

The Development of Some Main Categories of Husserl's Phenomenology

Theses

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The text of the dissertation is based on the text of my book „Edmund Husserl”; it can be regarded as a modified version of that work. The aim of this version was to compare its original conception with some recently published research issues and if possible to correct the original to some extent. Analyzing recent literature showed that only a few works were published recently that aimed at grasping the categorical network of Husserlian thought. One of these works is the excellent book of Rudolf Bernet, Iso Kern and Eduard Marbach, *Edmund Husserl. Darstellung seines Denkens* (Hamburg, Felix Meiner, 1989) which continued the investigations started by Theodor de Boer's book *The Development of Husserl's Thought* (The Hague–Boston–London, Martinus Nijhoff, 1978) .

Another conceptual feature of the original version that it tried to display the categorical changes of the different periods of Husserl's thought or of phenomenology within the framework of external historical events the recent literature did not relevantly negotiate. This made it possible for us not to modify the internal structure of the original text and present the new version simply by adding footnotes and some bibliographical upgrades. However it seemed to be important to maintain or even strengthen a special emphasis of the original version as it turned special attention to the sources of Husserlian phenomenology in order to gain a living picture about the very aims of Husserl's thought and its theoretical motivations especially in connection with the works published before 1920.

The introductory chapter of the original text was omitted to give the text more coherency.

The dissertation treats the occurrence, modification, taking over and functional changes of categories in an order of appearance in Husserl's periods of career as follows:

- I. Schools. The influence of Brentano
- II. Privatdozent in Halle (1887-1901): in the footsteps of descriptive psychology; *Philosophy of Arithmetic*, *Logical Investigations*
- III. Professor in Göttingen (191-1916): The birth of transcendental phenomenology; The second edition of *Logical Investigations*
- IV. The Freiburg period – the late Husserl (1916-1938): intersubjective transcendental phenomenology; the phenomenology of life-world

Schools. The influence of Brentano

The thesis tries to find the most important biographical moments in the life of the young Husserl that turned him toward philosophy. After the years of “Realgymnasium” he begins his university studies in mathematics, physics and astronomy at the Leipzig University. Later his theoretical interests concentrate on mathematics, he makes his doctorate with a thesis on variation calculus. After finishing university he begins his teaching career as an assistant of the famous mathematician Weierstraß at the Berlin University. The great Vienna master Franz Brentano turns his early interest in philosophy to a serious aim of life. It is the influence of Brentano that makes Husserl sensitive to a method of philosoph-

ical analysis that seems to Husserl a really scientific one: the method of psychological analysis. At the end of the 19. century psychologism was one of the most popular trends in philosophy and Husserl fully attended this as methodological basis for his philosophical work. The dissertation tries to draw a picture of the whole of Brentano's philosophical efforts centering around the category of intentionality, a category which Husserl's own philosophy was built up on.

Pivatdozent in Halle (1887-1901): in the footsteps of descriptive psychology;
Philosophy of Arithmetic, Logical Investigations

Husserl starts his teaching activity in Halle with themes in the philosophy of mathematics. His habilitation thesis was written *On the Concept of Number* and his first larger publication treated the field of the *Philosophy of Arithmetic*. The book was dedicated to Franz Brentano and was defined as „logical and psychological investigations” by its subtitle. This definition marks the direction of development of the author which was fulfilled by his great work *Logical Investigations* published at the turn of the century.

Logical Investigations

Logical Investigations opens not only a new field of research in Husserl's philosophical work but starts a new methodology with his famous critique of psychologism. The dissertation depicts Husserl's antipsychologistic turn, his antipsychologistic arguments as part of Austrian neoplatonic philosophy harmonizing with the work of such Austrian thinkers as the philosopher of science and mathematician Bernard Bolzano and the physicist and philosopher Ernst Mach. The influence of the work on the contemporaries was immense so it almost became

an obstacle to the further development of its author. „I am still the author of the *Logical Investigations*” – complained Husserl at the end of his life in a letter to Marvin Farber.

Professor in Göttingen (191-1916): The birth of transcendental phenomenology; The second edition of Logical Investigations

Another reason of complaint for Husserl was that the wider public and a part of philosophers also read only the first volume of the investigations containing anti-psychologistic critique and ignored the second volume with the subjective side of epistemic processes. This one-sided reception of the work makes plausible a conception that regards Husserl's *Ideas Pertaining to a Pure Phenomenology and Phenomenological Philosophy* as a further turn. This was the conception of the original version of the dissertation and there is obviously no need to revise this view. No need because it emphasizes the distance of Husserl from Kantianism in epistemology, a feature that won't be characteristic for Husserl from this time on as he introduces in the new edition of *Logical Investigations* some categories – e. g. the notion of *pure ego* – the Kantian origin of which is obvious. Three main categories of Husserlian phenomenology namely that of the phenomenological reduction, that of the *epoche* and *Wesenschau* can be traced back to the period between the two editions. The basic law of epistemology is as Husserl puts it „the law of *epoche* concerning everything transcendent” [...] „*Phenomenological reduction attaches to each psychic experience a pure phenomenon that emphasizes the immanent essence of psychical experience distinctly as absolute given-ness*” At about the same time occurs the pair of category *existence–essence* to play much wider role in the history of modern philosophy.

The Freiburg period – the late Husserl (1916-1938): intersubjective transcendental phenomenology; the phenomenology of life-world

Three mature summarizing works of Husserl were published at this period of Husserl: *Formal and Transcendental Logic* (1929), *Cartesian Meditations* (1931) and the *Crisis of European Sciences and Transcendental Phenomenology* (1936). The first of them sums up the merely epistemological results of transcendental phenomenology and extends them to the field of intersubjective analysis; the second elaborates it and the third gives them historical dimension with introducing the notion of life-world.