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**Paweł Okołowski** (Institute of Philosophy, University of Warsaw) / Stanisław Lem – thinking in words and thinking in images

Stanisław Lem (as an essayist and publicist) is known for his apodictical opinions, as well as for his criticism of many well-known writers and philosophers. It is well justified by the Lem's philosophy of language, which is close to Wittgenstein's views on language as stated in his *Tractatus*.

Language is not a man's creation (but that of the Cosmos, through the DNA), a man can only recognise it; it does not serve life, but it is mostly used for mapping the Cosmos. The common differentiation between thinking in words and images is misleading. Thoughts always come in sentences, whereas words, sounds or pictures are only the ways to project potential statements. There are two main ways of this projection: *discourse* and *artistry* (quoting from Lem). What occurs here is a feedback between the two: desire for truth drives the art, which in turn equips the science and philosophy with a language matter. Lem moved relative borders of human language in both areas, as well as the one related to the world cognitively accessible to us. However, as Wittgenstein, he was of opinion that there are also borders – both for the language and the world – which are impassable for humans.