

## Translation Studies in Prešov: Facts and Figures

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### ABOUT THE INSTITUTE OF TRANSLATION AND INTERPRETING

Translation studies represent a relatively new discipline which has been quickly developing due to the universal use of translation. There are centres of translatology in Slovakia which have a specific research role and are reflected both in Slovakia and abroad (Universities at Bratislava, Nitra, Banská Bystrica, Prešov). Strong continuity is clearly seen thanks to the annual tradition of *Summer Schools of Translation* (Letná škola prekladu) that have been organized by Anton Popovič in Nitra's *Centre for Literary Communication and Experimental Methodology* (Kabinet literárnej komunikácie a experimentálnej metodiky) since the end of 1960s at the University in Nitra (see the section dedicated to the *Nitra Translation Studies Centre* in this issue, p. ).

Anton Popovič, a student of Czech and Slovak school of translation, and the Czech historian of literature and theorist in translation studies Jiří Levý, can be considered the founders of the Czechoslovak translatology. Jiří Levý was the main personality of the Czech tradition in the thinking about translation in the period from 1950 to the early 1970's. He considered literary translation to be equal to other genres of literature. His theory of translation was developed (*The Art of Translation*, 1963 and other works) as an interdisciplinary science applying knowledge from the theory of com-

munication, semiotics and statistics. His works were well known at big universities and by practical translating audience in Slovakia as well.

The Slovak translatology was based on the theories of both Russian formalism and Czechoslovak literary structuralism of the 1920s – 1940s. As it is generally known, the Czech structuralism was developed during the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, in the period between the two World Wars. It follows the tradition of Russian formalism as a sort of the discussing parallel and focuses its attention on the structure of the text. It interprets particular levels of the text (rhyme, rhythm, metaphors and other figures and tropes), as well as particular linguistic levels. Czech structuralists believed that changing one element of the text is followed by the change of the whole structure of the text. The main representatives of the Czech structuralism are Jan Mukařovský and Felix Vodička.

When we turn back to the *Summer Schools of Translation* in Slovakia we can say that they have been attended and lectured by most important Slovak theoreticians of translation, literary scholars and linguists: Anton Popovič, František Miko, Blahoslav Hečko, Ján Ferenčík, Ján Vilikovský, Dušan Slobodník, some of them translators themselves, as well as by other translators – Viera Hegerová, Otakar Kořínek, Vojtech Mihálik, Viliam Turčány and many more.

The undergraduates attending *Summer Schools of Translation* started developing the studies of translation, theory and criticism (let me mention especially those authors who are present in this issue, such as Ján Zambor, Anna Valcerová, Mária Kusá, Ján Štrasser and Peter Zajac, Branislav Hochel, Alojz Keníž, Edita Gromová, Libuša Vajdová). The very first graduates of the *Summer Schools of Translation* later started lecturing, publishing and establishing their own theoretical schools with their own students and followers.

### **THE PROGRAMME OF THE INSTITUTE OF TRANSLATION AND INTERPRETING**

Anna Valcerová and Ladislav Šimon are both considered to be the founders of Prešov translatology school, both of them being active in the field of translation theory, criticism and literary translation. They founded the *Institute of Translation and Interpreting* at the Faculty of Arts of Prešov University (Inštitút prekladateľstva a tlmočníctva Filozofická fakulta, Prešovská univerzita v Prešove) in 2005. The Institute received accreditation for all three degrees of university study: 1<sup>st</sup> – Bachelor's, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Master's and 3<sup>rd</sup> Ph.D. That means it can provide undergraduate and postgraduate translator and interpreter training in the BA (Bc.), MA (Mgr.) as well as PhD study programmes. A. Valcerová became a director of the *Institute of Translation and Interpreting* and since then she cooperates with the scholars, senior lecturers and linguists from other institutes of the Faculty and young graduates who already attended seminars and conferences organized by the Institute.

As the above list of scholars shows, the translation studies are developed by members of several institutes. Scholars at the Institute of English and American Studies focus on the translation of English poetry and fiction and translation of English legal texts in the EU institutions. The 2010/2011 academic year will be an opening year for the study of translation and interpreting at the Institute of English and American Studies which will

complete the process of establishing the Institute of Translation and Interpreting in all the languages necessary for the needs of the European Union Institutions.

