

Summary

The Uncertainty of the Phenomenon. Phenomenology in the Horizons of Modernity

The Uncertainty of the Phenomenon. Phenomenology in the Horizons of Modernity is a book showing the premises of the emergence of one of the new paradigms of phenomenology. The paradigm is a far-reaching deviation and even a denial of the essential tenets of phenomenology in its classical version, which set itself the task of developing the conditions of cognitive certainty and reliability. Husserl's transcendental realism and his notion of eidetic reduction aimed to show a pure phenomenon, i.e. sought what retained its identity, its spiritual unity in spite of differing historical conditions of appearing and in spite of their empirical or existential entanglements. The post-Heideggerian paradigm of practising phenomenology shown in the book and represented by such philosophers as Patočka, Merleau-Ponty, Gadamer, Ricoeur, Barbaras, Dufrenne, Maldiney, Escoubas, Levinas, Lyotard et al., formulates the objectives of this philosophy and places emphases differently. These philosophers no longer share the hope that the way of the liberation of European reason from practical, mythical and world entanglements, prepared by Descartes, Kant, classical German philosophy until Husserl, leads the modern subject to cognitive, ontological and existential certainty. The phenomenology evoked in this book crashes the universal claims of reason with what transcends its limits: finality, uncertainty, fragility, pluralism, unpredictability of modern experiences. It is the phenomenology which – against Husserl's transcendental idealism – does not seek to bring out the invariant essence of the appearing thing, but shows the uncertainty

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and fragility of life experiences of modern man. Therefore, it can be considered a specific, philosophical insight into the state of late-modern experiences described above. Modern phenomenology touches on the problem of horizons of modernity. With the critical approach of modernity it shares its ability to question and its need to confront philosophy with the phenomena of the modern world, which elude the post-Enlightenment universalization. It also prepares the tools which perfectly complement the analyses of modernity conducted by today's humanities. The texts, which the book comprises, have already been published separately. Collected here, they support the author's interpretation of one of the trends in modern phenomenology and the thesis that its presented paradigm forms part of the problems of late modernity.

Translated by Bożena Lesiuk