

Language as an (Inter-)Action System

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The classic framework of sensory transduction, cognitive processes, and encoding of mental contents into utterances is seriously problematic, and many researchers reject it. But it is not necessarily easy to diagnose, uncover, and correct the theoretical and presuppositional problems that support this framework. I will argue that one basic problematic assumption is that all representation is constituted as encodings, and that this assumption, in turn, is based on an underlying ‘substance’ or ‘entity’ metaphysics. These assumptions have dominated Western thought for some time, so, if they are not only false but also impossible (as will be argued), then it is understandable that modeling cognitive processes, including those of language, have been obstructed. I will briefly outline an alternative process metaphysics, and develop an outline of a model of language processes within that framework that construes languaging as a joint activity — an interactive activity — among participants in social situations.