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**PODKARPACKIE FORUM FILOLOGICZNE
SERIA: JEZYKOZNAWSTWO,
G.A. KLEPARSKI, R. KIELTYKA (EDS).
JAROSŁAW: WYDAWNICTWO PAŃSTWOWEJ WYŻSZEJ
SZKOŁY ZAWODOWEJ, 2010.**

In recent decades there have been many linguistic initiatives in the Subcarpathian region and – in particular – a number of new linguistic journals have been started at the University of Rzeszów, in particular in the *Department of English*. Worthy of note here are *Studia Anglica Resoviensia* edited by G.A. Kleparski and his colleagues; *In Medias Res* published by Promar International and edited by G.A. Kleparski and his colleagues; and since 2007 *Galicja English Teachings* yearly, edited by G.A. Kleparski and his fellow linguists, has been issued on a regular basis.

The volume reviewed here forms yet another development of recently taken initiatives, in that the papers collected within the canvas of the volume were earlier delivered at the first philological conference organized by *Podkarpackie Forum Filologiczne* (2010) in Jarosław. The volume contains over twenty papers authored in Polish, which altogether constitute a body of contributions of varying academic interests and linguistic relevance, all prefaced by Prof. Marek Stanisław and reviewed by two *University of Rzeszów* based scholars, that is Prof. Jadwiga Lizak and Prof. Kazimierz Ożóg.

To begin with let us make an attempt at analysing the contents of the individual papers, following the alphabetical order in which they are organised in the volume. To start with, P. Bąk in his article directs our attention to the German language, its specific character and some problems in the range of translation. The author discusses the practical dimension of some theoretical issues and the meaning of the descriptive approach to the language; that is the aspects which are often not (fully) appreciated either by learners or teachers. Another author that deals with difficulties of translation is J. Biskup in her article *Neologizmy w twórczości S.I. Witkiewicza w tłumaczeniu na język niemiecki*. The paper shows the problem of translation of Witkiewicz's neologisms and his original and

innovative writing style. All in all, the article aims at showing how the translator deals with difficulties with the intranslatability of certain items and tries to examine whether German is suitable for the innovative constructions of Witkacy.

The next two articles, authored by J. Boratyńska and R. Pytlik, are worth discussing together since they both analyse language transfer in the process of acquisition of German as L3 after English L2. And so, J. Boratyńska presents the aspects of negative and positive lexical transfer and provides numerous examples to prove the given hypotheses and to indicate the main source of the phenomenon investigated. Correspondingly, R. Pytlik in her *Rodzajnik niemiecki i przedimek angielski jako problem lingwistyczny dla Polaka – próba analizy kontrastywnej* compares the articles used in model German and English noun phrases and makes an attempt to investigate to what degree a Polish native speaker acquiring German as a second foreign language can be given adequate assistance from English (L2) while relying on their English competence and in which instances it is advisable to use caution. There is one more paper concerning the close relation between English and German. A. Buk (*Wspólne korzenie: o pokrewieństwie genetycznym języków germańskich na przykładzie określeń z dziedziny dendrologii*) makes a strong claim that the lexical resemblance of these two languages can be observed in almost every branch of vocabulary. In the paper the author presents such similarities on the basis of botanical names and narrows her analysis down to German and English terms from the field of dendrology.

For those readers who seek information on the language of media there are several papers that will make a good read. In her article *Kształt nagłówków prasowych* M. Dupel offers a review of selected press headlines and concentrates on the development of current tendencies in contemporary local press. The author pays attention to language games and other mechanisms used by the press to attract and encourage readers to buy local newspapers. At the same time, J. Kania in *Horoskop jako gatunek tekstu prasowego – wstęp do analizy porównawczej* focuses on horoscopes – a very popular type of text in contemporary press. The author presents a pilot study on horoscopes that deals with the topics they cover (mainly love and partnerships), and the ways of presenting them. A more detailed and extensive characterisation of contemporary language of the media is proposed by W. Ostafiński (*O odpowiedzialności za słowa w relacjach społecznych*). The author blames the media for the crisis of language in both the public and private spheres. The author pays attention to the abuse of the power of words: instrumentalisation and manipulation, with words as the main threats to proper interpersonal communication. Similarly, the strong, bilateral language-culture interface is discussed in K. Ożóg's article *Język jako fenomen kulturowy – kilka uwag o relacjach języka i kultury*.

Another group of articles are aimed at showing, on the basis of selected English, Polish and German examples, the nature of interaction between language and sex, perceived particularly in the aspect of sexual inequality finding its reflection in language. In his paper *Czy ta lepsza jest gorsza niż ten lepszy i dlaczego jest rektor, a nie ma rektorki* G.A. Kleparski makes an attempt to trace the outlines of the phenomenon of linguistic sexism. He makes an attempt to prove that terms for females are more likely to become pejorative and acquire sexual implications. Moreover, Kleparski confirms his earlier observations that almost all pejorative extensions that have appeared contain a certain element of socio-cultural background. An equally interesting discussion on language sexism and pejoration of women terms is proposed by B. Kochman-Haladyj in *Seksizm językowy jako jeden z mechanizmów dyskryminacji kobiet*. The author notices that language describing women is often vulgar and contemptuous and frequently refers to the sexual sphere.

