

Propositions

Talking about Talking

An Ecological-Enactive Perspective on Language

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1. You can only talk if you can also talk about talking. (*This thesis*)
2. Linguistic knowledge is know-how. It consists in practical skills rather than in theoretical knowledge. (*Chapter 2*)
3. The child that learns to speak is not in the business of determining the reference of words, but in manipulating the attention of others. (*Chapter 3*)
4. The ecological-enactive approach entails an explanatory reversal: instead of explaining linguistic behaviour in terms of semantic content, semantic content is explained in terms of linguistic behaviour. (*Chapter 4*)
5. Linguistic rules are resources. They do not explain, govern, or determine verbal behaviour, but can be used by people to (re)negotiate properties of language. (*Chapter 5*)
6. To explain a philosophical problem in terms of reified abstractions is to wish the problem away.
7. There cannot be cognition without emotion: we can only know things we care about.
8. We first encounter ourselves in the way the world resists our exploratory activity.
9. Language is primarily an extension of social behaviour, not of individual thought.
10. In most cases, thinking does not *precede* talking, the talking *is* the thinking – although we can of course plan what we will say next.
11. Propositions that do not concern the thesis are superfluous.