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Objet : conférence donnée au colloque *Modalities: Semantics & Epistemology* le 3 décembre 2010.

Site du colloque : <http://poincare.univ-nancy2.fr/Presentation/?contentId=8273>

Déroulement de la mission

Résumé de la communication « Fictionality operators and the Artifactual theory » :

[Joint work with Shahid Rahman.] We take as our starting point Amie Thomasson's theory of fictional objects, according to which these objects are actually existing albeit abstract and artifactual entities. We formulate the crucial notions of historical and constant dependence in a two-dimensional modal framework of worlds and times, thereby elucidating the *ontological* question of the status of fictional objects. Having done this, however, does not as yet help us to clarify the *semantics* of fictional discourse. What is the semantics of sentences such as 'According to the story, Holmes is a detective'? We set out to formulate a modal semantics for fictionality operators such as 'According to the story...' – in particular a semantics compatible with the view on fictional entities put forward by the artifactual theory. Using the idea to treat fictionality operators explicitly as modal operators – the semantics of which is determined by the interplay of the linguistic meaning of the story in question and the interpretive input of the reader – a good number of example sentences considered difficult to cope with in the literature turn out to receive an adequate analysis.

Des autres aspects de la mission :

J'avais l'occasion de rencontrer des collègues travaillant sur des thèmes liés à mes intérêts scientifiques.