

## UNDERSTANDING AND TRUTH

### *Hans-Georg Gadamer's Concept of Language*

MÓNIKA PÉTER \*

#### *Abstract*

In the hermeneutic concept language is not an instrument of things denomination, rather a universal medium in which understanding occurs. In this study I am going to analyze correlations between language and understanding, and the way how Logos becomes the carrier of truth, at the same time I try to present Hans-Georg Gadamer's concept about the problem of translation.

Gadamer opposed a completely new opinion with the instrumentalist language concept. In his conception language is not a mere tool we use, something we construct in order to communicate, rather "reaching understanding", language is the medium in which understanding and agreement take place between two people. The language neither does communicates facts, nor judgements, rather is such a communication that approaches understanding. The language of understanding carries its own truth; it allows something to "emerge" which henceforth exists. Namely the Logos is able to show the subject matter in its own complexity.

From hermeneutic perspective the question of translation is not the correct mastery of language, but coming to a proper understanding about the subject matter, which takes place in the medium of language. Thus the translation is not the repetition of the original creative process, but of the interpretive activities.

*Keyword:* instrumentalist approach to language, hermeneutic approach to language, understanding, conversation, truth, Logos, translation.

© DKE 2013

\*

<http://www.southeast-europe.org>  
[dke@southeast-europe.org](mailto:dke@southeast-europe.org)

---

\* The Author: *Mónika Péter* (1984, Bánffyhunyard). She is a PhD student at the *Kritikai argumentáció és filozófiai rekonstrukció Doctoral School* of Babeş-Bolyai University, Romania.