LANGUAGE MONOGRAPHS

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LINGUISTIC SOCIETY OF AMERICA

EDITED BY

GEORGE MELVILLE BOLLING
Ohio State University

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NUMBER VI SEPTEMBER, 1930

TOTALITY

BY

EDWARD SAPIR
Professor of Anthropology and General Linguistics
University of Chicago

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PREFATORY NOTE

The present paper on Totality is but the first instalment of a general work on language entitled *Foundations of language, logical and psychological, an approach to the international language problem,* by William E. Collinson, Mrs. Alice V. Morris, and Edward Sapir, edited by Mrs. Alice V. Morris. This work is sponsored by the International Auxiliary Language Association. In the preliminary work that has already been done by the three collaborators it soon became evident that many questions of a theoretical and analytical nature would have to be taken up that are of perhaps minor interest for the solution of purely practical problems. The work is intended as an aid toward such solution and for the eventual use of all those who are interested in fundamental problems of language structure, whether they wish to make practical applications of the insights secured to the international language problem or not. This and other papers that may follow from time to time are printed in this place because of the general linguistic interest which it is hoped they possess.

The nucleus of *Foundations of Language* consists of:

1. Introduction
2. Units of communication: the sentence
3. Fundamental types of referents: a natural basis for parts of speech
4. Fundamental relational notions and their linguistic expression
5. Notions of order
6. Indication
7. Quantity
8. Space
9. Time
10. Existents and their linguistic expression: the noun
11. Occurrents and their linguistic expression: the verb
12. Modes of existence and occurrence: the adjective and the adverb
13. Notional inventory of experience: its expression in nuclear words
14. Extension of the nuclear vocabulary: word-building
15. Expressiveness in language

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The present paper on Totality is merely a section of that part of *Foundations of Language* which deals with Quantity. Its place in the total scheme is indicated by the following table of contents of the eventual work on Quantity:

1. General Introduction to notion of quantity
   - (a) Notions applied to quantification
     - i. Affirmation and negation
     - ii. Identity and difference
     - iii. Indication
     - iv. Grading
     - v. Limiting: excluding and gauging
     - vi. Composite wholes: aggregation and distribution
     - vii. Ratio and proportion
     - viii. Normation
   - (b) Quantifiables
   - (c) Methods of quantification: numbering, measuring, and calculating
   - (d) Quantificates
2. Classification of quantifiers and quantificates
3. Types of quantification
   - a. Singularity and plurality
   - b. Number: cardinals and fractions
   - c. Totality
   - d. Unity
   - e. Duality
   - f. Quantification by partials
   - g. Indefinite quantification
4. Negation in quantitative expressions
5. Transfer of quantitative concepts

It is a great pleasure to record my indebtedness to Mrs. Morris for her unflagging zeal in the prosecution of the work, of which Totality is a harbinger, and for the extraordinarily acute criticism that she has exercised at its every stage. There is hardly a paragraph in the present paper which has not profited from her keen interest. To Professor Collinson too I am indebted for numerous and valuable suggestions.

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CONTENTS

Glossary of technical terms 6

I. Whole-part relation and types of totalized existents and of totality 7

II. Existents 'individualized' and 'indefinitely massed' and their totalization 11

III. Singularized totalizers 12

IV. Definite and indefinite totalizers 15

V. Direct and calculated totalizers 16

VI. The *all* of universal statements 17

VII. Evaluated totalizers 19

VIII. Modified totalizers 20

IX. Negated totalizers (with table) 21

X. Specialized totalizers 23

XI. Quantificates involving totalization 24

Table of totalizers 28

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