A group of prominent East European linguists pursued in-depth research in various fields of discourse analysis.

In May 2015, the Department of Discourse Studies of the Institute of Applied Linguistics of the University of Warsaw, held the international conference “GLOBE 2015: East – West European forum on discourse. Talking “discourse” in European linguistics: past, present and future. At the conference, four Round Tables presenting significant topics of discourse theory were conducted. The works of their participants constitute this book.

Round Table 1 represents the topic “Discourse as a center of integrative force.” In the opening article “Discourse viewed from a complex perspective: Causal-genetic approach as an integral discourse theory,” I. Oukhvanova reiterates the importance of the integral discourse theory developed by her in the realms of causal-genetic approach. Causal-genetic modelling of discourses uses methods of discourse portraying, reconstruction of different discourse pictures of reality. The technique of cognitive mapping involves representations of paradigmatic (systemic), axiological (hierarchy) and syntagmatic (processing) parameters as steps of causal genetic approach.

This approach proved to be able to achieve significant results in the spheres of discourse of elite media, discourse of lobbying, discourse of integration, discourse of migrants, discourse of confrontation, political leadership discourse and developed into one of the prominent methodology of discourse analysis.

The article of Yu. Bekreyeva “Basics of the integrated concept of meaning: Cognitive semantic perspective” concentrates on integrated concept of meaning in Slavic Linguistics linked with a reflexive theory of meaning, communicative model of meaning, and stochastic theory of meaning. A special attention is paid to the cognitive aspect of meaning, namely, iceberg theory, prototype theory, and meaning and metaphor.

The role of precedent texts in discourse theory are dwelt upon by I. Putikov (“Wittgenstein: Towards meaning and meaning construction”) and I. Ouchvanova (“Methodology of discourse analysis in the works of art criticism by Pavel Florensky”).

Correlation of integrative theories and applied linguistics are discussed in the articles “Transdisciplinary potential of semiotics for discourse studies: Political studies’ perspective” by I. Fomin, “Discourse analysis in translation studies’ perspective” by M. Soloviova and “Linguistics as a potential for ethic and cognitive equalities of diverse cultural groups: Ethnolinguistic and cognitive semantic perspectives” by N. Martyssiuk.

Round Table 2 “Discourse linguistics as a theoretical and applied field of knowledge” is presented by the articles by Ya. Kuzmina, H. Grmil-Tulutki, I. Oukhvanova, W. Czachur, A. Savich and D. Ostapenko. The following topics are discussed: (1) conceptual functional categories, such as interrelation of genre, text and discourse practice in enrichment by the categories of a cluster type (e. g. discourse picture of the world); (2) interrelation of discourse theory and meta-discourse.

The works of M. Karpinski and N. Badiyan-Siekierzycka focus on the methodological constraints of discourse within the applied nature of discourse studies.

Round Table 3 “Intercrossing of functional linguistics and discourse linguistics” is oriented towards description of the following matters: (1) various trends of functional linguistics and their projection on discourse studies (articles by G. Rozina and I. Karapetiana, B. Norman, O. Goritskaya, E. Diankevich); (2) functional syntax in the context of discourse linguistics (works of D. Bogushevich,
A. Savich, I. Ivanova-Mitsevich, A. Galagaeva, V. Zelenkov, I. Dmitrieva, I. Chuchkevich, A. Shevtsova, (3) points of intersection of functional stylistics and discourse studies (articles by S. Gaida, N. Klushina).

This Round Table generally addresses the problem of correlation of the conceptual systems of functional linguistics and larger units of their representation in discourse.

The topic of Round Table 4 is “Applied aspects of discourse linguistics: Case studies.” A special attention is focused on the following problems: (1) hybrid discourse (“Documentary discourse of the Highest Attestation Commission: Belarusian case study” by A. Savich, I. Oukhvanova, “Multistakeholder communication in the Estonian e-government system” by H. Shmagun); (2) global and national focus (“The Internet: Pandiscourse or discourse?” by O. Zernetska, P. Zernetski, “Worldview in ancient Slavic discourse: Introversion in ancient discourses” by A. Kozhinova, “Personification of language as a typical feature of Slavic mass media discourse” by T. Skrebtsova and “Political (and) electoral anti-campaign” by L. Janovec); (3) personal and community-bias discourses (“Bulat Okudzhava in the mirror of Polish translation discourse” by L. Mazur-Mezhva, “Musical discourse as a cultural manifesto: Verbal representations of the Hip Hop community’s identity” by A. Matyszczyk). In these articles, dynamic functional descriptions of different types of discourses are represented, aiming at identifying the changing world of social relations within time, space, and scale.

The development of discourse linguistics highlighted the necessity to develop new categories and new terms that show correlation of the cognition of language and reality within wider borders of language activity interactions in multiple fields of human life. The achievements of Eastern European discourse linguists which are partially presented in this book are apparently significant.