

**Philosophy of Language in a Different Voice
— On Wilhelm von Humboldt's Views of
World-disclosing Function of Language and
Dialogical Character of Reason**

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Abstract

This article explores Wilhelm von Humboldt's contributions to the study of semantic and pragmatic dimension of philosophy of language. In contrast to Aristotle's instrumental view of language, Humboldt emphasizes the world-disclosing function of language. Without appealing to any kind of metaphysical realism, Humboldt justifies the objectivity of thought by the dialogical structure of speech. After providing commentary on Humboldt's resolution to the inner tension between relativistic world-view of language and the universal validity-claims in mutual understanding in his philosophy of language, this paper also discusses the important meaning of this resolution for the study of philosophy itself.

Key Words: Wilhelm von Humboldt, world-disclosure, philosophy of language, pragmatics, linguistic relativity