The members of the Institute of Romance and Classical Philology concentrate on the translation of modern French and Spanish poetry and fiction, translation of legal and technical texts, interpreting, as well as the history of translation.

The members of the Institute of German Studies introduced to us the systems of translation studies at the universities in Austria (Graz, Vienna) and Germany (Heidelberg). The translation studies programme at our Institute was built upon the comparison with these similar systems of study.

The members of the Department of Russian Language, with whom we cooperate, have translated several classical and modern Russian authors. Other scholars at this Department specialize in translation of Russian technical and mass media texts, legal interpreting, as well as lingual-cultural and socio-cultural influences in the translation process.

The Institutes of Slovak Studies, General Linguistics and Media Studies participate in the preparation of our students as well. They provide a general background mainly in Slovak linguistics and general linguistics, which altogether represents one third of the subjects included into our program. We are proud to cooperate with renowned Slovak linguists and literary scholars.

As it has already been mentioned, the Institute of Translation and Interpreting was founded in the academic year 2004/2005, after the approval of a new study program in translation studies and interpreting. The team of lecturers has risen from the members of other Institutes (of Slovak, French, Spanish, German, Russian and Ukrainian studies) specializing in translation before the formation of the Institute. Following the membership of Slovakia in the European Union there emerged a need for translators and interpreters for the European Union institutions as well as a necessity to study the translation of legal and economic texts. The Institute therefore prepares future interpreters, translators of literature and technical texts, theoreticians, critics and historians in the field of translation studies.

The members of the Institute concentrate on theoretical issues of translation, translation history and criticism as well as interpreting issues. The literary disciplines which they focus on include theory of literary texts, interpretation of important works of world literature, genology, literary poetics, literary comparative studies and versology, all approached from a comparative point of view. Our students are acquainted with the study of particular language levels, namely orthography, orthophony, morphology, syntax, lexicology and lexicography, stylistics and rhetoric, general linguistics and sociolinguistics, mainly from a contrastive aspect. These linguistic disciplines are taught as part of the so called general background on bachelor's and master's levels within all language study programs in the field of translation and interpreting. Among other disciplines taught at the Institute of Translation and Interpreting as part of the so called "wider background subjects" are European international institutions, Slovak institutions, fundamentals of economy, information technology, Slovak history and culture.

The Institute supervises Ph.D. study in the academic programmes *translation studies and interpreting* and *theory and history of Slovak literature*. Since 2007 the Institute has obtained the right to appoint docents and professors in the above mentioned fields.

### **THE CONCEPT OF STUDIES AND TEACHING**

The original concept of translation and interpreting studies consists of a bilingual system of the study of a foreign language and the so called general background made up by both compulsory and optional translatology disciplines: theory and history of literary translation, theory of technical translation, didactics of translation and interpreting, and the translating practice. The Master's degree students can choose between the specialization either in the literary translation or the technical one. Their subjects then include the linguistic disciplines of their mother language (so called language A) and other disciplines according to the chosen specialization. In this sense all subjects in the so called compulsory core are alternating. A student must choose one of the subjects according to one's specialization – so both types of students, whether they concentrate on literary or technical translation, choose their own group of disciplines associated with their specialization. It is the so called Y model, which is implemented in translation studies programs at several universities abroad. General knowledge for both branches is provided by the disciplines of theory and history of literary translation, theory of technical translation, and didactics of translation and interpreting, which are all part of the final state exam.

The European Union institutions as well as other private companies in Slovakia and abroad prefer translators and interpreters with linguistic skills in more than one target language (languages B and C, etc.), mostly from the economic point of view. Interpreters must be trained as far as their interpreting and psycho-physical competence is concerned. Special rooms with interpreters' cabins were used at our faculty even before the founding of the Institute of Translation and Interpreting. The Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic has provided a grant to build the so called Centre of Excellence which will establish other specialized classrooms for simulation of conference translation and interpreting similar to the EU system. The project's leader is Prof. J. Sipko.

### **THE MAIN TOPICS OF RESEARCH**

All the members of the department are involved in research grants.

