

Editoriale

Guest Editor's Preface

Giuseppe Varnier^(a)

The *Studi* section of this issue of *Rivista internazionale di Filosofia e Psicologia* is devoted to the relationship between Self-consciousness and Language. This is a particularly interesting topic for philosophical and psychological investigation and was already a central focus of the Journal in 2014 (volume 5, issue 2) when a special session on the subject was published.

The articles in this section are not intended to provide a systematic exploration of various aspects of the relationship between language and self-consciousness; they rather aim to offer theoretical insight on these topics. They explore the complex landscape at the intersection of syntax, semantics, the study of fictional uses of language, and the phenomenology of consciousness and perception.

Many years ago, Noam Chomsky presented convincing arguments in support of the idea that language offers a precious window into the nature and structure of our mental processes. This opened the door to a new viewpoint in which language was no longer approached only as an object of investigation per se but the

study of language became a means to better understand mental phenomena.

From this perspective, the impact of language studies – even those on technical aspects of language such as e.g. indexicals – can be far-reaching. The vehicle of language has proved useful not only for investigations into cognition, but also for exploring at least some aspects of important issues related to consciousness and especially self-consciousness.

The following essays provide a small taste of this line of research and its possibilities. Each of the present essays effectively focuses on a highly debated topic that is relevant for a multidisciplinary perspective, a perspective that goes well beyond linguistics, and even philosophy in the traditional sense. Many big questions remain open, but perhaps a better vision of the general landscape is also achieved.

During the completion of this issue, Professor Tomis Kapitan passed away unexpectedly. It is an honor for the Journal to publish Professor Kapitan's manuscript and on behalf of the RiFP Editorial Board, I would like to express our deepest condolences to his family.

^(a)Dipartimento di Scienze Sociali, Politiche e Cognitive, Università degli Studi di Siena, Complesso San Niccolò, via Roma, 56 - 53100 Siena (I)

E-mail: giuseppe.varnier@unisi.it (✉)

