In this brief paper an obscure paragraph from [O. Beran, “Střední Wittgenstein: cesta k fenomenologii a zase zpátky, P. Mervart, Červený Kostelec, 2013] is studied. The standard view holds that classic philosophy of language (Frege’s legacy) simplifies language, while the more recent approach to language represented by Quine’s and later Wittgenstein’s philosophy tries to capture all its richness. The author holds that the two approaches are not comparable “because both try to answer distinct questions, solve distinct problems”.

The paper has the following sections: (1) Motivation; (2) Frege’s legacy; (3) The golden age of semantics; (4) Analytic theories of language; (5) Two kinds of criticism; (6) Comments and summarization.

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