The concept of study at our Institute was the main research goal in one of our main projects carried out within the KEGA (an agency for funding the research projects) category *Conceptual Integration and Diversification of University Study*. The project was entitled *The Study Program for the Translation and Interpreting Disciplines, the Ph.D level*. Eventually, the project must have included all three degrees of study to form a complex system of related subjects and disciplines. Its outcome is introduced in the proceedings *Translation and Interpreting and Their Didactic Transformation (Preklad a tlmočenie a jeho didaktická transformácia)*, ed. A. Valcerová, Prešov, FF PU (Faculty of Arts of Prešov University) 2005. Within the research grants we organized an international conference *Relations and Connections in Translation (Vzťahy a súvislosti v preklade)* which resulted in the publishing of two volumes of proceedings: *Relations and Connections in Technical Translation (Vzťahy a súvislosti v odbornom preklade)* and *Relations and Connections in Literary Translation (Vzťahy a súvislosti v umeleckom preklade)*, both published by FF PU in 2007. This has meant the conclusion of the process of establishing the basic profile of the *Institute of Translation and*

*Interpreting* as an educational and research institution. The members of the Institute have attended several conferences in Slovakia as well as abroad which meant the acceptance of the *Institute of Translation and Interpreting* among other similar research and education centres specializing in the field of translatology.

The following are other projects the members of the Institute participate in:

1. Project: *Literature in Intercultural Relations (Literatúra v medzikultúrnych vzťahoch)* - the chief researcher: prof. PhDr. Anna Valcerová, CSc.

2. Project: *Conceptual Integration and Diversification of University Study*. The title of the project: *The Study Program for the Translation and Interpreting Disciplines, the PhD level*. (Obsahová integrácia a diverzifikácia vysokoškolského štúdia, systém tvorby nových študijných programov pre I., II., III. stupeň vysokoškolského vzdelávania. Ná-zov projektu: Študijný program pre odbor Prekladateľstvo a tlmočníctvo, III. stupeň).

3. Project: *Theory of a Literary Work (Teória literárneho diela)* – the chief researchers: Prof. PhDr. Viera Žemberová, CSc. – Prof. PhDr. Anna Valcerová, CSc.

4. Project: *Cultural Basis of Russian-Slovak and Slovak-Russian Comparisons in Contemporary Text*. (Kulturologická báza rusko-slovenských a slovensko-ruských porovnávaní v súčasnom texte.) – Doc. PhDr. Opalková Jarmila, CSc., a member of the research team.

5. Project: *Language of Truth and Lie*. (Jazyk pravdy a lži) – doc. PhDr. Opalková Jarmila, CSc – a member of the research team.

6. Project: *Theory of Interpreting*. (Teória tlmočenia) – doc. PhDr. Jarmila Opalková, CSc., the chief researcher

The Institute has also organized several conferences and published conference proceedings mentioned above.

### **THE STUDENTS WORKS AND THESIS**

There are approximately 200 students currently studying at our Institute in the 1st and 2nd degree of study (Bc and M.A.). Most of the students at the same time translate and interpret for different companies in Slovakia and abroad. There are about 30 both internal and external doctoral students currently studying at our Institute. So far 5 doctoral students have finished their studies with PHD. thesis. In their research they focus on translation of legal texts of European Union, as well as literary and tourist guide texts. They work as translators and/or scholars now.

The following list gives topics of Ph.D. theses accompanied with the names of students who have finished their doctoral studies at the Institute: *Translation of Guide Texts from Russian*.(Preklad sprievodcovských textov z ruštiny) by L. Harviľáková; *Translation Criticism of Modern English and Russian Prose* (Kritika prekladu modernej anglickej a ruskej prózy) by B. Baková; *Translations of Imaginative French Poetry of the 20th century* (Preklady imaginatívnej francúzskej poézie 20. storočia) by L. Jakubčáková; *Translation of B. H. Antonych 's Poetry into Slovak* (Preklad poézie B. H. Antonyča do slovenčiny) by V. Juričková; *Linguistic and Translatologic Analysis of Selected English Legal Texts in EU* (Lingvisticko-translatologická analýza vybraných anglických právnych textov EÚ) by K. Gibová.

