Submission 111

Title: From Functional to the Functorial Praxis and Dynamics of Language

Abstract:

The age of Information has promoted different types of academic disciplines needed to fit a radically transformed World. Fundamental underlying principles of life may remain invariant in essence but now appear in a quite different form in the use of language and data. There are added dimensions in the dynamic character of communications and the prevalence of the electronic medium. These have fresh interpretations of classical notions in space and time. They are global not just local and have moved on from closed to open systems.

Of course there is nothing entirely new and these fresh disciplines have long existed in other varied forms. Typology is as old as its narrative of the Garden of Eden but employed in more recent mundane times by Bertrand Russell to resolve the paradoxes of set theory. He was not successful and moved up to the higher level of ramified type theory but that too still proved inadequate. Types are now of great practical importance in the use of computers and currently a continuing study in data science. Computer code as language is a prime subject of functional linguistics, for example in Agile software like SCRUM with its interaction. Cybernetics the study of automated control and Semiotics on the significance of signs are new disciplines that have been around for a century or more and have taken on added importance. Currently newer notions have been identified like Anticipatory Systems and Legitimation Code Theory. All are allied to Functional Linguistics and none of these disciplines can be partitioned off one from another. Consequently any treatment relating to functional linguistics needs to be treated in the context of these other disciplines.

It is no news that we live in a holistic world. The issue is whether we lack the interdisciplinary competence to deal with its significance and how to react to it. On top of all this it is no coincidence that all the new disciplines relate to a very practical world demanding implementation. The standard linguistic classification of syntax, semantics and pragmatics covers the ground from formal structure to the practical use of language in any context whether real or artificial. Functional linguistics is concerned with penetrating the final boundary from semantics to praxis and concentrates on the dynamics of the context just outlined. It lies within the boundaries of the subject of communication.

Graphics and pictures are a rival mode of communication but the tongue remains supreme and has been advanced by the diversity of written textual formats to express the semantics of deeper expressions of thought. Rhetoric according to mediæval analysis consisted of the four major tropes of metaphor, metonymy, synecdoche, and irony. These are inherent to the most inscrutable phenomenon of language—humour.

The ambit of language is very wide. Beyond the obvious there is a whole spectrum of genres from the melody in music to the very different chemical language of plant sociolectism in the soil. What do all these have in common? It is adjointness. For this we need to rise from the functionality of models to the functorality of metaphysics. This paper explores formally the dynamics of language and communication in that context.