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L'ambiguïté pragmatique et ses conséquences sur la pratique liturgique de nos jours

Pragmatic Ambiguity and its Consequences on Contemporary Liturgical Practice

Abstract: This paper proposes a discursive and semiological analysis of some examples of gestural and proxemic manifestations of the faithful engendered by pragmatic ambiguity in certain statements of the Orthodox Liturgy, in the Romanian language. On a diachronic level, the translation of Christian Orthodox liturgical texts, mostly from Slavonic in Romanian culture, has also had to take into account the management of ambiguity, particularly lexical ambiguity. While the vast majority of the words used in these texts are well interpreted today, at the pole of their reception, some statements still retain an ambiguity related to a diachronic translation, an ambiguity that can be qualified as pragmatic in the immediate synchronicity. In the discursive and ritual context of the Eucharistic Liturgy, they trigger certain gestures by the faithful, who interpret them as speech acts or “first-degree” illocutionary and perlocutionary statements. Because of the consequences of their ambiguity on the gestural actualization of the speech acts they carry, we will call this type of ambiguity pragmatic.

Keywords: pragmatic ambiguity, Orthodoxy, discourse, liturgical gesture, ritual practice, proxemics.