

Abstract

This paper tries to provide an interpretation of the concept of culture in the work of one of German Enlightenment's most versatile personalities: Johann Gottfried Herder. The emphasis will be placed on this concept within the framework of a new interpretation of the historicity and essence of language as a medium of knowledge, understanding and communication, leading towards an examination of Herder's contribution to the philosophy of language and processuality as the basis of a project of an universal, but immanently historical anthropology. Furthermore, we will introduce Herder's integration of the enlightened rationality and classical metaphysics as expressed in his aesthetics and poetry. We also will reconstruct the foundations and future influence of Herder's linking of universalist humanism with the new awareness of the national and social determination of being. Namely, being as something actively and freely appropriated in an integrated manner that is however not arbitrary.

Key words: Herder, Enlightenment, culture, philosophy of language