

## EDITORIAL INTRODUCTION

This issue is almost entirely devoted to discourse activity from a narrative perspective. The optic we have chosen here suggested in part by a significant anniversary for research on narration, which occurred in 1997. Thirty years earlier (in 1967) William Labov and Joshua Waletzky published an important article on narrative analysis entitled "Narrative analysis: Oral versions of personal experience" (In J. Helm (Ed.), *Essays on the verbal and visual arts* (pp. 12-44). Seattle: University of Washington Press). This article was a landmark in the field of research methodology on narrational speech and its influence reached to many countries. It is worth going back to this text if only to gain awareness of the road narrative analysis has covered over the last years.

This issue is opened by the article *Narrative discourse and the brain* (by Emilia Łojek), presenting narration in the light of neurolinguistic studies. The relationship between discourse representation and the human brain is considered. In the second article *Self-narratives as sources of motivation* (by Jerzy Trzebiński), narrational activity is shown from a point of view characteristic for psychology of self. Self-narrative is treated as a function of self identity, especially when the events, values and behavior represented in the narrative structure are highly important personally. The issues discussed here deal with self-narratives on the one hand and the motivational mechanisms for a person's activity on the other.

Social and pragmatic knowledge of the narrator, particularly understanding the listener's expectations, are central problems in the two articles. Michèle Kail looks at referent introductions in narratives as a function of shared (both speaker's and listener's) knowledge (*Referent introductions in narratives as a function of mutual knowledge: A developmental comparison of French and Spanish*). Shared vs. non-shared access to topical sources of narration, and other relationships between participants in the narrative situation are important factors influencing the whole narrational process, as discussed by Barbara Bokus and Grace Wales Shugar (*Social structures of children's narrational activity*). Hanna Jakubowicz Batoréo analyzes spatial reference and spatial expression in narratives produced by European Portuguese native speakers, children and adults, in situations of absence of mutual knowledge.

Development of early linguistic and metalinguistic abilities are considered in two final articles, *Some morphosyntactic phenomena in the mixed period of language acquisition in a Polish-Portuguese bilingual child: Acquisition of case markers* (by Hanna Jakubowicz Batoréo) and *Early metalinguistic awareness at work: Preschoolers' responses to listener indications of misunderstanding* (by Bogusław Kwarciak).

The next issue of *Psychology of Language and Communication* is planned as presentation of papers to be delivered at an international conference on Children's discourse from a narrative perspective: Action and consciousness in story construction. The conference will take place in Kazimierz Dolny in Poland, 17-21 September 1998.

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