



# 明达语言 维度观 及其哲学关照

THE DIMENSION VIEW  
OF METALANGUAGE  
AND ITS PHILOSOPHICAL STAND

王爱华 著



四川大学出版社

王爱华 著

THE DIMENSION VIEW  
OF METALANGUAGE  
AND ITS PHILOSOPHICAL SEANR

及其哲学关照

明达语言  
维度观



四川大学出版社

责任编辑:曾 鑫  
责任校对:夏 宇  
封面设计:墨创文化  
责任印制:李 平

### 图书在版编目(CIP)数据

明达语言维度观及其哲学关照:英文 / 王爱华著.  
—成都:四川大学出版社, 2010. 5  
ISBN 978-7-5614-4855-7

I. ①明… II. ①王… III. ①英语—语言学—研究  
IV. ①H31

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (2010) 第 085704 号

### 书名 明达语言维度观及其哲学关照

---

著 者	王爱华
出 版	四川大学出版社
地 址	成都市一环路南一段 24 号 (610065)
发 行	四川大学出版社
书 号	ISBN 978-7-5614-4855-7
印 刷	郫县犀浦印刷厂
成品尺寸	148 mm×210 mm
印 张	10.75
字 数	268 千字
版 次	2010 年 7 月第 1 版
印 次	2010 年 7 月第 1 次印刷
定 价	22.00 元

---

版权所有◆侵权必究

◆读者邮购本书,请与本社发行科  
联系。电 话:85408408/85401670/  
85408023 邮政编码:610065

◆本社图书如有印装质量问题,请  
寄回出版社调换。

◆网址:www.scupress.com.cn

## 序

2003年之前的某一天，我约见有意报考我名下做博士候选人的王爱华。那时，我受石坚院长之邀正在四川大学外国语学院作短期讲学。我们在川大校园里用英语交谈了约半个小时，意在测试她的口语能力。我想，博士免不了有一天与外国同行进行学术交流，没有口头表达能力，学术平起平坐的交流就被自己取消了。通过这一谈，了解了她的身世，她家境贫寒，母亲瘫痪在床，父亲苦撑，还要靠她出力帮衬，我立刻对她刮目相看。我面前的这个女子，在艰难生计中求学，教过中学，读完硕士，在自己小家陡生变故时，于艰难竭蹶之中尚存深造之想。她明白地表示，报考博士不全是为了求得个人命运的转折，而是对学问有所追求。

此前，我们曾有一个电话交谈。她想报考语用学，我问她有没有报考语言哲学的勇气。那时，我说服她报考语言哲学的理由，尽量说得直观一点是，第一，将来，你写语用学的论文，只有语用学的圈内人读，如果你写语言哲学的文章，所有外语学者都会读，因为语言哲学是使语言学深刻起来的东西。第二，你现在所读的语用学的经典著作，几乎全部来自西方哲学家。这就是说，你从前读的书不是无用功，而是有用功。一个月以后，她同意改报语言哲学。

通过这次川大校园的交谈，她给我留下了深刻的印象：一个知道生活艰辛的人，一个有责任感、知道感恩与尽孝的女儿，一



个面对家庭变故有大气量、有自信心、有骨气的女子，一个读书量不少的刻苦攻读的学生，一个有学术兴趣的年轻学者（敢问时下有几个出于学术兴趣而不是学术功利做研究的学者），这就是她。后来我还看出她具有宁可别人负她而她不负人的忠厚，深恐占了别人便宜以至于不会保护自己。我还常常为这一点提醒她，为她忧虑。我还发现，她对于学术有着深深的敬畏。事实告诉我们，好人品向学品的正迁移与坏人品向学品的负迁移，都是不可避免的。2003年她成为我的学生之后，事实证明，爱华经历过的生活艰辛、秉性中的责任感、感恩与尽孝、做人的大气量、自信心、骨气与忠厚，都整体地正迁移到了做学问上。

四年间的孜孜矻矻，她完成了这部博士论文。这部论文的最初思想，是由我发表的“论工具性语言的扩展式”一文引发。她说，这篇文章使她相当兴奋、激动（请问：时下有几个读了一篇中意的论文就顿生激动的学生）。在酝酿她自己的这篇论文的过程中，创造性亮点与舍不得丢掉的包袱，共生共存。她不愿割舍太多的东西。我内心并不急，却装着冷冷地，说：“论文是你做的，决心还得你下。做过多的东西你完不成论文，完不成就完不成吧。”听说她在下面流泪了。过了一段时间，她终于决定要把那包袱丢掉。英文稿子完工以后，她将此文的主要贡献点向与我们交往颇多的爱尔兰哲学家 Maria Baghramian 谈起，哲学家回答，“你的创新点太多，Narrow down your points. Narrow down.”我听了暗暗高兴。一个论文难得的东西在于创造，创造有了，收窄的功夫毕竟不难啊。

