Anna Dutkowska, "Rationality of nonlinguistic creatures in the context of the polemics between José Luis Bermúdez and Donald Davidson" – SUMMARY

The presented dissertation entitled "Rationality of nonlinguistic creatures in the context of the polemics between José Luis Bermúdez and Donald Davidson" is an attempt to critically reflect the problem of rationality of nonlinguistic creatures in connection with the polemics of philosophers representing two opposing positions regarding this problem: Jose Luis Bermúdez distinguishing rationality nonlinguistic creatures beings and Donald Davidson pointing to humans as the only beings to whom this attribute belongs. Bermúdez was one of the first contemporary philosophers to propose an innovative position on rationality. It is a peculiar alternative to the Davidson concept, where being rational is closely associated with having a propositional attitude, and thus with the agent having the concept of belief and language.

The dissertation consists of four chapters. The first chapter at the beginning raises the problem of marks of the mental, such as: perception, memory, propositional attitudes, concepts and categorization, emotions, intelligence, consciousness and self-awareness, theory of mind and language and communication, divided into four groups: cognitive representation processes, reasoning mechanisms, mechanisms of cognitive and behavioral self-control and language skills. Then, the issue of the mind in the process of evolution was taken up with the concept of categories of minds including non-human species, which is the Tower of Generate-and-Test. The chapter ends with a systematic analysis of rationality as one of the marks of the mental. The second chapter focuses on Donald Davidson's considerations regarding the rationality of living beings. The beginning of deliberations is Davidson's concept of rationality. Its justification is the intentional and holistic nature of thought, adopted by the philosopher. The extension of Davidson's position on rationality is a detailed analysis of the relationship between concepts and propositional attitudes. The third chapter is a presentation of Bermúdez's position. The chapter begins with reflections on the nature of thinking. Then the assumptions of the concept are presented, such as the semantics of success, the manner of presenting the object and the types of rationality. The summary of the chapter is an analysis of the levels of rationality distinguished by Bermúdez, supplemented by protologic. The last, fourth chapter of the dissertation is aimed at presenting the above philosophical positions concerning rationality in the context of contemporary research on mindreading. The ability to read perceptual, intentional, volitional and belief states of other individuals is the foundation of the functioning of organisms in the social environment. The presented research results, despite the ambiguities related to the aspect of reading behavior, suggest the occurrence of non-linguistic forms of propositional attitudes that speak for the postulate regarding the existence of simpler forms of rationality, which was put by Bermúdez.