

## PREFACE

Each generation inherits the responsibility of thinking once again the same philosophical problems from new perspectives that take into account new scientific information. It is more than a responsibility; indeed, it is something that has to be done regularly, because philosophical investigation cannot be separated from the rest of human and scientific investigation that challenges constantly our philosophical conceptions. A philosophical tradition may decide what is a philosophical problem and which are the most important, but these problems have an open texture that invites us to further examination.

In October 2005, the Fourth International Colloquium of Philosophy of Mind was organized, in João Pessoa, by the Working Group in Philosophy of Mind of the National Association of Post-Graduate Programs in Philosophy (ANPOF) together with the Post-graduate Program in Philosophy of the Federal University of Paraíba. The theme of the conference was one of these traditional problems: The Language-Thought relation. The conference gathered philosophers from Argentina, Canada, Germany, the Netherlands, Israel and from many States of the Brazilian Federation. We are grateful to *Manuscrito* for making their contributions available. Professor Marcelo Dascal of Tel Aviv University was our main speaker. Many thanks to all participants for their valuable contributions!

In the last decades, in the philosophy of mind and language, and recently in the cognitive sciences, theoretical breakthroughs and new ideas enriched our debates: A serious examination of various forms of context-dependency, in language and thought; externalism, as a semantic doctrine and as a theory of mental content and its unfolding (the theory of *de re* attitudes — indexical thoughts — and *de se* attitudes, direct reference, the distinction broad/narrow content); Speech Act Theory, indexicalismo and contextualismo in the philosophy of lan-

guage; the examination of self-debate, self-deception and controversies; the theory of presupposition and of background of meaning; illocutionary logic, the logic of demonstratives (simple and complex) and the logic of attitudes; the theory of meaning in embodied and situated cognition and the new topic of informational semantics; the discussions related to Wittgenstein's argument against the possibility of an essentially private language, and to the famous topic of "following a rule"; and finally the discussions on non-literality, metaphor, implicatures, etc. In this issue of *Manuscrito*, the reader will find discussions on other themes as well, historical in character, on language and thought in Ancient Philosophy, during the classical period and the dawn of analytic philosophy.

This volume is dedicated to the memory of one of the most important Latin-American philosopher ever, our friend and master Eduardo Rabossi, of the University of Buenos Aires, who died only two weeks after his spectacular talk given at the last Colloquium in Philosophy of Mind on Language and Thought. Eduardo was among us for the last two colloquia (March 2002 and October 2005). *Manuscrito* published Eduardo's paper presented on the first opportunity on mental causation, the theme of the colloquium ("Mental Causation: Anatomy of a Problem", Vol. XXV, 2002, special number, 285-304). Unfortunately, we cannot publish Eduardo's paper this time, because he didn't have the time to elaborate a version for publication. To compensate, and as a way to keep his spirit alive, Professor Diana I. Perez from the University of Buenos Aires, who made her PhD under Eduardo's supervision, gives us a paper on a topic on which Eduardo has many contributions: Eliminativism in the philosophy of mind. We only have good motives for keeping alive Eduardo's memory: as a philosopher and citizen, his fight for human rights has been recognized and awarded in many countries; his contributions to philosophy of mind and language, to ethics and political philosophy, and also to metaphilosophy are well known in countries like Brazil, Spain, and Italy. As a

friend that I most respected, I will always remember a very elegant person, cultured, kind, active, and owner of a very delightful sense of philosophical irony.

We want to thank persons and institutions that helped to organize the IV Colloquium on Language and Thought, and to prepare that special issue of *Manuscrito*. Firstly, we are very grateful to Capes for the financial support without which the Colloquium could not have been realized, and also to the Banco do Nordeste for a generous and welcomed contribution. Many thanks are due to the Director of the Center for Human Sciences, Literature and Arts (Federal University of Paraíba), Prof. Dr. Lúcio Flávio Vasconcelos, who offered the hotel to the most part of our guests. The Pro-Rector of Graduate Programs and Research, Prof. Dr. Marcelo Sobral, gave us too a helping hand. Last but not least, we owe a debt of gratitude to the Direction and Secretary of *Manuscrito*, for the opportunity, competence and collaboration.

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