

Heidegger: Technology, Truth and Language

by

Catherine Frances Botha

Submitted in fulfilment of the requirements
for the degree of

Magister Artium (Philosophy)

in the

**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
PRETORIA**

2001

Supervisor: Mr M.J. Schoeman

Foreward

I extend a sincere thank you to the following persons and institutions for their assistance and support during the preparation of this study:

- My promoter Mr. M.J. Schoeman, for his critical eye, support and encouragement.
- The personnel of the Academic Information Service at the University of Pretoria, especially Mrs. Annemarie Bezuidenhout who was always willing to help.
- My family, and Andrew Salomon.
- I acknowledge and thank the National Research Foundation, as well as the University of Pretoria for their financial support.

The financial support of the National Research Foundation towards this research is hereby acknowledged. Opinions expressed and conclusions arrived at, are those of the author and are not necessarily to be attributed to the National Research Foundation.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1: AN INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Aims and Approaches
- 1.2 Did Heidegger 'turn' far enough?
- 1.3 Who was Martin Heidegger?
- 1.4 Heidegger and National Socialism
 - 1.4.1 Heidegger's Silence
 - 1.4.2 Heidegger the Nazi vs. Heidegger the philosopher
 - 1.4.3 Is the Heidegger 'affair' a philosophically worthwhile question?
 - 1.4.4 Philosophy and Politics
- 1.5 Overview

CHAPTER 2: BEING AND DASEIN

- 2.1 Introduction
- 2.2 Being and Time: An Overview
- 2.3 Heidegger and Husserl
- 2.4 The Question of Being
- 2.5 Human Being as Dasein
- 2.6 Summary

CHAPTER 3: TRUTH

- 3.1 An Introduction to Heidegger's conception of Truth
- 3.2 Heidegger's Conception of Truth in *Being and Time* (§44)
- 3.3 Heidegger's Conception of Truth in *On the Essence of Truth*
- 3.4 Heidegger's Conception of Truth in *The Origin of the Work of Art*
- 3.5 Heidegger's Conception of Truth in *The Question Concerning Technology*
- 3.6 Heidegger's Conception of Truth in *On the Way to Language: The Nature of language*
- 3.7 Heidegger's Conception of Truth in *The End of Philosophy and the Task of Thinking*
- 3.8 Summary

CHAPTER 4: LANGUAGE

- 4.1 Introduction
- 4.2 What is Language?
- 4.3 Heidegger's ways to language
- 4.4 Language as interpretative discourse
- 4.5 Language as idle talk
- 4.6 Language as Saying
- 4.7 The Clearing (*Lichtung*)
- 4.8 The Greek Language

- 4.9 The Hermeneutic Project
- 4.10 Technology and Language
- 4.11 Truth and Language
- 4.12 Summary

CHAPTER 5: TECHNOLOGY

- 5.1 Technology and the Danger**
 - 5.1.1 What is Technology?
 - 5.1.2 Heidegger on Technology
 - 5.1.3 Technē
 - 5.1.4 Bestand (Standing reserve)
 - 5.1.5 Das Ge-stell (Enframing)
 - 5.1.6 Technology and Metaphysics
 - 5.1.7 Technology and Ontology
 - 5.1.8 The Danger
 - 5.1.9 Homelessness
 - 5.1.10 Heidegger's conception of freedom
 - 5.1.11 Science in the Heideggerian view

- 5.2 The Turning of Being and the Saving Power**
 - 5.2.1 *Gelassenheit*
 - 5.2.2 What about art?
 - 5.2.3 Science and technology in *Being and Time*
 - 5.2.4 Technology and Truth
 - 5.2.5 Technology and Language
 - 5.2.6 Summary

CHAPTER 6: CRITICAL EVALUATION AND CONCLUDING REMARKS

- 6.1 Being and the History of Being
- 6.2 Truth
- 6.3 Language
- 6.4 Technology
- 6.5 Gelassenheit
- 6.6 Technology and Ecology
- 6.7 Freedom
- 6.8 Ethics in the thought of Martin Heidegger
- 6.9 Truth and language in Heidegger's critique of Technology
- 6.10 Conclusions

BIBLIOGRAPHY