

La polémique entre scientifiques : une approche polyphonique

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Abstract: The present work deals with the functioning of polemics within scientific discourse. A global description of polemics between scientists is given which makes a distinction between a discursive dimension, *le* polémique, and an interactional dimension, *la* polémique, of this discursive phenomenon. This approach of polemics is a polyphonic one, explaining the plurivocity of polemical discourse by the co-presence of several voices in conflict. Its plurivocity being due to an internal dialogue between two antagonist discourses, polemics is a particular case of *dialogic polyphony*. Polemics between scientists is envisaged as a “dispute” between several minds committed to a dialogic search for truth with the aim of making a contribution to the advancement of knowledge. A particular interest is taken in what is at stake in a polemic between scientists. The various aspects of the matter are situated at three levels: the level of *scientific priority*, the level of *metalanguage* and the *conceptual* level.

Key words: polemics, scientific discourse, polyphony, dialogism