**PROFILES****Anna Valcerová**[valcerov@unipo.sk](mailto:valcerov@unipo.sk)

Graduated from Slovak and Russian studies at the FF UPJŠ (now FF PU). In 1972 she became an assistant lecturer at the Faculty. She started publishing her poems, reviews and translations as a student in several well-known magazines (*Mladá tvorba*, *Romboid*, *Revue svetovej literatúry*). Her PhDr. thesis was called *Similarities and Differences* (*Podoby a odlišnosti*) and included studies and papers in translation criticism. She took courses of literary criticism and translation theory and criticism. Her CSc. degree thesis was led by the poet Viliam Turčány and was called *Relation of the Semantics and Form in the Translation of Poetry* (*Vzťah významu a tvaru v preklade poézie*, 1981). Her both habilitation thesis (1995) as well as inaugural lecture (2002) dealt with research in the field of translation theory. She has been a lecturer of Slovak language at a university abroad (Zagreb, Croatia) and an editor of the proceedings from the conferences she has organized. She has also lectured on world literature, Slovak literature as well as Czech literature, from a comparative point of view, and specialized in the field of comparative versology and translation theory and criticism. She has been a chief researcher in VEGA and KEGA research grants. She is an author of three poetry volumes, four monographs, more than 60 papers, several reviews, articles, and six book translations. Until 2005 she was a member of the Department of Slovak Language and Literature at FF UPJŠ (later FF PU), since 2005 she has been a director of the Institute of Translation and Interpreting of Faculty of Arts at PU in Prešov. She is a lecturer in the following subjects: world literature, Czech literature, comparative literary studies, theory of translation, translation criticism, comparative versology. Her grants are as follows: *Literature in Intercultural Relations* (*Literatúra v medzikultúrnych vzťahoch*), a chief researcher, and the *Conceptual Integration and Diversification of University Study*. The title of the project: *The Study Program for the Translation and Interpreting Disciplines, the PhD level* (mentioned above).

Anna Valcerová has authored four monographs, including the last one entitled *Hľadanie súvislostí v básnickom preklade* (*Looking for Relations in the Translation of Poetry*) which was reviewed in numerous journals specializing in literature, poetry and translation, as well as edited several proceedings and collective works.

**Jarmila Opalková**[jarmilaopalkova@yandex.ru](mailto:jarmilaopalkova@yandex.ru)

She is a graduate of Faculty of Arts of Rostov State University in the former Soviet Union. Her dissertation thesis was called *Semiotic Dimensions of Idioms Containing Zoonyms and their Russian-Slovak Comparison* (*Semiotická dvojrozmernosť frazeologizmov so zoonymami v rusko-slovenskom komparatívnom pláne*). Having finished a semester stay at the Institute of Translatology at the Faculty of Arts of Comenius University in Prague in 1997, she prepared a project of the translation-interpreting study of Russian language so that the translatology disciplines could be implemented into the study of Russian language and literature.

She took an active part in reconstruction of interpreting laboratory which now serves the needs for all the Faculty's Institutes. She is a member of the scientific re-

search team of the Centre of Excellence at FF PU, being a coordinator for consecutive and simultaneous interpreting and a consultant in the project aimed at establishing the lingual-cultural and interpreting-translating centre. The subjects she lectures on include contrastive lexicology and phraseology, theory of interpreting, technical translation, consecutive and simultaneous translation, and the practice of interpreting.

Her scientific research focuses on the field of linguistic aspects of translation. She has published two monographs: *Symbol in the Idiomatic Sign (Symbol vo frazeologickom znaku)* and *Translation as a Medium in the Intercultural Communication (Preklad ako mediácia interkultúrnej komunikácie)*. She is also an author of the academic book *Russian for Translators (Ruština pre prekladateľov)*.

### **Dana Petrusová**

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A graduate of English and German philology at FF PU in Prešov, she finished her Ph.D. at FF UK in Bratislava in 1988 in the field of theory and history of German literature, with a dissertation thesis on *Novels of Hermann Kant*. Her habilitation was finished in 2000 at FF PU in Prešov.

She has been a university lecturer at the Department of German, English and Romanic Philology in the field of German literature of the 20th century, German history and the culture of German speaking countries. She has prepared several lectures for the universities abroad (Wien, Bayreuth). At the Institute she currently lectures on the introduction to translatology, history of translation, literary comparative studies, translation criticism and practise of translation.

In her research she focuses on German literature of the 1960s up to the 1980s, more specifically on the literary work of Hermann Kant and Franz Fühmann.

The results of her research are summarized in her monograph *On the Poetics of Hermann Kant Novels* (1999) as well as in several papers: *Zu einigen Aspekten der Funktion des Erzählers und der epischen Gestalten im Roman Die Aula von Hermann Kant*, Užhorod, 1999, *Die Antikerezeption im Werk Franz Fühmanns*, Praha, 1981; *Funkcia času v románe Hermanna Kanta Der Aufenthalt (The Function of Time in Hermann Kant's novel Der Aufenthalt)*, Prešov, 1997). She was a chief-researcher of two VEGA projects in 2001 – 2008.