更让人高兴与惊讶的是，2008—2009年她远去美国师从大名鼎鼎的语言哲学家 Searle，他让她帮助修改他的论文，鼓励她参加 seminar，让她享受那一堂堂的哲学课……她回国后平静地叙述这一切时，我有两点发现：第一，她对学术的敬畏一如既往；第二，她的读书量，她与外国同行交流的深度，已是我所不及了。在我的学生中，至少有包括她在内的四人或者更多一点，其读书的广度与深度都是目前的我所不及的了，尽管我依然如故

地手不释卷。我为他们高兴与自豪。风筝飞得高，飞得稳，远远高过地下的放飞人，是不是放飞人的本领呢？

爱华几次对我说（其他的学生也说过）：“与老师在一起的日子，是我们一生中最快乐的日子。”我们经常回忆起两件事。第一件事是2004年泸沽湖畔读古文。那是我们公认的我们一生最美好的记忆。我们针对外语界学人只知道外语不晓汉语尤其是不通中国古文的通病，决定要逐步补上这一课。那时我经常对他们说的一句话是，“读过中国古文，你再写东西，文章中就会有一股自然的磅礴气度”。我和七个学生刘利民、霍永寿、褚修伟及博士“后”（博士夫人）王颖、梁瑞清、梁爽及王爱华，面对湖水读古文，每个人从《古文观止》中选一篇向大家讲授。游湖划船、游景爬山、读古文、谈语言哲学在我国的前景并策划后来的行动。2009年12月19日在重庆召开第三届西语哲年会（副会长王寅先生操办），正式参会者居然有120多位，我喃喃地说“这可是哲学的会啊，哲学的会啊……”在场的学生马上想起了泸沽湖，那深邃而明彻的湖水。让我们经常想起的第二件事是，在广外大咖啡厅吃烤红薯事件。一个星期天我叫上褚修伟、梁瑞清、梁爽与王爱华，共同欣赏章诒和写的《往事并不如烟》的几个段落，重点了解书中知识分子的命运与品格。轻言细语交谈以后，我们正要把各自带来的食物拿出来分享时，服务员干涉我们，说不应该自带食品，我反驳说，你们为何事先不公告？那个服务员无话可说，大概是觉得这个带头吃烤红薯的灰白头发人，来头不小，是个博导。出店以后，我们哈哈大笑了一番。那一次，我们是做成了一件大事：证明做西方语言哲学的中国学人完全可以实现中西合璧，对地道的中国吃法——烤红薯——有先天的“优先选择倾向”（一个语言哲学术语）。

2005年末至2006年全年，我颈椎病爆发，头晕，颈椎不能自由转动，任何一个身姿都不能维持几分钟以上，痛不欲生。仍然在校的三个学生梁瑞清、王爱华与梁爽在病床前伺奉，犹如子女对父亲。爱华经常上网查找治病的办法，为我作心理治疗。她



找了一个会做放松功的中医学院教授，几次押着我、督促我去学，果然起了大作用。无论在国内还是在海外，爱华直到现在仍然不忘提醒我，不要中辍放松功。记得大病刚有好转，我便赴北京主持了第一届西语哲研讨会暨第二届西语哲培训班，由于脑部供血不足，走起路来还是深一脚，浅一脚，摇摇晃晃的，每一步都有学生和我的夫人在场陪同。我终于度过了一个重要的生命危险期，凭我的心理素质与身体素质，坦白地说，都不足以自度苦海。禅宗的禅师与弟子之间的关系是：“醒时自度，迷时师度”。我经历的这一次苦海，不是师度生，而是生度师了。后来每忆及此事，眼睛总是一片潮润。

我常说，王爱华不是那种才华横溢的才，可一个东西到她手里，弄去弄来，总是能发现一些新东西。爱华的才，深藏于低调平实中。她的书中描写了一种 mangrove effects，即红树林效应：红树林的形成，不是海边水域里原先就有一块泥沙湿地，能够固住红树林的根根须须，再形成一大片红树林，而是原来只有少许的根根须须在海水里漂荡，是它们固住了流过的泥沙，越固越多，形成了一小片一小片泥沙块，这些一小片一小片泥沙块，又联辍成更大的湿地，最后形成了大片的红树林。爱华的才，就像是一些先漂流在海边水域里的不起眼的漂荡的根根须须，可是它不失时机地抓住了过往的一切泥沙，慢慢地垒成能养活自己这片红树林的基地。

