According to Kalmár, mathematics always stems from empirical facts and its justification is, at least in part, an empirical question. The idea that mathematics has empirical origins appears already in his first philosophical paper, *The Development of Mathematical Rigor from Intuition to Axiomatic Method* from 1942. By that time Kalmár’s view was influenced by Sándor Karácsony, a Hungarian linguist and educationist. Karácsony had his own version of a picture theory of language. In his view people represent everything by “inner pictures” and communication works in the following way: the aim of the speaker is to describe their “inner pictures” for the listener in a way that the listener can access the same “inner picture.” In Karácsony’s view, these “inner pictures” always stem from experience. For Kalmár, these “inner pictures,” originated in our experiences, are indispensable for mathematics. We use the pictures to “read off” the properties of mathematical concepts, not only on an intuitive level but even on the most abstract, axiomatic level. In my talk I will to explain Kalmár’s view in detail, touching upon Karácsony’s influence. (Received September 10, 2013)