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### **Donald Davidson’s Approach of Malapropisms – Understanding Communication from the Standpoint of the Concept of Passing Theories**

**Abstract.** This paper focuses on Donald Davidson’s article „A Nice Derangement of Epitaphs”. The importance of this article resides in the shift that Donald Davidson makes in his work from the formal approach to language to a pragmatic one. This shift is not relevant only in the case of Davidson’s philosophy, but it epitomizes a more general move or change in the field of philosophy of language. Moreover, „A Nice Derangement of Epitaphs” is a valuable philosophical input in the study of communication; concepts like *malapropism*, *first meaning*, *prior theory*, *passing theory*, *shared interpretation* are put together in a systematic way by Davidson. The resulting image about language, communication and the process of understanding is still fruitful today, even though more than twenty-five years have passed since the first publication of Davidson’s study.

**Keywords:** Communication, Malapropisms, First Meaning, Prior Theories, Passing Theories, Language User, Donald Davidson.