

From Linguistic Symbol to the Logos Dimension - Word and Speech Today (SLAH/SPA)

status: ongoing

Research Question and Background

The future development and education of human beings is linked to the Word. How can the Logos dimension of the Word be experienced and language freed from its mostly mechanised, formalised use today? In this regard, experiencing its artistic aspect points to new pathways. Words and language are omnipresent in every day and professional life. We understand the world and ourselves through their mediation and shape our lives through them and with other people. Word and language have undergone a process of dying and abstraction in the course of the history of consciousness. They have degenerated from life-giving to linguistic signs and codes. Abstract language influences thought and life forms. If the connection between reality and Word is no longer causally and originally present, words become shells and, in the end, mere catch phrases, which, when intensified as lies and framing, determine the understanding of Self and the world. Language then turns against human beings themselves.

Relevance and Perspective

The media discourses on gender-appropriate and diversity-compliant speaking and writing show how political, economic, legal and sociological issues and interests affect language, thereby determining the understanding of people for each other. However, if we assume that people connect with the spiritual through language, then it becomes clear how an artistic approach to language can lead to free creativity, beyond the manipulative interests of external agents. Individual behaviour and social interaction would then fundamentally change as a result.

Approach, Cooperation and Time Frame

There is a basic theoretical part: A) The Section is currently working on a publication on the humanisation of human beings through literature, in which the human-forming and humanising effect will be examined based on a series of textual analyses. B) This also includes a linguistic-historical essay on how language and thought have developed up to our present day and what challenges arise from this development with regard to the topic. C) The practical part includes colloquia, conferences, further education and book publications.

The Section for the Performing Arts is a collaborative partner. The project is planned for five years and will be developed in cooperation with literary scholars, linguists, philosophers, eurhythmists and speech formation artists.

Literature (selection)

P. Lutzker: *Der Sprachsin: Sprachwahrnehmung als Sinnesvorgang*, Stuttgart 2017 (In German) [*The Sense of Language. Speech perception as a sensory process]; R. Patzlaff: *Sprache, die Gesundheit bewirkt*, Dornach 2023. (In German) [*Language that creates health]; U. Pörksen: *Plastic Words: The Tyranny of a Modular Language*, Penn State University Press, 1995; E. Wehling: 'Politics and framing. How language impacts political thought', chapter in *The Routledge Handbook of Language and Media*, 2017; H. Zimmermann: *Vom Sprachverlust zur neuen Bilderwelt des Wortes*, Dornach 2000. (In German) [*From the loss of language to the new imagery of the Word]; R. Steiner, various passages from lectures.