
SLAVIC SECTION AT THE 21ST INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF LINGUISTS (ICL 2024)

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The language science, linguistics, first presented itself as an autonomous science in 1928, namely at *the 1st International Congress of Linguists* in The Hague. To the dynamic development of linguistics at that time Dutch linguists at the University of Nijmegen responded by convening the international congress. In advance, they had submitted six questions on general principles of linguistic research. The main task of item number 4 was to develop a method for a complete analysis of a given language, i.e. a method for language description. This was the occasion for the first public international performance of the Prague Linguistic Circle, in The Hague represented by Vilém Mathesius, Roman Jakobson, Nikolai Sergejevich Trubetzkoy and Sergei Iosifovich Kartsevski. Synchronic approach to linguistic phenomena, analytical comparison of languages regardless of their genetic (un)relatedness, consideration of the expressive needs of humans, and the consistent application of a functional approach were the main general attributes of their linguistic reasoning. It should be noted that function was not meant to be a relation in the mathematical sense, but rather a task.

During the first International Congress of Linguists in The Hague, Netherlands, *Comité International Permanent des Linguistes* (CIPL) was founded. It has organised *International Congresses of Linguists* (unofficially called as the World Congresses of Linguists) ever since, in collaboration with local hosts. International Congress of Linguists is organized once every five years as the meeting place par excel-

lence for international linguistics, where all areas and sub-disciplines of linguistics as well as interdisciplinary topics can be discussed. This is done through a number of plenary lectures presented by scholars who are specialists in their field, through separate sections devoted to particular branches of linguistics and focus streams related to special topics. For 2024 Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań has been selected as the hosting institution for the 21st International Congress of Linguists (ICL). The leitmotif of the 2024 Congress was: *Languages – Communities – Technologies*.

This year's congress featured a total of nine plenary lectures, 17 sessions, 12 focus streams, and 17 workshops. One of the seventeen specialized sections was the Slavic Languages section, chaired by Jadranka Gvozdanović from the University of Heidelberg. A total of 19 contributions by 23 linguists from 11 countries were selected for the section. Czech linguistics was represented here by Božena Bednaříková from Palacký University of Olomouc.

As the contributions and discussions in this section have shown, Slavic languages excel in marking deictic categories both in grammar and in discourse strategies that are highly sensitive to communicative settings. There are several key areas tied to deictic settings. As far as grammar is concerned, they are verbal tense and verbal aspect, mood and modality, and quantification, for pragmatics they are language ideology and language change, and for discourse they are othering in public mass media, and language critique as a sort of social critique.

Verbal tense, aspect and manner were the subject of papers by Olena Pchelintseva from Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz, Igor Dreer from Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Dmitri Sitchinava from University of Potsdam, Hana Twardowska from Adam Mickiewicz University of Poznań, and by Krystyna Bojałkowska from Nicolaus Copernicus University of Toruń. Quantification and uncertainty were addressed in the papers by Yehor Duma and Yoshiki from University of Tokyo and by Jim Hlavac from Monash University and Diana Stolac from University of Rijeka. The issues of grammaticality

and grammaticalization were also an important topic. Here we can mention the papers by Boban Krapejovski from University of Skopje, by Olga Steriopolo from Leibniz Centre of General Linguistics in Berlin, and by Jacek Witkoś from University of Poznań. An interesting corpus analysis of discourse markers was performed by Tora Hedin from Stockholm University.

Further inspiring contributions were made in the part devoted to pragmatics and discourse. This part was very diverse. From research on the language of contemporary teenagers (Przemysław Megger from University of Warsaw) through the linguistic affirmation of languages in the former Yugoslavia (Robert Greenberg from University of Newcastle and Motoki Nomachi from Hokkaido University, and also a paper by Tatiana Ganenkova from Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań) and an attempt to reconstruct the history of Slavs in the Balkans through toponomastics (Zoran Spasovski from University of Skopje), it led to questions about linguistic prescriptivism in the contemporary Slovak linguistic community (Gabriela Múcsková from Comenius University in Bratislava) or to language loyalty and language choice (Michał Głuszkowski from Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń). Two papers then attempted to link issues of word formation to potential manipulative techniques in political discourse (Thomas Samuelsson from Stockholm University) and media discourse (Božena Bednaříková from Palacký University of Olomouc).

In general, it can be said that the whole Slavic section dealt with two clusters:

- I. sociolinguistics – communication,
- II. grammar.

The question that was addressed at the final meeting after the end of the entire Slavic section, chaired by Jadranka Gvozdanović, was “what to do in the future, or what are the next challenges” in Slavic studies. After a very lively discussion, the participants agreed on the

use of digital methods in research, interdisciplinarity and research driven approach. Further discussions are planned to be held with the International Committee of Slavists.

