

Concepts, Transcendentals, and Modes of Imposition¹

The (Problematic) Intuition of Albert of Saxony

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Abstract: This paper explores some of Albert of Saxony's original reflections on the internal status of mental language and on imposition, which have so far received little scholarly attention. Departing from more rigid lines of interpretation, the author maintains that concepts can *ad placitum* acquire additional semantic functions beyond their natural signification. At the same time, he sets clear limits to the act of *impositio*, which apply across all levels of language: transcendental terms can never be re-instituted to signify something different. For all their novelty, Albert's insights display significant ambiguities and risk internal contradictions when compared with other aspects of his logical doctrine. This study seeks to overcome these challenges by uncovering the foundational assumptions of his approach and proposing conjectural refinements to achieve a more coherent and comprehensive semantic theory.

Keywords: Mental Language, Medieval Semantics, Modes of Imposition, Transcendentals, Albert of Saxony.