如果我们的才不能横流遍地，也要让它慢慢萌发出一片灿烂生机。这便是爱华及其书给我这个读者的启示。

钱冠连

2010年3月23日

于广东外语外贸大学白云山下冬收斋



## 前 言

我的博士论文完成于 2007 年 4 月，已时隔三年了。这三年期间，我曾将论文递交给爱尔兰都柏林大学的 Maria Baghramian 和美国加州大学伯利克分校的 John Searle 请教和交流。他们对论文的思想给予了肯定，也提出了一些中肯的建议。针对他们的建议，我对论文做了部分调整和修改。在将该论文作为专著出版之际，再来审视它，仍不乏兴奋和激动。

明达语言，即预设或谈论语言的语言，是个古老的话题。但一直以来，哲学家将其视为语言的非常规使用，或是语言使用的一个特例，而语言学家看到了明达语言在语言使用中的普遍性，但未能给予系统论证。本书在前人研究的基础上，提出并系统地论证了明达语言维度观，主张明达语言是语言、言语和心智的不可分的维度。根据这一维度观，我们重新审视了语言与心智的关系、语言不完备性、语言与实在的关系等三个重要的哲学论题，提出了心智具有语言性、明达语言与语言不完备性的关系具有相互依赖辩证统一性、实在具有建构性等重要观点。

本课题研究属于语言哲学，但其思想的理论支撑却是跨学科的，除了语言哲学外，还吸取了心智哲学、语言学、心理语言学等学科的研究成果。全书的论证也具有跨学科性，因此适合于从事语言哲学、语言学、心智哲学、心理语言等研究的专家、学者、研究生和博士生，及相关领域的爱好者阅读或参考。





本书用英文完成。为了让读者更好地理解全书的要义，在英文前增加了 5 万字的中文导论。读者可以先读中文导论，再读英文。另外，读者最好按章节顺序读全书，特别是第 6 章，必须是读完了前面的第 3、4、5 章后再读，因为我们是在前面三章所阐明的明达语言维度观的基础上来论证语言与实在的关系的。

本书的完成得益于很多人的帮助，详见后文的 Acknowledgements。在此还要感谢电子科大外国语学院和学院院长张文鹏教授，在我读博期间给予了全方位支撑，并感谢学院对本书的经济资助。特别要感谢的是四川大学出版社曾鑫编辑的热忱、耐心和帮助，才使本书的出版得以如此顺利。

## Acknowledgements

Completing this dissertation has taken dedication, commitment, and selfless effort of many people to whom I would like to express my thanks.

My deepest and heart felt gratitude goes first and foremost to my supervisor, Professor Qian Guanlian (钱冠连). He has walked me along all the stages of the writing of this essay, which was first motivated by one of his published articles about metalanguage. In order for me to carry out a satisfying work, he has given me numerous opportunities of long talks, each talk having brought me a lot of wisdom, valuable ideas and instructions which have been soaked into my research and fashioned it into the present state in many respects. It took him a lot of effort and time to revise my entire paper, with each chapter and each page being thickly dotted by correcting words, putting forward some suggestions, giving comments and sagacious sentences. The influence of four years' stay with him has surely gone far beyond the shaping of the dissertation. He is the first professor who has planted the seeds of philosophical thinking in my mind. The scene when he talked with me, as an illiterate person in philosophy then, about whether I would take philosophy or pragmatics as my major remains fresh for ever in my memory. He advised me to study



philosophy, saying that it would benefit me a lot all my life. After four years of hard work, I firmly believe that what he said is true. Fortunately, he has set me on the thorny but rewarding path to the philosophy of language. It is this well-beloved supervisor of mine who has been encouraging me, enlightening me, whipping me and dragging me ahead to where I am. Whenever he completes a paper, whenever he comes up with a brilliant idea about philosophy, pragmatics or even research methodology and whenever he chances upon a good article, he would share it with us students. It is through these valuable trainings that I have grasped, have been interested in, and arrested by, his innovative spirit, meticulous and upright scholarship, modesty and kindness. His meditation on the importance of innovation in research work and on the importance of modesty in personality will never fail to make me sensitive to any dangerous sign that would prevent me as a philosophical beginner from becoming a true scholar. For all this, my veracious thanks and love to my dear, fatherly teacher go far beyond any expression of gratitude a student could find in his vocabulary.

