

## **Report on “Emotion(s)” PASE 2015 International Conference**

The 24<sup>th</sup> annual PASE (Polish Association for the Study of English) conference was held by the Institute of English Studies of the University of Wrocław on April 17–19, 2015 under the umbrella title “Emotion(s)”. This international and interdisciplinary conference gathered a total of 170 participants from around the world, including the USA, India, England, Slovenia, Canada, and Northern Ireland, guaranteeing diverse perspectives on the topic of emotions as they are represented, constructed and negotiated in language and literature.

The papers, plenary lectures, and panel discussions were provocative and varied in their treatment of the conference theme and it would be impossible to summarize the content of single papers in this short space; instead we will try to limit ourselves to highlighting the interdisciplinary nature of the approaches taken to the conference theme. The conference proceedings were divided into five disciplinary fields, focusing on literature, culture, linguistics, translation studies and glottodidactics, each exploring the theme of emotions within the bounds of their specific methodologies and standpoints. Considered as a whole, the diversity perspectives contributed greatly to a deeper understanding of how integral and elusive emotional content is in language and literature, and how challenging it is in our work as translators and teachers. Emotions were approached as constructs in language and literature, determined by specific cultural contexts, as well as psychological affects evoked by means of specific linguistic gestures.

Plenary lectures were delivered by outstanding scholars from several academic centers renowned for their departments of English studies. The conference was opened by two plenary lectures, providing a fascinating introduction to the conference theme from both a literary and a linguistic perspective. The first lecture was delivered by our esteemed guest, Leigh Gilmore, a visiting scholar of at the Harvard Divinity School, whose paper entitled “Hiding in Plain Sight: Emotions and Ethical Witness in Women’s Autobiographical Narratives” provided insight into how emotions are elicited in feminist autobiographical narratives in order to establish a scene of ethical witnessing and political sympathy. This was followed by our second opening lecture delivered by Smiliana Komar, professor at the University of Ljubljana,

Slovenia, titled “Intonation: The Strongest Link in *The Weakest Ling Quiz*,” in which the discourse structure of the titular quiz show is analyzed in terms of its emotional subtleties and impact.

Another plenary lecture was delivered by Eva C. Karpinski from York University in Toronto, who talked about experimenting with the redefinition of genre by means of affect theory used in relation to genre understood as social action. On the last day of the conference, Ewa Willim from Jagiellonian University in Cracow (Poland) and Bożena Rozwadowska from the University of Wrocław (Poland) in their plenary lecture discussed emotion verbs and their Experiencer argument.

The literature and culture section of the conference interrogated the role and influence of emotions in a wide selection of genres, time periods, and methodologies, from 15<sup>th</sup> century miracle plays to contemporary fiction and film. These works were approached from diverse psychoanalytical perspectives to historical analyses of emotions as cultural constructs. Emotions were, therefore, explored not only in the way they were represented in literature, but also in terms of their production within a specific cultural context.

The presentations given in linguistics sections touched upon various aspects of language study, with particular attention paid to various emotion-related aspects of using language as a vehicle of communication. Among the issues discussed by conference participants were, for example, emotions in the language of the Internet, emotional expressions in headlines, hate speech, emotion-related metaphors, and diachronic study of emotion-related vocabulary, to mention but a few.

The scholars who presented their papers in applied linguistics/ glottodidactics spoke about various emotional aspects of language teaching and learning. Emotions and affective factors in language teaching and learning seem to be two the most frequently exploited topics presented from different angles and in different educational settings.

The presentations delivered by translation and interpreting scholars also focused on how emotions are translated, how emotions and affective factors influence interpreting performance quality or how court interpreters should behave – also in terms of their emotional responses – in their professional environment, i.e. in courts. It seems that translating emotional language is one of the challenges that translators have to handle if they wish to render the original text in the target language appropriately.

The PASE 2016 conference organized a round table discussion, three translation panels, and a young researchers' forum of translation studies. The round table discussion, "The Place of the Humanities - The Role of Teaching Literature," moderated by dr hab. Anna Budziak (University of Wrocław), gathered academics from Poland and abroad (including prof. dr hab. Ewa Borkowska from the University of Silesia, professor Jan Jędrzejewski from the University of Ulster, prof. dr hab. David Malcolm from the University of Gdansk, and dr Wojciech Małecki from the University of Wrocław). It offered the opportunity to exchange opinions and thoughts concerning the crucial question of the changing role of the Humanities in today's academic culture. The lively discussion oscillated between considerations of the role of teaching literature, its benefits for higher education and the challenges now facing Humanities departments in today's market-driven educational system. Far from limiting themselves to a purely theoretical discussion, our speakers also considered practical aspects of the Humanities in higher education, such as interdisciplinary programs, teaching methods, and cooperation between English literature departments and other faculties.

The first translation panel, "Professional Accountability of Sworn Translators," moderated by prof. dr hab. Marek Kuźniak (University of Wrocław), dealt with legal aspects of sworn translators. The panel hosted dr hab. Artur Kubacki, a distinguished translator scholar and sworn translator, and mgr Bolesław Cieślak, Head of the Department of Sworn Translators in the Ministry of Justice, who provided an 'inside view' regarding the implementation of provisions regulating the supervision of the conduct of sworn translators.

The second translation panel, moderated by dr Maciej Litwin (University of Wrocław), hosted representatives of the University of Wrocław and of the Municipal Government of Wrocław, who engaged the vital concerns of English studies in Poland twenty-five years after the political transformations. Specifically, the panel delved into questions regarding the role of the English language and English departments in affecting cultural change, the extent of their influence, which can be gleaned in the corporate culture of multinational corporate institutions, as well as the possible consequences of this influence. Finally, the panel also considered the possible future of English in united Europe regarding, for example, opportunities and threats faced by English study institutions.

The third translation panel, convened by dr Michał Szawerna (University of Wrocław), was devoted to the cooperation between community interpreters and police negotiators. The guests – dr Piotr Czajka, an interpreter, and a police negotiator (name and surname must be kept confidential) from Wrocław Police Department – spoke about their cooperation and the conditions which have to be met for this cooperation to be successful. The circumstances in which police negotiators work are usually emotionally charged and it is the task of those negotiators to cope with a variety of emotions experienced by the people involved in a given situation. If an interpreter is called for help, then it is expected that such a person will interpret only what is being said. However, in quite many cases, this seems to be an unfeasible task and both the negotiator and interpreter need to compromise to make a given situation finish successfully. The participants thus talked about how such a compromise is needed during police negotiations in which a foreign language is the vehicle of communication.

A noteworthy initiative was undertaken by the doctoral students of translation associated in “Translatio” Doctoral Students’ Association in the Institute of English Studies of the University of Wrocław. This was a conference-format forum in which young scholars, mostly doctoral students working on their theses on various aspects of translation and interpreting, presented their research. Each presentation was followed by a series of questions and/or comments expressed by senior scholars. The forum was attended by numerous young researchers mostly from Polish universities. In a cordial atmosphere, they could discuss their projects with other translation and interpreting scholars. The forum was coordinated by Dawid Czech (University of Wrocław) and its particular sessions were chaired by Michał Garcarz, Michał Szawerna and Marcin Walczyński – members of the Department of Translation Studies in the Institute of English Studies (University of Wrocław).

Marcin Tereszewski  
Marcin Walczyński