

SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

**Jerzy Bobryk, the humanities professor,
eminent scholar and erudite, passed away
on October 10, 2016**



Professor Jerzy Bobryk (1949-2016)

Already when he was a student of the Faculty of Psychology and Pedagogy at the University of Warsaw (1968-1973), Jerzy Bobryk's interests went beyond psychology. As his research specialization he chose an area straddling two disciplines: psycholinguistics. His master's thesis was about studying the meanings of words using the classification method (1973). Psycholinguistics was also strongly represented in the program of his PhD studies in 1973-1976 at the University of Warsaw's Faculty of Psychology. He defended his doctoral dissertation, entitled *Przezroczystość znaku dla znaczenia (na podstawie badania pamięci treści i formy komunikatów językowych)* [Transparency of Signs for Meaning (Based

on a Study on Memory of the Content and Form of Language Messages)] and overseen by Professor Ida Kurcz, in 1977.

In his postdoctoral dissertation presented to the Council of the Faculty of Social Sciences at Adam Mickiewicz University in 1994, Jerzy Bobryk raised an issue that is fundamental for our species as *animal symbolicum*, namely the issue of symbolization, expression and intentionality. The title of his postdoctoral dissertation was *Symbolizacja, ekspresja, intencjonalność. Psychologiczne mechanizmy kierujące ludzkimi czynnościami poznawczymi* [Symbolization, Expression, Intentionality: Psychological Mechanisms Controlling Human Cognitive Activity]. Since human cognitive processes and the entirety of human consciousness are mediated by signs, Professor Jerzy Bobryk also turned to other research topics from the very heart of semiotics, related to human culture understood as a set of semiotic systems. He received the title of humanities professor in 2013 upon a motion of the Research Council of the Institute of Psychology of the Polish Academy of Sciences. At the Institute of Psychology of the Polish Academy of Sciences he headed the Psycholinguistics and Cognitive Psychology Lab.

Professor Jerzy Bobryk was a leading expert on the output of the Lvov-Warsaw School and Kazimierz Twardowski's theory of actions and products. He passed away in the middle of editing a new book (in Polish and English), *Język – Działania – Wartości. Szkoła Lwowsko-Warszawska a wybrane problemy psychologii, filozofii i semiotyki* [Language – Actions – Values: The Lvov-Warsaw School and Selected Problems of Psychology, Philosophy and Semiotics].

Jerzy Bobryk's academic interests were well grounded in his knowledge on philosophy and philosophy of science, and he willingly shared this knowledge with us through his monographs. He was unquestionably an erudite. A great scholar, a cognitive scientist overstepping the boundaries of disciplines in academic discourse, developed before our eyes. He was fascinated with studying language and the human mind. For many of us, his lectures on the history of psychology and philosophy of science shaped our way of thinking. We will miss his doubts and his strong arguments in interdisciplinary academic discourse.

When the idea of launching the journal *Psychology of Language and Communication* took shape in 1997 at the Psycholinguistic Department of the Faculty of Psychology, University of Warsaw, Jerzy Bobryk was its staunch supporter. Later he was also our contributor (cf. his paper "Types of Mental Representation", 1997, vol. 1, No. 1) and a reviewer of many papers published in *Psychology of Language and Communication*.

He will be missed...

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