My sincerely-felt thanks should go to Professor Chen Jiaying (陈嘉映, East China Normal University), Professor Jiang Yi (江怡, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences), Professor Xu Youyu (徐友渔, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences), Professor Wang Bin (王宾, Sun Yat-sen University), Wang Xiaosheng (王晓升, Sun Yat-sen University), and Professor Du Jinbang (杜金榜, Guangdong University of Foreign Studies), who honored me by examining the proposal and outline of my dissertation and supplying valuable constructive suggestions.

I am particularly grateful to Professor Maria Baghramian at the

School of Philosophy, UCD Dublin, the editor of *International Journal of Philosophical Studies*, for the precious books she gave me, and for her valuable suggestions and thought-provoking questions about my treatise. My thanks also go to Charls Pearson for his generous provision of books as well as his suggestions about this study.

Friends who have cheered and sustained me while I worked on this dissertation include Dr. Peng Xuanwei (彭宣维, Beijing Normal University), who copied books for me from National Library of China and encouraged me quite often when I worked at this thesis; Dr. Huo Yongshou (霍永寿, Guangdong University of Foreign Studies), Mr. Chu Xiuwei (褚修伟, Southwest University), Mr. Liang Ruiqing (梁瑞清, Jinan University), Miss Liang Shuang (梁爽, Southwest University) and Dr. Liu Limin (刘利民, Sichun University), who enriched my campus and research life with brotherly-sisterly help and care, with generous provision of books and articles related to the theme of my study and with academic advice on my writing; Yu Pingfang (于屏方), Zhang Liping (张丽萍), Zhang Xinling (张新玲), and other classmates who helped me a great deal during the three years of my campus life.

I am particularly grateful to my best friends including Wu Yingfeng (吴应锋) and Zhao Caixiang (赵彩香) in USA, who always timely helped me whenever I asked, bought and sent the books and articles which I failed to get at home and encouraged me through emails or a long talk on telephone whenever I was depressed. My special thanks go to Zhou Pin (周频, Fudan University) for her generous help and provision of materials I need.

My heartfelt thanks also go to my supervisor's wife, Ms. Yang Zhongfen (杨忠芬), who has bolstered me with love, encouragements



and delicious food as I worked during the years of my campus life.

Lastly, but not the least, I should like to express my passionate affections to my family for their unwavering confidence, trust and support. It is my personal regret that my mother, who felt greatly proud of me, passed away a few days sharply after I arrived at Guangdong University of Foreign Languages in September, 2003, therefore, did not live to see my completed dissertation. I wish her a blessed place in the other world. During the four years of pursuing Ph. D. programme, busy life has deprived me of any chance to see my single father at a small and isolated village in East Chongqing. My brother Wang Zhiyong (王志勇), who worked in Wuhan two years ago, generously helped me by copying books in Wuhan University. My sister Wang Xiaoqin (王晓琴), often telephoned to encourage me. My husband Wu Guiliang (吴贵凉) supplied me with inimitable endurance, supportive enthusiasm, and abiding faith. He even helped me collect materials and provided many precious suggestions on my essay. Also, my sincere thanks should go to my husband's son Wu Xiaoye (吴骁也) at Berkeley University in Chicago for his generous provision of very important literatures which can only be available in his university. Had it not been for my family's love and support, I would not have made it.

# Contents

中文导论 .....	( 1 )
<b>Chapter 1 Introduction</b> .....	( 77 )
1.1 Introductory remarks .....	( 77 )
1.2 The object of this study .....	( 77 )
1.2.1 The etymology of ML .....	( 78 )
1.2.2 The language system .....	( 79 )
1.2.3 The incompleteness of the previous definitions of ML ...	( 81 )
1.2.4 The definition of ML for this study .....	( 81 )
1.2.5 The notions of OL and metalinguality .....	( 84 )
1.2.6 Some examples of ML phenomena .....	( 87 )
1.3 Rationale for the study .....	( 89 )
1.4 Objectives of this study .....	( 92 )
1.5 Some methodological preliminaries .....	( 92 )
1.6 The organization of the dissertation .....	( 94 )
<b>Chapter 2 Previous approaches to ML</b> .....	( 98 )
2.1 The philosophical approach .....	( 98 )
2.1.1 The reflexivity of language .....	( 98 )
2.1.2 The didymous relation between ML and OL .....	( 105 )
2.2 The linguistic approach .....	( 109 )
2.2.1 The pervasiveness of ML in language .....	( 109 )