Should readers be interested in the methodology of language teaching, the article by A. Szewel outlines the possibilities for English teachers to apply classics of rock music in teaching vocabulary, grammar and phonetics, as well as organise language and culture study projects enhancing students' skills. Yet another paper to be discussed here is *Rama 'Gra w karty' – zastosowanie modeli kognitywnych w opisie słownictwa* authored by A. Uberman. Having presented the description of the frame PLAYING CARDS, the author comes to the conclusion that they offer the opportunity of applying selected cognitive models in teaching vocabulary – instructions and descriptions.

All the papers sketched above are well-organised with clear and logical lines of argumentation with apparent mistakes limited to a few minor ones of punctuation. What is more, the majority of authors provide numerous examples to illustrate and support the proposed theses.

However, some of the papers seem to be more interesting and enjoyable to read than others. First of all, P. Cymbalista in his work *Od pastucha do programisty, czyli kognitywne spojrzenie na polisemiczne perypetie kowboja* makes an attempt at conducting a cognitive analysis of the changes in the meaning of the words *cowboy* and *kowboy* – its subsequent English loanword in Polish. The author aptly describes the semantic alterations, mainly pejoration of meaning but also cases of amelioration, all conditioned chiefly by the social or cultural properties of the given societies.

The next article titled *Kochający inaczej a proces eufemizacji na bazie języka angielskiego* by B. Duda deals with euphemisms, functions of euphemistic expressions and linguistic sources of their creation. Strictly speaking, the author makes an attempt to depict the nature of euphemisms used in English as a means of covering the taboo terms present in the conceptual domain SEXUAL ORIENTATION.

Another paper that immediately attracts the reader's attention is *Na pograniczu morfologii i semantyki* by R. Kieltyka. The contribution authored by this member of the *Rzeszów School of Diachronic Semantics* is devoted to the issue of the

linguistic picture of the so-called gender-specific asymmetries that concern the relationship between morphological categories and axiological load carried by them. On the basis of research the author proves the postulate put forward by other linguists according to which the image of gender in natural languages is asymmetrical in that it presents an unfavourable picture of females. Furthermore, the research study carried out here attempts to signal that the problem in hand is highly complex and it may concern such conceptual categories as, for example, TREES, FLOWERS, VEGETABLES, BIRDS or FISH – all of them pertaining to the linguistic picture of the world.

Last but not least, there is one more article that clearly stands out from the others, namely *Inność od kuchni (brytyjskiej)* by M. Kudła. The paper investigates the phenomenon of foodsemic ethnonymy; that is metaphorical or metonymic use of names of foodstuff to describe other nations. Ethnonyms and the application of foodsemy can be found in every culture and in every natural language; however, the terms themselves are closely connected to their cultural contexts. The author competently illustrates the mechanism discussed with a number of foodsemic ethnonyms referring to the inhabitants of the British Isles. At the same time, he demonstrates an impressive knowledge of the issues involved and deep command of the issues' cultural background.

On the other hand, one must point to certain contributions to the volume that stand out in a somewhat different way, either in their originality or novelty of linguistic facts. Such an example is the striking paper offered by E. Więclawska in *Staroangielskie lip: pilotażowe studium semantyczno-frazeologiczne*. The paper aims to present the complexity of semantics of the lexical unit *lip* in Old English in two basic dimensions. The author proposes an in-depth analysis of two selected senses, namely the semantic potential of the analysed lexical unit in its etymological and secondary senses, and points out the senses emerging from the relevant phraseological units.

At the same time, Bratko-Makaran in his paper reaches the climax of either scholarly meta-expertise or – what may be referred to as – forced originality. The author presents the status of so-called *easy-to-please* constructions in Old English and tries to prove that OE *to*-infinitives analysed as Prepositional Phrases may obtain various properties of *easy-to-please* constructions at that stage of language change. Although, I may pride myself on being a native speaker of Polish, I find it somewhat difficult to follow not only the main line of Bratko-Makaran's arguments, but also the terminological apparatus, and also the proposed solutions and conventions.

What appears from the analysis above is that the set of papers under scrutiny covers a wide range of subjects that are presented in a comprehensible and logical way and illustrated with pertinent and vivid examples. Moreover, this

volume gives readers a chance to come across novelty and originality in modern linguistic studies, especially in the most riveting and prominent papers, belonging to P. Cymbalista, B. Duda, R. Kieltyka and M. Kudła. What is more, one may hope to see yet another set of contributions of varying interests presented during subsequent philological conferences.

References:

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