnositel'no leksičeskich klassov i porjadka slov [Some remarks concerning the word classes and the word-order]. Pp. 215—19 in: *Teorija jazyka: anglistika - kel'tologija* Moskva, Nauka.

1977

Existuje nulový foném? [Does the zero phoneme exist?] *SaS* 38. 299—301.

Morfologie, syntaxe a jazyková promluva [Morphology, Syntax and Utterance]. *Jazykovědné aktuality* 14. 144—45.

1978

VÝBOR Z LITERATURY STAROANGLICKÉ A STŘEDOANGLICKÉ. II. Slovník k textům [Anthology of Old and Middle English literature, Part II, Glossary]. Pp. 130, second edition. University textbook. Mimeo. Praha, SPN.

VÝBOR Z LITERATURY STAROANGLICKÉ A STŘEDOANGLICKÉ. I. Texty a úvody. [Anthology of Old and Middle English literature. Part I. Texts and introductions]. Pp. 96, second edition. University textbook. Mimeo. Praha, SPN. (Jointly with J. Nosek)  
Teorie znakových plánů a vztah slov k morfémům [On the theory of the linguistic entities as signs and on the relationship of morphemes to words]. *SaS* 39. 222—23.

1980

On the Morphological Level of a Language. *Philologica Pragensia* 23. 164—67.

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