

Record Setting Interlinguistics Symposium



5-a INTERLINGVISTIKA SIMPOZIO | 5^a INTERLINGUISTICS SYMPOSIUM | 5. SYMPOZJUM INTERLINGWISTYCZNE

Rolo de lingvoj en interkultura komunikado | The role of languages in intercultural communication

Rola języków w komunikacji międzykulturowej



Interlingvistikaj Studoj | Interlinguistics Studies | Studia Interlingwistyki

Poznań, 17-18.09.2020

The Fifth Interlinguistics Symposium of the Interlinguistic Studies of Adam Mickiewicz University (AMU) in Poznań, Poland took place 17-18 September, 2020. This edition of the symposium, which is organized every three years, was the first to be held virtually. The main theme was “***The Role of Language in Intercultural Communication***”. The goal was to bring researchers together in order to discuss aspects of intercultural communication and to analyse its possibilities and problems in the fields of linguistics, language policy, culture and language teaching.

Organizing such an event in virtual form was a daunting challenge involving bringing together colleagues from Europe, the Americas and Asia at the same time and coordinating presentations in three languages – Esperanto, English and Polish according to topic. The symposium was a truly international affair with presenters and session leaders from 23 different countries (70 % from outside of Poland, with 31 presentations in Esperanto, 22 in English and 4 in Polish).

After the welcome address by the Director of Interlinguistic Studies, prof. Ilona Koutny, and the official opening by the Vice-rector of AMU, prof. Katarzyna Dziubalska-Kołodziej, there were almost 60 papers presented in three parallel sections over two days as well as two sections with plenary speeches: prof. Ilona Koutny, AMU, Poland (*Role of Language in Intercultural Communication*); prof. Sabine Fiedler, Leipzig University, Germany (*Intercultural communication by means of Esperanto: Some key features; delivered in Esperanto*); dr hab. Michał B. Paradowski, University of Warsaw, Poland (*Misunderstandings in communicating in English as a lingua franca: Causes, prevention, and remedial strategies*); prof. Timothy Reagan, University of Maine, USA (*Sign Languages and Intercultural Communication The Challenges of Deaf-Hearing Interactions in Multilingual Settings*) and three discussion groups:

- *Intercultural communication: English, Esperanto or multilingual communication with interpretation? – different scenarios* (chair Ilona Koutny, with Sabine Fiedler, Renato Corsetti, Przemysław Grzybowski, Klaus Schubert, Tamilla Mammadova;

- *Language policy: in plurilingual states, in EU, linguistic rights* (chair Federico Gobbo, with Bengt-Arne Wickström, Michele Gazzola, Nicolau Dols Salas, Michael Farris, Vittorio Dell'Aquila, Gabriele Iannàccaro);
- *Interculturality in language teaching: teaching of intercultural values, intercultural pragmatics* (chair Duncan Charters, with Katalin Kováts, Maria Coady, Giridhar Rao).

The program was rich and the discussions were lively (the schedule and abstracts in three languages can be found at: <http://interl.home.amu.edu.pl/interlingvistiko/simpozio2020en.html>). The main sections (divided into several blocks) were *intercultural communication*, *language policy* and *intercultural education*. This created a space for dialogue between Esperantist researchers and colleagues from other fields. *Esperantology*, primarily Esperanto linguistics, was featured in several blocks by well-known Esperanto specialists. Also worthy of mention was a plenary speech and a session devoted to international and intercultural aspects of sign languages, including a presentation by a Deaf researcher. Attendees were able to ask questions directly after the presentations and in chat groups following the sessions.

Thanks to the virtual format, **more than 300 participants from across the world** (from over 50 countries and five regions from Europe to Oceania) were able to follow the program. 25 selected talks are available on the YouTube channel of the Symposium (https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLGDNhxSrlMB-_AHJnJumSq9k7Vvnf93Uf).

Intercultural studies are important in today's globalizing world to facilitate mutual understanding and collaboration on a global scale. Therefore, following the Symposium, two monographs were edited including but not limited to selected and elaborated contributions. The books are the first in the series "*Cross-linguistic and Cross-cultural Studies*" of the Institute of Ethnolinguistics of AMU, and are available through the academic publisher Wydawnictwo Rys (<https://wydawnictworys.com/category/nawosci>):

1. *The Role of Languages in Intercultural Communication / Rolo de lingvoj en interkultura komunikado / Rola języków w komunikacji międzykulturowej* (2020);
2. *The Intercultural Role of Esperanto / Interkultura rolo de Esperanto / Międzykulturowa rola esperanta* (2021)

Ilona Koutny, Ida Stria, Michael Farris
Symposium organizers and book editors