

The work is divided into two quite heterogeneous parts. First part deals with Schleiermacher's concept of hermeneutics. The character of this part is more likely interpretative. The second part of the work is conceived as brief summary of the basic branches of 20th Century hermeneutics. It should only briefly outline what direction took the Schleiermacher's idea of the creation of general interpretation method. The second part is meant to be only a kind of addition to the first fundamental part. That is the reason why both parts are of different length (the first being significantly longer) and why the extent of investigation of each subject is of different intensity (the second being rather superficial).

Main part of the work tries to show Schleiermacher's concept of interpretation. According to him the interpretation is not primarily concerned with text but speech. Speech is in his point of view identical with thought, text being only one form of the speech. General hermeneutics should be first of all concerned with search for understanding the other, finding the sense respectively. Further, Schleiermacher tries to show our relation to the world as primarily happening through this speech and what more, the world being shaped by our own speech (thought).

Mainly this theoretical philosophical extent of his hermeneutics is further advanced by modern philosophers, though Schleiermacher himself provides us with the concrete application of the rules of general hermeneutics while interpreting as well. Practical part of his hermeneutic theory is further advanced more in modern biblical hermeneutics. Basic outline of both main branches of hermeneutics (the philosophical and the biblical) is given in the second part.