

Report on the conference *Hungarian Studies in Poland* Poznań 17-18.11.2023

Ilona Koutny
ADAM MICKIEWICZ UNIVERSITY

ikoutny@amu.edu.pl

Hungarian-Polish relations go back thousands of years, and there is a long tradition of teaching Hungarian at universities in Poland. The Hungarian departments of the University of Warsaw (UW), the Jagiellonian University (UJ) in Krakow and Adam Mickiewicz University (UAM) in Poznań are facing similar challenges, and it is important to discuss and share experiences. A conference was held on 17-18 of November 2023 in Poznan for colleagues teaching in programs of Hungarian Studies at the above universities. The conference also commemorated **30 years of Hungarian Studies in AMU, Poznań.**

The first session dealt with the issue of language use, i.e. **pragmatics**. Szilárd Tátrai provided a solid theoretical basis for a discussion of deicticity in the use of the article, which can help Polish students to use the article correctly in Hungarian. This was followed by Agnieszka Veres-Guśpiel's analysis of the speech act of making a request, based on several of her own surveys of young people, comparing Hungarian and Polish forms and pointing out the differences between them. Ilona Koutny presented the role and content of the subject of pragmatics in the Hungarian language program in Poznań (starting from the place of pragmatics in language teaching and knowledge through different speech acts and to intercultural pragmatics), based on many years of experience.

The second session gave an insight into **the teaching of literature**. Kálmán László Nagy brought to light works from the canon of Hungarian literature (the *Hymn*, *The Paul Street Boys*) which are misunderstood by, or even toxic to foreign students, and discussed their teaching. Elżbieta Szawerdo presented an interesting experiment in how students in Warsaw continued Madách's *Tragedy of Man* (a classic drama of the 19th century), shedding light on contemporary interpretations. Csilla Gizińska analysed the reception of Hungarian literature in Poland after the fall of communism with philological rigor, also noting the problems of its inclusion in the university curriculum.

The sessions on the **teaching of Hungarian language and grammar** included a special method (CLIL) applied by Anna Grzeszak to teach both Hungarian language and grammatical content. Julianna Nagy discussed the teaching of neologisms to Polish students through examples. Szabolcs Németh looked for Hungarian equivalents of verbal aspect in Polish, pointing out differences and how these could be introduced in teaching. Mária Dávid explored the possible use of the conjunctive element *való* with many examples from Hungarian texts and exercises. Eszter Biegelbauer investigated the language learning habits of students at the University of Warsaw, based on her survey, and drew conclusions for education. Emilia Nagyné Fórizs focused the importance of the widely known part of the special vocabulary for university students, and outlined its teaching methodology based on many years of experience in the Hungarian department at UJ.

Dániel Pap emphasised the help of computer-based language teaching programs and presented the TestU software package available on the Internet, for which the teachers can upload their own materials, and in which project the Hungarian dept. of AMU had participated, as well as a language teaching program of his own design. Szymon Pawlas had developed a useful method for teaching Finno-Ugric phonetic rules (part of the curriculum in UW).

Culture plays an important role in Hungarian university education. Katalin Török explored the Hungarian linguistic picture of *soup* from many perspectives, which brought a new flavour to teaching as well. Damian Kaleta looked at the words of the present age, which had been voted for by the public and linguists in recent years, how they characterize reality. Finally, Marcin Grad explored the benefits of field trips (in Poland, Hungary, and Hungarians living neighbouring countries) in learning about Hungarian history.

The elaborated contributions will be published as a monograph, in the UAM's *Bibliotheca Hungarica* series. Although they present the teaching of Hungarian language and culture at university level in the Polish context, they also offer useful solutions for colleagues teaching Hungarian at university level in other countries.