### **Lenka Jakubčáková**

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Lenka Jakubčáková works as a junior lecturer at the Institute since its founding, as well as at the Institute of Romance and Classical Philology. Her Ph.D. thesis was in the field of literary studies. In her work she concentrated on translation criticism, with the focus on the work of French poets Francis Jammes, Charles Péguy, Henri Michaux, Yves Bonnefoy. Her most important papers include: *Jammesova modlitba v slovenskom a českom preklade (Jammes's Prayer in Slovak and Czech Translation)*, *La prière et le langage de la poésie spirituelle de Péguy, La question d'adéquation et de transfert dans la traduction poétique, La prière de F. Jammes, K dielu a prekladom Yvesa Bonnefoya (On the Work and Translation of Y. Bonnefoya)*, *Analýza básne francúzskeho básnika F. Jammesa: Modlitba za milosť prísť do neba so somármí (Analysis of the*

*Poem by the French poet F. Jammes: A Prayer for the Mercy to Go to Heaven with Donkeys*), *Péguyho Saints Innocents v slovenskom preklade*. (*Péguy's Saints Innocents in Slovak translation*); *Les pays imaginaires dans l'oeuvre d'Henri Michaux*).

Her artistic activities include photographic exhibitions: *Viribus Unitis* and *In Separation* and her photographs were included in the book of essays on translation *Jedna báseň, dva jazyky. Eseje*. (*One Poem, Two Languages. Essays*, edited by Ján Gavura).

### **Miroslava Gavurová**

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In her qualification thesis she focused on the linguistic characteristics (*An abbreviation as a lexical unit*, 1999) as well as communicative aspect of abbreviations (*Communicative Analysis of Abbreviations*, 2003). As a Ph.D. student she concentrates on the research into linguistic and intercultural aspects of the translation of English essay into Slovak. In cooperation with J. Gavura she has translated several poetry volumes, children's books and fiction from English into Slovak language. Her translations of children's books include: BOND, M.: *Medvedík Paddington* (*Paddington Bear*, 2008); LOBEL, A.: *Kvak a Člup sú spolu*. (*Frog and Toad Together*, 2009).

*Translated by M. Gavurová*

## TRANSLATOLÓGIA V PREŠOVE: FAKTY A POSTAVY

**Štúdium prekladu v Prešove. Prešovská prekladateľská škola. Všeobecný základ. Teória. Dejiny a kritika prekladu. Vyučovanie prekladania. Jazykové špecializácie preklad odborných textov pre EÚ. Preklad právnych a ekonomických textov. Slovenský jazyk a kultúra. Výskum. Konferencie. Publikácie. Doktorandské štúdium.**

Autorka podáva vznik a stručný vývin Inštitútu prekladateľstva a tlmočníctva na Filozofickej fakulte Prešovskej univerzity. Štúdium prekladateľstva a tlmočníctva je postavené na systéme štúdia dvoch cudzích jazykov a spoločného základu. Spoločný základ tvoria: Teória a dejiny umeleckého prekladu, Teória odborného prekladu, Didaktika prekladu a tlmočenia, Kritika prekladu a Prekladateľská prax. Ďalej sú to disciplíny materinského jazyka, Európske inštitúcie, Slovenské inštitúcie, Základy práva, Základy ekonómie, Informačné technológie. Jazykové katedry vyučujú praktické zvládnutie jazykov B a C (kabínkový a tlmočnícky tréning, simulácia konferenčného prekladu a tlmočenia v podmienkach EÚ). Inštitút prekladateľstva a tlmočníctva zabezpečuje aj vzdelávanie doktorandov a okrem didaktických zreteľov sa sústreďuje aj na výskum prekladu. Počas štyroch rokov existencie inštitútu boli vyriešené štyri projekty VEGA a jeden projekt KEGA. Základnou orientáciou školy je kritika a teória prekladu so špecializáciou na konkrétne literárne žánre. Pracovníci Inštitútu pravidelne publikujú, prekladajú, tlmočia a zúčastňujú sa na konferenciách doma a v zahraničí.

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