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Vortrag

(Neo-)Latin as a meta-language

von

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einzuladen.*

Since the end of the 17th century, when the vernacular languages already prevailed, scholars defended their choice of Latin as a favourite language of translation by arguing that it was the most appropriate one to translate texts written in distant cultural milieus. Latin, as a ‚dead‘ language, was said to be capable (more than any modern language) of rendering the structures and meanings of texts from foreign cultures without sounding strange or ridiculous. So Latin was regarded not only as a useful lingua franca for the scientific community, but also as a meta-language, whose singular qualities are discussed explicitly. To denote this distinctive function of Latin, the term „epi-language“ seems even more suitable. In my paper, three examples taken from different languages are presented and analyzed.