

## TWO HEADS ARE BETTER THAN ONE: PHRASEOLOGY AND PAREMIOLOGY IN DICTIONARIES AND IN EVERYDAY USE

On April 18 and 19, 2013, an international scientific conference was held in Maribor and Ljubljana (Slovenia) under the heading *Two Heads are Better than One: Phraseology and Paremiology in Dictionaries and in Everyday Use*. It was organised by the Department of German Studies at the Faculty of Arts of the University of Maribor and the Institute of Slovenian Ethnology, SRC SASA Ljubljana, upon the completion of two research projects supported by the Research Agency of the Republic of Slovenia during the period from 2010 to 2013. The theme of the event was linked to the research of phraseology and paremiology in the context of both research projects: *Phraseology of the German Language: Slovenian-German Comparative and Intercultural Perspectives*, which was carried out by the Department of German Studies of the Faculty of Arts of the University of Maribor, and *Slovene Proverbs as Cultural Heritage: Classification and Corpus Editing*, which is currently being implemented at the Institute of Slovenian Ethnology, SRC SASA in Ljubljana. The conference was held in Slovenian, German and English languages.

The conference discussed the following issues: gathering of paremiological data in the field and methodological issues; editing of archival and collected material, semantic and pragmatic issues and perspectives; phraseology and mutual contact of the Slovenian and German languages (constructive, semantic, pragmatic, and textual issues); paremiology and phraseology in dictionaries: lexicographic, corpus, methodological issues; paremiology and phraseology in the learning and teaching of languages. Topics were discussed from folkloristic and phraseological (linguistic) viewpoints and, as part of the project presentations, computerised classifications were also examined.

The first day of the conference was in Maribor, at the Faculty of Arts. The opening session was dedicated to the presentations of the projects: Vida Jesenšek (Slovenia) talked about the project *Phraseology of the German Language: Slovenian-German Comparative and Intercultural Perspectives*, and Marjan Krašna (Slovenia) discussed the building of a phraseological database. This was followed by Marija Stanonik, Matej Veider and Simona Janež (Slovenia), who presented the project *Slovene Proverbs as Cultural Heritage: Classification and Corpus Editing*. They pointed out the problems of compiling a corpus of proverbs on the basis of materials from archives, old manuscripts, grammar books, literature, some field research results, etc. Drago Bokal and his students (Slovenia) had prepared a presentation of computerised proverb textual analysis. The following papers on the first day were more or less from the folkloristic field: Bogdan Dolenc (Slovenia) discussed proverbs in the Bible; Sibil Vilfan Gruntar (Slovenia) showed the influence of the grammar school on adopting Latin proverbs into the Slovenian language. Saša Babič (Slovenia) tried to show the integration of Slovenian proverbs into the international research area, Martina Piko-Rustia (Austria) provided an insight into the materials collected in Carinthia. Alja Lipavac Oštir's (Slovenia) presentation introduced her research into Slovenian schoolchildren's knowledge and usage of proverbs. Peter Grzybek (Austria) discussed macrostructural problems of paremiography. Peter Āurčo and Matej Meterc dealt with the equivalency of Slovak and Slovene proverbs, trying to build a typology based on equivalency.



*Prof. Vida Jesenšek (University of Maribor) is introducing the project *Phraseology of the German Language: "Slovenian-German Comparative and Intercultural Perspectives"*. Photo by Piret Voolaid 2013.*

The second day of the conference was in Ljubljana at the Slovenian Research Centre SASA. It started with a folkloristic paper from Barbara Ivančič Kutin (Slovenia) about folklore patterns in the proverb corpus. The day continued with phraseological discussions: Anneli Baran (Estonia) presented phraseological expressions and semantic fixedness investigated within a group of schoolchildren. Melanija Fabčič and Elizabeta Bernjak (Slovenia) talked about (de)onimic components in Slovenian and German phrasemes. Erla Hallsteinsdóttir (Denmark) discussed phraseology in the process of learning German as a foreign language. Teodor Petrič, Saša Jazbec and Brigita Kacjan (Slovenia) discussed phraseological units as a speaking and reception model and tried to provide a didactic concept for learning a foreign language. Željka Matulina (Croatia) and Carmen Melado Blanco (Spain) checked bilingual dictionaries and presented some discussion points related to lexicography and phraseology. Vida Jesenšek and Natalija Ulčnik (Slovenia) exposed problems in editing material for a phraseological-paremiological portal. The closing paper was prepared by Piret Voolaid (Estonia), who presented an academic online database of paremic graffiti; she talked about collecting and presenting some newer paremiological forms.

Papers from Erika Kržišnik (*Vitality of Proverbs Today*) and Mateja Jemec Tomazin (*Emergence of Metaphorical Terminology and Terminological Guidance*) were unfortunately cancelled for medical reasons.

This conference in collaboration with two institutions, embracing two projects (dealing with related themes) was the first one in Slovenia. The main goal of this conference was to offer insights into new developments in selected areas and to create opportunities and directions for further research. The latter is possible only with groundbreaking and cross-sectoral networking and collaboration; for this reason, the search and formation of such possibilities were highlighted. We sincerely hope that there will be more collaboration conferences and more project opportunities to work and research together – in Slovenia and on the international paremiological field.

Saša Babič

## **INTERNATIONAL INTERDISCIPLINARY CONFERENCE *STILL POSTSOCIALISM? CULTURAL MEMORY AND SOCIAL TRANSFORMATIONS***

**Kazan, 19–20 April, 2013**

In the second half of April, a two-day interdisciplinary conference on postsocialism was held in Kazan. The conference under the title, *Still Postsocialism? Cultural Memory and Social Transformations*, was organised by the Centre for Cultural Studies of Postsocialism and the Institute for Comparative Studies of Modernity, both associated with the Kazan Federal University and European University in St. Petersburg. It must be mentioned that Kazan is a perfect location for such meetings. It is located on the banks of the Volga River, it is the capital of one of the most rebellious Russian regions – the Republic of Tatarstan – and is a wealthy oil industry centre. At the same time, Kazan is a city where Soviet legacy, Russian Orthodox and Tatar Moslem culture along with the blooming and hedonistic inner city form a post-Soviet symbiosis.

The question whether we should and still could speak about postsocialism(s) is not a new one: it was the issue that was discussed at academic conferences at least ten years ago. The fully packed conference with several parallel panels, however, proves that there exists keen academic interest to debate the existence of postsocialism. Unfortunately, the first keynote speeches [Prof. Jan Kubik (Rutgers University, USA) and Prof. Alexander Etkind (University of Cambridge, UK)] were rather a discussion of case studies than addressing general and theoretical issues related to the understanding of postsocialism. The second day keynote speakers [Prof. Caroline Humphrey (University of Cambridge, UK) and Prof. Chris Hann (Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Germany)]