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Reading Ferdinand de Saussure. Again! ²

Abstract: Ferdinand de Saussure claimed linguistics as the only science proper to study the language. Different developments along the years seemed to contradict this position. The present paper discusses the issue. Language, if seen as a complex phenomenon, falls under the study of different disciplines, like anthropology, psychology, sociology, which seems to contradict Saussure. Just apparently, as we should pay attention to the concepts Saussure as well as the authors invoked here use. For Saussure, language is made of a (historical) tongue and the totality of the linguistic acts it allows, and this is how he makes his choices: linguistics’ only object is the tongue, and also the only discipline that should study the tongue is linguistics. For other specialists, language is a complex object. One shouldn’t see a hard contradiction between those views, as Saussure had predicted the coming of a science which he considered necessary for the study of the life of signs within the social life of humans, and linguistics was going to be a part of this new science. The present paper tries to prove that there is no contradiction, so Saussure was right and he still is.

Keywords: Ferdinand de Saussure, langue vs. parole, semiology, language, linguistics, expression of emotions, Internet, Facebook.

¹ With a special input by Iolanda Prodan concerning the Korean language and culture. Iolanda Prodan is a professional translator of Korean and Japanese literature into Romanian.

² Under a different title and in a slightly different form, this study was presented at the International Colloquium of the Communalis Society, August 2017, and published in *Anais do congresso “Discurso, representações, argumentação: interdisciplinaridade”, 16 a 18 agosto de 2017, Rio de Janeiro: Communalis, 2017.*