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Dispute over logistic between Łukasiewicz and Jakubisiak

Abstract

Augustyn Jakubisiak (1884-1945) was a Polish philosopher and theologian as well as a priest and social activist, working and publishing his important works in Paris, where he became associated with the Historical and Literary Society and the Polish Library. The sphere of his research included a wide range of problems, including ontology of time and space, free will of man or social and state issues. That was resulted from his interests, because apart from philosophy and theology. He also studied natural sciences.

He also took polemics with the then representatives of the Lwow-Warsaw school, especially Jan Łukasiewicz, whom he met personally. The dispute concerned the so-called logistics (mathematical logic) and its attitude to philosophy. The most important arguments were laid out especially in the following works: in the case of Jakubisiak in the book *From Scope to Content*, in the case of Łukasiewicz in the texts *Logistics and Philosophy* and *In the Defense of Logistics*.

Jakubisiak criticized logistics for her anti-metaphysical, anti-theological and anti-religious attitude, which is based on neo-positivist philosophy and leads to atheism in its consequences. He also claimed that one should focus on what is concrete, avoid idealization and abstraction (meaning the content of concepts not their scope). Łukasiewicz defended logistics claiming that he possesses his own methods based on intellect and it is an area of independent knowledge (but not completely detached) from philosophy, because he can consider the most important philosophical problems such as finiteness and infinity.

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Jan Woleński writes that this dispute, basically concerning the reduction of philosophy to the study of language (analytic philosophy), initiated one of the most important discussion on the relationship and relation of philosophy to logic. The debate was of great importance because it also concerned issues related to fundamental metaphysical issues (naturalism – supranaturalism, rationalism – irrationalism) and epistemological issues (realism – idealism, boundaries and structure of cognition). The paper will be a detailed discussion of the logistics dispute between Jan Łukasiewicz and Augustine Jakubisiak.

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Literature (selection)

a) primary sources: A. Jakubisiak, *Od zakresu do treści*, Warszawa 1936; J. Łukasiewicz, *Logistyka a filozofia*, "Przegląd Filozoficzny" 1936, 39, 115-131); J. Łukasiewicz, *W obronie logistyki*, [in:] *Myśl katolicka wobec logiki współczesnej*, ed. J. Łukasiewicz, Poznań 1937.

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