2. 2. 2	Metalinguistic consciousness .....	( 116 )
2. 2. 3	ML's functioning .....	( 119 )
2. 3	Comments on the previous approaches to ML .....	( 123 )
2. 3. 1	Contributions .....	( 123 )
2. 3. 2	Limitations and inspirations .....	( 124 )
2. 4	Summary .....	( 126 )
<b>Chapter 3</b>	<b>The dimension view of ML .....</b>	<b>( 127 )</b>
3. 1	Introduction .....	( 127 )
3. 2	The most basic requirement of metalinguality .....	( 128 )
3. 2. 1	Russell's view on linguistic reflexivity .....	( 128 )
3. 2. 2	The most basic requirement of metalinguality .....	( 135 )
3. 3	Metalinguality in language .....	( 135 )
3. 3. 1	Metalinguality in linguistic sounds .....	( 136 )
3. 3. 2	Metalinguality in syntax .....	( 137 )
3. 3. 3	Metalinguality in words .....	( 139 )
3. 3. 4	The metalinguistic power embedded in a linguistic sign .....	( 142 )
3. 3. 5	Summary .....	( 148 )
3. 4	Metalinguality in speech .....	( 148 )
3. 4. 1	ML use as a dynamic process of metalinguistic operation .....	( 149 )
3. 4. 2	ML use displaying an explicit/implicit scale .....	( 151 )
3. 4. 3	ML use occurring in all language use .....	( 163 )
3. 4. 4	Summary .....	( 173 )
3. 5	Conclusion: language and speech anchored in metalinguality .....	( 174 )
3. 5. 1	Summary .....	( 174 )
3. 5. 2	Philosophical implications .....	( 176 )



<b>Chapter 4 Another argument for metalinguality in speech: ML's rescuing language from its imperfection</b>	(180)
4.1 Language imperfection	(181)
4.1.1 Incapacity of language	(181)
4.1.2 Fallacies, errors and indeterminacy in language	(188)
4.2 The philosophers' rescue of language from its imperfection	(195)
4.2.1 Rescuing imperfect language by Locke	(195)
4.2.2 Rescuing imperfect language by analytic philosophers	(197)
4.3 ML and self-rescue of language	(203)
4.3.1 ML as rescuing devices and the Hegelian dialectic	(203)
4.3.2 ML rescuing the linearity and one-dimension of language	(205)
4.3.3 ML rescuing the discreteness and contractedness of language	(207)
4.3.4 ML rescuing the finiteness of language	(208)
4.3.5 ML rescuing the indeterminacy of language	(211)
4.3.6 ML rescuing the fallacies and errors in language	(214)
4.4 Conclusion: both metalinguality and remediable language imperfection as necessary dimensions of language	(217)
4.4.1 Summary and conclusion	(217)
4.4.2 Philosophical implications	(218)
<b>Chapter 5 Metalinguality in human mind</b>	(220)
5.1 The notion of mind	(220)
5.2 The controversial issue about mind and language	(221)

5. 2. 1	The identity view .....	(221)
5. 2. 2	The separability view .....	(223)
5. 2. 3	The inseparability view .....	(229)
5. 2. 4	Conclusion .....	(232)
5. 3	Human mind is linguistic (1): biological arguments .....	(233)
5. 4	Human mind is linguistic (2): metaphysical arguments .....	(238)
5. 5	Do human beings think in mentalese or natural language? .....	(242)
5. 6	Metalinguistic link between mentalese and NL .....	(245)
5. 6. 1	Approximation between mentalese and NL .....	(245)
5. 6. 2	Metalinguality linking mentalese and NL .....	(247)
5. 7	How human mind works: metalinguistic operations on NL .....	(253)
5. 7. 1	The workplace hypothesis .....	(254)
5. 7. 2	The active-symbol hypothesis .....	(257)
5. 7. 3	The active-passive-symbol hypothesis .....	(259)
5. 7. 4	Summary .....	(262)
5. 8	Conclusion .....	(263)
5. 8. 1	Metalinguality of human mind .....	(263)
5. 8. 2	Philosophical implications .....	(264)
<b>Chapter 6</b>	<b>ML and reality .....</b>	<b>(266)</b>
6. 1	The notion of reality .....	(266)
6. 2	ML dimension empowering language to be constructive .....	(270)
6. 2. 1	What is constructivism? .....	(270)
6. 2. 2	The constructive power of ML dimension .....	(272)