LA MEDIATION LANGAGIERE: PRAXEOLOGIE ET GNOSEOLOGIE

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ABSTRACT: This paper deals with the problem of linguistic mediation and aims to contribute a reflection on Vygotsky’s understanding of mediation as the fusion of representation and communication. First of all, it presents the two different stages in Vygotsky’s approach of mediation: the one in which linguistic signs, other semiotic systems, instruments, and artefacts are considered as one unified category, the other in which mediation is considered in its properly semiotic-linguistic nature. Secondly, the paper refers to two other types of work, which focus on the conditions for the emergence of linguistic mediation: Leontiev’s work on the asymmetries between practical activities and psychological capacities as an important factor in development on a phylogenetic level. And Mead’s work on language as the necessary basis of both social activity and thinking. On these grounds, the paper argues that linguistic mediation is a specifically human effort to overcome the asymmetries between praxeology and gnoseology.

KEYWORDS: mediation; activity; linguistic signs; social objects.