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PhD thesis summary: "Hans Blumenberg's technology metaphors"

The main theme of the dissertation is a metaphorology of technology, which lead us to the work of German philosopher Hans Blumenberg. The dissertation relies on four methodological and philosophical premises. First, the history of ideas can be and supposed to be studied with the help of metaphoric research. Such a condition means also that well-defined concepts are not the only vehicles of historical content. Pictorial matter of metaphor has a great impact on the course of history. Second, metaphors can be captured in a paradigmatic manner, i.e. they create systematic "structures". That does not mean though that paradigms are stable and invariable. On the contrary, their historical variability is the main substance of metaphorologic research. Third, insight into particular idea of technology can and must be achieved by research of metaphors of technology. The intension here is to show how the idea of technology is dependant upon metaphorical pictures. Thereby, the idea of technology seen as built out of concepts based on "pure" objective representations of outer reality is denied. Fourth, the author of the dissertation considers Modern Age as a legitimate period of history of technology. Thereby, the idea of secularization, i.e. the idea, which denies the Modern Age as a legitimate, separated, independent period of time in the course of human history, is repudiated. The idea of technology indeed is a new one, which needs to be considered as a part of great historical shift.

The goal of the dissertation is a description of those metaphors, which helped to appear the new quality of the idea of modern technology. Metaphors of truth, metaphors of possible or mechanical metaphors are researched in their conditioning function, their influence on appearance, generalization and legitimization of technology idea.

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