

MANNOURY'S SIGNIFIC PHILOSOPHY



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I. BIOGRAPHICAL NOTIONS

- 1867: Born in Wormerveer.
- 1885: HBS diploma (high school) and teachers diploma.
- 1887: Teacher's diploma secondary school.
- 1902: Teacher's diploma high school.
- Received lessons from professor Diederik Korteweg.

II. MATHEMATICS AND PHILOSOPHY

- 1895: member Dutch Mathematical Society.
- 1903: private lecturer in the logical foundations of mathematics.
- 1918: full professor in geometry, mechanics and the philosophy of mathematics, as the successor of Korteweg.
- 1946: honorary doctorate University of Amsterdam.

III. SOCIALISM

- 1900: member of the Dutch Labour Party (Sociaal Democratische Arbeiderspartij).
- 1901: co-founded the Social Democratic Study Group (Sociaal-Democratische Studieclub).
- Special interest in universal language.
- Commonalities in language and nations.

IV. SYMBOLIC LOGIC

- 1903: symbolic logic of Giuseppe Peano.
- Formal logic also important for philosophy.
- Advantage of symbolic logic: words or symbols are separated from mental representations.
- Symbolic logic can help discover reasoning errors in philosophical arguments.

V. FIRST SIGNIFIC MOVEMENT: 1917-1926

- 1917: International Institute for Philosophy Amsterdam.
- Significs aims at a better understanding in group life and social intercourse.
- 1922: Signific Circle.
- Philosophy of language was combined with political philosophy to arrive at a program of social action.

VI. SECOND SIGNIFIC MOVEMENT: 1936-1956

- 1936: Journal *Synthese*.
- 1937: International Group for the Study of Significs.
- 1946: International Society for Significs.
- Logical empiricism represented by Neurath and Waismann.

VII. MAIN INTENTIONS SIGNIFIC MOVEMENT

1. International contacts.
2. Purifying of education.
3. Analysing and neutralising of dangerous symbols and slogans.
4. Other ways...

VIII. THE PROBLEM OF LANGUAGE

- Unity of science and the problem of language.
- "*Oberwissenschaft*".
- Confusion in scientific and philosophical thinking caused by language.
- Significists include everyday language in their investigations.
- In daily intercourse emotional value is preponderance.

IX. FIRST AND SECOND SIGNIFIC MOVEMENT

- Scientific language: large stability in the meaning of words .
- Primitive, poetical language: instability in the meaning of words.
- Logical empiricism: the logical relation.
- Significs: the psychological effect.

X. SIGNIFIC PHILOSOPHY

- A signific philosophy may be planned which might considerably influence the social and mental condition of mankind in times to come.
- Mankind might be made to feel and behave more as one single community.

THE END OF SIGNIFICS

- Significs missed a showpiece like logic.
- Significists were right at certain points.
- They should have completed their introspective psychology with genuine empirical research.

The end.