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Le vouloir dire argumentatif. Intentionnalité et expression des arguments

L'inconvénient des mots, c'est d'avoir plus de contour que les idées. Toutes les idées se mêlent par les bords; les mots, non. Un certain côté diffus de l'âme leur échappe toujours. L'expression a des frontières, la pensée n'en a pas.

(Victor Hugo)

Abstract: When we approach argumentation from the standpoint of the theory of speech acts we can both underline the importance of intentionality (namely, the mental states as the underlying driving force) and offer an explanation for the speaker's meaning (Searle's classical distinction between sentence meaning and utterance meaning being helpful in this respect). While I focus, in my paper, on the subject-matter of indirect speech, two other forms of non-literal expression (generalisation and enthymeme) will constitute the theme for future research.

Keywords: intentionality, meaning, speech acts, Searle, indirect speech