

## Mikołaj Rudnicki's (1881-1978) not-so-recent ideas

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The paper concentrates on Rudnicki's (1912) concept of the "semasiological meaning [importance] of segments (orig. *die semasiologische Bedeutung des Lautes*).

Since segments distinguish words, the semasiological importance of a segment depends - among other things – on the number of words it distinguishes: the more words it distinguishes, the higher its semasiological importance and, consequently, higher its "recognitive value" (orig. *die Erkennbarkeit des Lautes*).

Segments that occur in a small number of oppositions, i.e., segments whose functional load is low, tend to disappear. Rudnicki formulated his law (principle) twenty years before Jakobson (1931).

The recognitive value of segments is constant and it is common to all the speakers of a given language., i.e., the speakers have social language consciousness, apart from language consciousness of individual speakers. For Rudnicki language was not only a psychological phenomenon but also a social phenomenon and this idea was expressed a couple of years before the publication of *Cours de linguistique generale*.

Mikołaj Rudnicki laid the foundations of <The Poznań School of Structural Linguistics> (Awedyk and Hamans 1992; Bańczerowski 2001).

### Bibliography

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