

**13TH INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE
*THE EAST – THE WEST: A DIALOGUE OF LANGUAGES
AND CULTURES ON 10–11.06. 2021***

Convinced that only culture in its broadest shape manages to penetrate all boundaries, we attempt to actively participate in the co-creation of the cultural alliance between the East and West. For such purpose, Department of Modern Languages from Pomeranian University in Słupsk organized the 13th International Scientific Conference *The East – The West: A Dialogue of Languages and Cultures* on 10–11.06. 2021. The conference aimed to contribute to the continuing discussions between the East and the West. It is with great contentment that we note the growing popularity of our scientific initiative, the importance of which has been repeatedly reflected by the participation of outstanding representatives of the world of science from leading academic centers in Poland and abroad.

The opening session of the conference was addressed by 3 Keynote Talks. Prof. Galina Nefagina presented a speech entitled *Миссия литературы второй волны: взгляд Николая Ульянова*; Prof. Karol Sauerland gave a talk under the title *Od Canettiego do Agambena czyli o epidemii względnie pandemii*, while Prof. Joanna Rokita-Jaśkow introduced the Participants to the research conducted at the Pedagogical University of Krakow about multilingual learners.

There were 4 language forums divided into thematic sections. In the Russian language forum there were 13 Speakers, 4 of whom were from abroad (Kazakhstan, Moscow, Voronezh, Perm), 4 from Pomeranian University in Słupsk, and other Speakers representing various universities in Poland, such as Warszawa, Wrocław, Kielce and Białystok. In the German language forum there were also 13 Presenters; 5 from abroad, namely Freiburg, Berlin, Mainz, Budapest and Potsdam. The other Participants represented Universities in Warsaw, Rzeszów, Gdańsk, Częstochowa, Krakow, Poznań and Słupsk. The English speaking forum was divided into 3 sections: Linguistics, Literature, Culture and History. There were 2 Speakers from Norway, 2 from Spain, 7 from Pomeranian University in Słupsk, as well as Representatives of Universities in Katowice, Bydgoszcz, Lublin, Śląsk, Gdańsk, Łódź and Koszalin.

There were 5 Speakers in the ‘Western and Eastern Literature’ section and 5 Pomeranian University students who prepared their presentations about language and teaching. The very nature of plenary talks outlined the character of the conference

theme and highlighted the topics important to both the East and the West, i.e. literature in exile (Prof. Nefagina), post-pandemic reality (Prof. Karol Sauerland) and the issue of a globalized class environment and multilingualism (Prof. Joanna Rokita-Jaśkow).

Similar thematic tendencies were exemplified by the speakers' talks, with the main emphasis being put on multiculturalism, both in translation, second language learning, literature and linguistic changes. The shaping of new competences in students as well as the improvement of research tools in relation to multidimensionality was emphasized, among others, by Prof. Biedroń, Bawej and Magakian. Multiculturalism, migrations, as well as the relevance of understanding culture in the process of interpreting literature, history and translating texts were discussed, among others, by Prof. Jerzak, Prof. Breysach, Prof. Gawrońska-Pettersson and Dr. McNamara.

Moreover, any attempt to interpret reality, be it in a multicultural perspective or in the face of the changing world, is directly related to language. Deciphering the language seems all the more so important in the light of the current changes the world has recently undergone. Prof. Łukasik's corpus analysis of post-pandemic language change provided a broad overview of how the pandemic changed even the deeply-rooted formulaic expressions, whereas Prof. Stanulewicz provided a detailed scientific insight into translators' choices in rendering the lexeme *blue* on the basis of the selected classic novels. Russianists debated in the section devoted to philosophy, poetics, and the reception of Russian literature. Ten scientists from Poland and four from abroad: from Russia and Kazakhstan participated in the Russian forum. Various research topics appeared in the presentations of the speakers. They concerned, among other things, the poetics of Russian émigré literature, the prose of Svetlana Alexievich, the works of Alexander Marliński, and a look at the relations between Russia and the West in the collection of essays by Z. Zinnik. Interesting and current issues concerning the literature and the homosexual subculture in Russia, the work of the Russian writer Viktor Pielewin, and the psychoanalytic views on the literature of Russian modernism at the beginning of the 20th century were also presented. These speeches triggered a substantive and fruitful discussion.

The Germanic forum was once again a literary, linguistic, interdisciplinary, and often intercultural discourse. The broad subject matter of the presented speeches included the issues of cultural transfer at the beginning of the 20th century, whether in the literature of Russian symbolism or in the press, which to a large extent shaped German-Hungarian, German-Russian, and German-Polish relations. The research interests presented in the German studies forum included profiles of German writers and poets who are emotionally and biographically related not only to one cultural circle, such as, e.g., Nelly Sachs, Johannes Bobrowski, or Peter Handke. Multiculturalism and the related multifacetedness of human fates are also emphasized by contemporary theater (W. Mouawad). Linguistics and glottodidactic research also strongly emphasize the intercultural aspect of didactics and the importance of multilingualism in teaching a foreign language.

During the two-day session of the Germanic forum, there were literary references to historical events, mainly related to World War II, describing the topic of Polish

soldiers interned in Switzerland after the war, which had little to date in German-language literature, as well as symbolic implications related to the trauma of the Holocaust, leaving their mark in the bodily feeling of the next generations. Both the issues of imagology and the identity related to it and the category of strangeness were presented in the German-language literature for children and adolescents in the context of migration in the 21st century and the fate of childhood heroes outlined against it. Reflections on contemporary forms of literature in the times of the coronavirus pandemic currently prevailing in the world were illustrated on the example of the intermedia and intercultural experiment of presenting B. Brecht's "Mutter Courage" in the form of a Livestream.

The varied topics of the speeches of the Germanic forum created an excellent platform for discussion and a space for reflection on the relations between literature, culture, and didactics between the broadly understood East and West. The conference confirmed the necessity to transgress the literary, linguistic, and cultural studies field. Thus, the need to open up to new interdisciplinary and comparative research perspectives between the Orient and the Occident.

Above all, the *Dialogue of Languages and Cultures* brought about a number of discussions on the topical issues and undoubtedly marked its interdisciplinary nature.

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