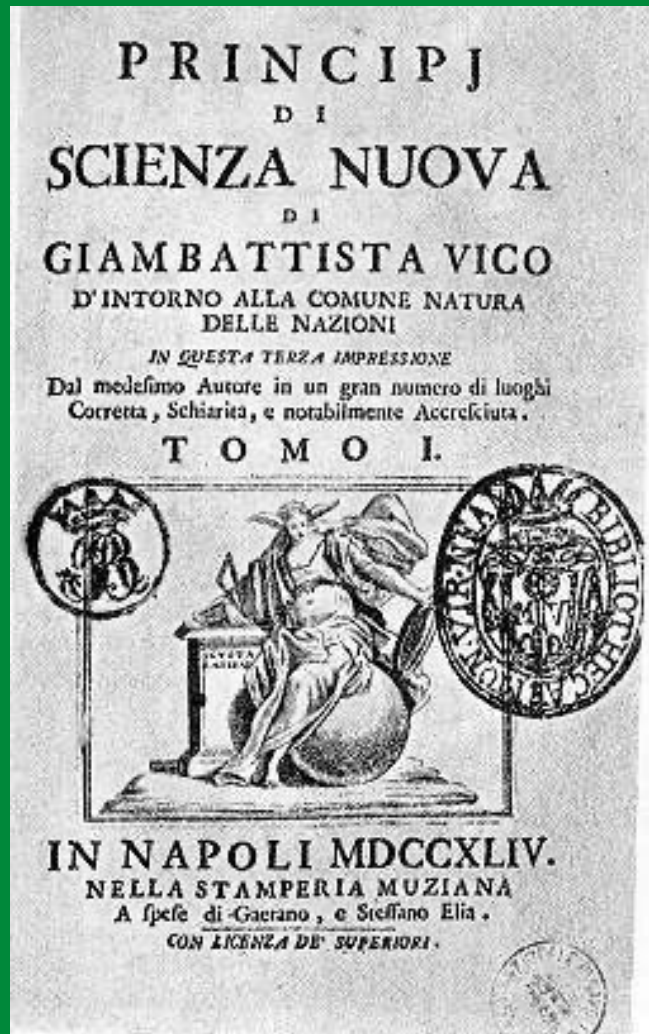


# The Discovery of Plurilingualism in Giambattista Vicos Sematology

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In G. Vico's "New Science", an understanding of multilingualism is found that integrates the pluricentric view of the world expressed in the diversity of languages into a cultural studies epistemology that refers to universal structures of its cognitions and epistemes.

## Approaches to multilingualism as pluricentric and cultural studies epistemology



- **Diversity and universality** as modification of the general in the particular. The diversity is due to the different habitats and approaches to life of the individual peoples. The multilingual world points to a “mental language common to all nations” for all bodies of knowledge „feasible in human social life.” ⇒ Concept of a compounded multilingualism for the social communication of the epistemes on the basis of “family resemblances” and “language games”.
- **Language and thought** are bound together in the semantic function of language, which is evident in a historical-anthropological perspective on the development of language and is not an arbitrary process. ⇒ Concept of a prototype semantics for storing and identifying the epistemes on the basis of conventions
- The verbalisation of the world is a **creative and imaginative, a poetic** act of metaphorisation that shows itself in narrative structures with a central place of **myth**. ⇒ Concept of a metaphor theory to describe the formation of the episteme on the basis of symbolic transmissions and “Symbolic Forms”

## → Multilingualism – a transversal

- Traversing the diversity of all cultural phenomena
- Returning to universal principles of the epistemes stored in a language

## → Multilingualism as a possibility for cultural understanding across language and cultural borders

## → Cultural phenomena

- cultural resources for coping with life
- part of a universal human culture
- traceable to common principles of coping with life and organisation of political-social coexistence

## Connections to François Jullien and Philippe Mengue from my thesis



- F. Jullien's call for multilingual dialogue for cultural understanding and shortening of cultural distances in the sense of compound multilingualism to open up new cultural resources
- P. Mengue's call for a European identity that requires an act of fabulism, since the intellectual exploration and appropriation of the world takes place narratively
- Referring back to my thesis: multilingualism opens up a pluricentric view of cultural epistemes – an idea that informs G. Vico's New Science



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**My appeal:  
Read Vico and  
you will be  
surprised!**



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