
REPORT

Pavel Cmorej (1937 – 2025)



Pavel Cmorej, philosopher, logician, researcher and university professor, died on January 16, 2025. As one of the most prominent representatives and defenders of analytic philosophy in Slovakia, he contributed to its promotion and expansion in our geographical context. Cmorej excelled in his extraordinary scientific, pedagogical, and editorial activities. With his passing, our philosophical scene loses not only an original and inspiring thinker who stood out for his intellectual honesty and passion for thorough con-

ceptual analysis, but also an excellent teacher who was able to explain complex philosophical and logical issues in an accessible and witty manner.

Pavel Cmorej was born on January 1, 1937 in Spišské Podhradie. He completed his studies of philosophy and psychology at the Faculty of Arts, Comenius University Bratislava in 1961, and in 1967 he defended his Ph.D. thesis. Since 1963, he became a member of the faculty's Department of Logic and Methodology of Sciences. In the 1970s, during the period of so-called normalization, he was forced to end his teaching activities due to his civic stances. Similarly, he could publish the results of his scientific work only rarely, but mostly he could not do so under his own name. Despite this, he did not interrupt his intellectual work. In the late 1980s, he resumed



his teaching career. He received his habilitation in 1992 and became a professor of philosophy in 2001. Although he started working at the Institute of Philosophy of the Slovak Academy of Sciences in 1990, he lectured at several Slovak universities until 2003.

The expansion of analytic philosophy in our field was significantly helped by the founding of the journal *Organon F*. It was Pavel Cmorej who, in the early 1990s, was behind the idea of a Slovak and Czech-Slovak journal focusing on analytic philosophy. This project was quickly implemented, and the first issue of the journal was published as early as in 1994. Cmorej led *Organon F* as its editor-in-chief for more than a decade and made a significant contribution to establishing it as an internationally respected journal, which publishes research articles by prominent analytic philosopher from all over the world.

Cmorej's most significant research achievements have undoubtedly been in the fields of logical semantics, philosophy of language and philosophy of logic. He has authored four monographs, edited several books, and written more than a hundred research papers. His logical and philosophical views are most comprehensively presented in the books *On the Border of Logic and Philosophy* (2001) and *Analytical Philosophical Investigations* (2009). His book *Introduction to Logical Syntax and Semantics* (2001) is valuable from a pedagogical perspective.

One of the most important contributions is Cmorej's discovery of the existence of so-called empirical essential properties. This result was published in a series of research articles, namely "Essentialism versus Anti-Essentialism" (1988), "Empirical Essential Properties" (1996), and "Bare Individuals and Predication" (2006). The existence of empirical essential properties challenges radical anti-essentialist positions.

Cmorej's work in the field of the philosophy of language covers a wide range of topics. Most notably, he examined in detail several ways in which linguistic expressions relate to extralinguistic objects and some of the ways in which speakers identify objects by using expressions (most notably, in "Denotation and Reference" (1998), "Reference, Identification, and Intentional Acts" (2000), "What Do Linguistic Signs Denote?" (2000), "Usage, Mode of Use and Meaning of Linguistic Expressions" (2004), "On the Nature of Intentional Reference" (2005), etc.). He also developed intriguing

views regarding linguistic signs (especially in “On the Explication of the Concept of a Linguistic Sign” (1985)) and the distinction between expressions and semi-expressions (in “Semi-Expressions and Expressions” (2005)). Cmorej also connected problems from the philosophy of language with difficult questions concerning the nature of objects and their existence (for example, “Towards the Concepts of Identification” (2008), “From Descriptions to Their Referents” (2013), “Possible Individuals and Possibilities” (2015)).

Cmorej was a keen champion of intensional logic and semantics. In a series of articles, he contributed to the refinement of the conceptual apparatus of the Transparent Intensional Logic (TIL), which currently represents one of the most complex semantic approaches to natural language (for example, “‘Paradoxes’ of Intensional Logic” (1989), “Temporal Semantics and Speech Acts” (1990), and “On the Explication of Some Meanings in TIL” (2000)). Cmorej also widely contributed to other intensional and non-classical logics (for example, “Synonymity and Extensional Isomorphism” (1969), “Some Problems of the Synonymy of Language Expressions” (1970), “Three-Valued Epistemic Logic” (1986), “Unverifiable and Unfalsifiable Empirical Propositions” (1988)).

One of the most provocative papers in the whole Cmorej’s output – namely “The Development of Concepts” (1990) and “Unhappy Consequences of the Developmental Understanding of Concepts” (1990) – deal with the notion of concept. By developing a series of ingenious arguments, he demonstrated that concepts are static abstract entities that do not undertake any changes. Debates over this issue belong to the most interesting in Slovak logic and analytic philosophy.

An interesting part of Cmorej’s research concerns some of the key figures in logic and analytic philosophy. He addressed the philosophy of early Ludwig Wittgenstein in the studies “Objects and States of Affairs in the Metaphysics of Wittgenstein’s *Tractatus*” (1989) and “On the First Sentences of Wittgenstein’s *Tractatus*” (1999). He discussed some aspects of Frege’s work in the article “On Frege’s Theory of Concepts” (2000), and elaborated on Gödel’s philosophy in “Gödel’s Proof of the Existence of God and the Set-Theoretical Understanding of Properties” (1996). The results of his extensive research into the history of logic, scientific methodology, and

analytic philosophy in Slovakia were mainly published in two edited books in 2002 and 2003.

Through his research and teaching activities, which Pavel Cmorej successfully pursued for more than half a century, he shaped several philosophical fields, including philosophical logic, philosophy of language, semantic analysis of natural language, analytic metaphysics, and formal epistemology. On this basis, he managed to build his own school of analytic philosophy. He influenced the academic careers of several of his students and his work inspired many of his colleagues. As a brilliant debater, he saw discussion as a valuable tool for developing philosophical thought. He enjoyed engaging in polemics on diverse philosophical and logical topics, many of which drew on his original philosophical insights. Without his work, Slovak philosophy would be greatly impoverished.

Not only as a remarkable thinker, but also as a person characterized by valuable human qualities, Pavel Cmorej deserves lasting respect and admiration.

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