

To the readers

Our editorial board sees its mission as a response to modern challenges in this dynamic and turbulent world. Therefore, the main task of the journal is to spread the knowledge in the field of Ukrainian studies. We also strive for a qualitative re-orientation of this body of knowledge, and systematically improve the quality of the journal. Of course, we are primarily interested in its intellectual level. That is why we care about modernizing Polish and foreign Ukrainian studies in general – we publish topical papers, widen the scope of proposed research subjects, and encourage our authors to engage in professional discussions. The latest editions of the journal testify to an interdisciplinary approach to the study of Ukrainian philology. We deliberately do not limit ourselves to purely philological problems, but reach for interdisciplinary studies, which are included in the broader context of humanitarian and social fields of science, and also affect the general state of social consciousness of the 21st century.

The recent changes in “*Studia Ukrainica Posnaniensia*” concern not only the content of the proposed publications, but also the external design of the journal. That is why we have changed the cover design for this issue – it is a visual indication of renewal that will definitely catch the reader’s eye. In our opinion, such a cover will attract attention with expressive symbols characterizing the spirit and letter of this edition. The cover design was done by Viktor Oleksenko, an outstanding graphic designer and distinguished artist from Ukraine, to whom we are extremely grateful. He used a stylized font reminiscent of the historic Cyrillic alphabet, and an ancient embroidery ornament from Taras Shevchenko’s region. In the center of the composition he placed a cube with the first and the last letters of the Cyrillic alphabet – **А** and **Я**, which symbolize the universe of thought and the limitlessness of scientific research. It is important to add that Viktor Oleksenko is not only an outstanding graphic artist who had many personal exhibitions and prestigious awards, but also our colleague, a professor in the Department of Visual Arts, Decorative and Applied Arts at Bohdan Chmelnytskyi National University of Cherkasy, and the author of experimental poetry works.

The first issue of “*Studia Ukrainica Posnaniensia*” for 2024 includes a number of linguistic and literary papers, but not only these fields, as our authors often go beyond the boundaries of philological issues. The guidelines for the modernization of philological research discussed above turn out to be quite necessary here. It is

often the case that research centres on the current realities of Ukraine, both those caused directly by the war and its devastating consequences for Eastern Europe and the whole world. This includes the linguistic awareness of Ukrainian refugees forced to leave their homes due to the war, as well as the changes in the individual and collective identities taking place under the pressure of current circumstances, and also multicultural tendencies in the world today.

The linguistic studies section begins with an article by **Yana Zhurenko**, who writes about gender stereotypes in Ukrainian cultural discourse. She bases her study on the example of gender metaphor in Oksana Zabuzhko's literary works. **Olena Kowalewska** also refers to the stereotypical peculiarities of the language, conducting a comparative analysis of the concept "dove" in the linguistic worldview of Ukrainians, Polish and Russians. The subject of **Mariia Redkva's** research is the naming of persons in contemporary linguistic practice of Ukrainians. This research is part of a broader scientific work and confirms the different approaches to the defining 'others' in the context of internal and external migration processes. The author highlights the intensity of the environmental, social and migration changes that Ukrainian society has undergone in recent decades. **Agata Skurzewska** focuses on historical lexicography: her study describes the lexis of leather crafts in Ilko Magura's Ukrainian-German dictionaries from the 19th century. **Alla Taran** chronicles the changes of in the evaluative names of objects in contemporary Ukrainian language. She is interested in how such changes reflect the value system of the community. The researcher observes the dynamic semantics of words, claiming that it should be recorded more thoroughly in lexicographic works.

The literary studies section of the journal presents works on contemporary Ukrainian literature which are considered in terms of various interdisciplinary aspects. **Inna Antalovska** focuses on the complex dilemmas of national memory. Her conclusions are based on the novels of the famous Ukrainian writer Volodymyr Lys. **Tetiana Grebeniuk** aims to characterise the motif of returning to the past in Oksana Zabuzhko's poetry collection *Hitchhiking*. This motif is represented in the writer's poetry as a traumatic experience. **Marta Zambrzycka** offers an in-depth analysis of Andriy Semyankiv's novel *Dancing with Bones*. She argues that this work reveals a new approach to visualising reality in a literary text, and coins a new genre variety – medical thriller. The novel by Semyankiv is an example of successful work in the context of mass culture, although at the same time, this text discusses problems that are relevant to the life of society. **Yaroslav Polishchuk** looks at the new novel by Volodymyr Rafieienko *Petrichor – The smell of earth after the rain* (2023). Focusing on the creation of space, the scholar shows how spatial coordinates reflect the dynamic identity of the protagonists, and also reveal the traumatic experiences connected with contemporary Russian-Ukrainian war also became the subject of the study of Yaroslav Polishchuk. **Oksana Pukhonska**, who has offered a critical review of perceptions of the 20th-century past, focuses her scientific attention

on the reconstruction of ancestral memory in the Lisa Weeda's novel *Aleksandra. Ukrainian Family Saga*.

All the articles published in the current issue of "Studia Ukrainica Posnaniensia" reflect a broader approach to contemporary humanities. They testify to the authors' bold exploration of topical themes and motifs, characteristic of the socio-cultural situation in Ukraine in recent years, particularly those conditioned by the challenges of the ongoing war in the country. These scholars whose articles feature in the first part share a common conviction that we are living in times of active and dynamic development of the Ukrainian language, which requires considerable effort to study current processes. The literary scholars whose articles are published here demonstrate successful use of various methodological and theoretical approaches to the characterization of artistic works. At the same time, they show a steady and purposeful interest in literary innovations.

Yaroslav Polishchuk, Anna Horniatko-Szumilowicz