

The Objective of the Project

The construction of a formal model of mental spaces, understood as systems of mental worlds encoded in our minds, is the aim of the project. Within the leading paradigm of cognitive science, one assumes that the brain is a tool of prefabricating its mind. Human subjects are understood as entities creating worlds. This competence manifests itself in the fact of the creation of texts saying about stories and plots, describing various situations or projecting our visions of the future. The mythopoetic, prophetic or confabulation competencies, which constitute the peculiarity of the human species, satisfy various adaptive functions with respect to the surrounding environment. These competencies are determined by mental mechanisms. That is why the attempt to re-construct them in the formal model also contributes to better understanding Homo Sapiens condition.

Research

On the basis of phenomenological, cognitive and linguistic descriptions of intentional acts of text generation and text comprehension, the logical and grammatical architecture of mental worlds and ways of their inter-connections within mental spaces of the human mind will be re-constructed in the logical language. There will be constructed formal models of processes of mental worlds' changes and intentional mechanisms governing them. The research determined by the project will be focused on giving answers to questions such, for example, as follows: why do so some worlds explode in our minds in traumatic situations, radically causing our behavioral ways of reference toward the experienced reality? Why do people love myths, prophecy and witchcrafts? Why do we have troubles in understanding worlds of other minds? Why do we often comprehend other people as "alien and hostile"? The mentioned phenomena in questions will be explained by phenomenological mechanisms of the functioning of the mind which form its dynamic architecture susceptible to logical and grammatical description.

Cognitive motivation of the project

The humanity is successful in adapting to the environment thanks to the mapping of the world of Platonic shadows by prefabricated mental worlds. We produce public projects of life in the shape of various ideological, political and religious visions of our social functioning. Our success depends on their adaptive accuracy. These mental worlds, produced in the space of public discourse, lose, however, their adaptive values. That is why the humankind lives under the pressure of public discourse forcing it to constantly produce mental worlds. The higher the rate of production of these worlds, the chance of success is higher. If we slow down, the adaptive error probability becomes higher.

One of the social progress factors is the competence of the mind to prefabricate mental worlds. Societies die because of deficits in the field of competencies of creating and prefabricating worlds. Totalitarian practices of unifying the public discourse in accordance with one dominating paradigm aim at destroying mental mechanisms responsible for our abilities to prefabricate mental worlds. We become one-dimensional mentally under the heel of totalitarianism. Totalitarianism make us incapable of intentional referring toward the surrounding environment in the pluralistic way. Totalitarianism kills hermeneutics in our minds.

The re-constructing mechanisms of processes of world production and, as a result, our hermeneutical abilities may contribute to the development of strategies which prevent the communicational processes of falling into the abyss of one-dimensionality.