

To the readers

2024 is coming to an end. For Ukrainian scientists, it is marked by the bitterness that has been felt since the beginning of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. The fact that this terrible war, the likes of which Europe has not known since World War II, is now in its third year radically changes how we perceive reality. Undeniably, the war has had the greatest impact on Ukrainian society, causing irreversible losses and constant tension, but also the need to confront the enemy in all possible spheres of life. Researchers in Ukrainian studies are also not free from this influence; readers of the current issue of our journal may see for themselves, all the more so, as some of the texts in this biannual issue are closely connected with issues of war and with the need for cultural resistance to military aggression. The remaining works that deal with issues in philological sciences are likewise not devoid of ideological allusions.

Academic reflections on Ukraine, its language, history and culture are becoming especially relevant at this time. It is important to notice that the Ukrainian language and culture are not abstract concepts of academic science, but filled with living content and dynamic. Today, their existence is threatened, because the Russian invasion sweeps away not only cities and villages, not only annexes territories, but also uproots the authentic culture (and not only ethnically Ukrainian) that has developed on Ukrainian lands until now. For this reason, we value our journal as a forum that can be used for shaping free thought, and for academic discussions on the various problems of modern Ukraine.

Recently, we declared the expansion of the field of Ukrainian studies, within which, in addition to traditionally philological ones, we will gladly accept for publication articles on cultural studies, social communications (media studies), etc. This principle has already been implemented in the current issue of the journal. We present three thematic chapters, one of which is introduced for the first time. The materials presented in this section reflect the different aspects of culture in its widest sense. Such changes will contribute to a significant broadening of our intellectual horizons, enriching and updating knowledge about modern Ukraine and its cultural priorities. It is also a question of developing a strategy of cultural resistance, which Ukrainians need today to win the war for independence and European values.

The linguistic chapter in this issue of the journal is the most voluminous and versatile, and scientific works by Polish and Ukrainian linguists are presented here. The authors offer an overview and special analysis of the problems of Ukrainian and

comparative linguistics. **Anna Budziak** examines selected names of dishes and food products which are considered signifiers of Ukrainian identity. She establishes the semantic load of these names, as well as the specifics of how they function in modern conditions. She is interested in the didactic aspect of using such lexical material, in particular, when learning Ukrainian as a foreign language. **Wiktorija Hojsak** analyses the specific vocabulary that enriches the current speech of Ukrainians during the war. These are the proper names of military equipment and foreign weapons that have become common. **Orysia Demska, Lesia Demska-Budzuliak** and **Larysa Holichenko** offer an interesting study of the language of Lesya Ukrainka's literary works. The authors resort to a bold scientific search. For the first time in this field of philology, they create a language biography of this prominent poetess, referring to different biographical facts from her life. The researchers' attention is not limited to the historical and cultural context: they present the language biography as an example of the decolonization in Ukrainian culture of the 20th-21st centuries.

Barbara Kyrc and **Maria Redkva** – linguists from Cracow – conducted an interesting study of the speech of Ukrainian children living in Poland. They focus their attention on the aspects of cross-linguistic interference, an important problem in the process of teaching the Ukrainian language. **Iryna Rabchuk** refers to the characteristics of the administrative language style. Using texts written in this style, she establishes the functional load of the appositive syntax. **Jadwiga Stępnik-Szeptyńska** develops the line of research on language taboo presented earlier. This time the author strives to summarize the level of research into forbidden vocabulary: she lists the most important works, but also points to under-researched aspects of the problem. Contemporary Ukrainian syntax is the subject of **Natalia Shulzhuk's** study. She offers an analysis of the semantic structure sentence in dialogue discourse. She is interested in pragmatic aspects of sentence construction, which are revealed and verified in the process of communication. This section concludes with a study by the famous Wrocław linguist **Przemysław Józwikiewicz**. Using rich material, the researcher reveals the role of bionyms in the process of forming a specific group of vocabulary – the official Ukrainian names of macroscopic fungi.

A new section in our journal is that of Culture and Mass Media, which includes articles focusing on the contemporary problematic of general interest. This is the first publication of the speeches given at the International Scientific Conference titled "Cultural resistance. Ukrainian studies in the conditions of war", which was held on 16th–17th May 2024 at Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań. This scientific event was organized by the Department of Ukrainian Studies at the university in the cooperation with partners from Ukraine and the Poznań branch of the Polish Academy of Sciences. In the current issue of this journal, we present only a part of the conference materials: the rest will be published in the next volume. The articles proposed by the authors in this chapter relate to the current state of Ukrainian culture, which has found itself in the situation of a besieged fortress. Its task is not

only to survive: cultural policy should ensure successful reforms regarding the functioning of language, literature, theatre, cinema, and mass media, as well as their entry into broader European and global space. An extremely active process of decolonization is underway at present in Ukraine and Russian aggression is only accelerating this process.

Nadiia Horbach's research deals with the foundations of national identity. Using numerous examples from past practice, she shows how the elements of Ukrainian identity are established in the media space. Horbach also shows how this process is very dynamic and heuristic, and deserving of special research attention. **Svitlana Drabant** formulates the main theses on the social duty of culture in wartime. She argues for the active role of cultural projects, using metaphors of weapons and shields, contrasted with the physical weapons of the aggressor, which is killing Ukrainians today. The Lviv-based scholar **Taras Pastukh** develops a broad conceptual programme of actions. His article emphasizes two radical factors affecting the current situation. On the one hand, he formulates the challenges faced by the researchers in the field of humanities during the war, and these challenges are extremely serious. On the other, Pastukh reflects on possible responses to threats, about the likelihood of the humanities emerging from the state of crisis in which it finds itself. Ukrainian topics in the Polish mass media are the subject of **Myroslava Rudyk's** study. The author analyses leading Polish mass media, including university media (especially the University of Szczecin, where Myroslava Rudyk is working). She reveals the general atmosphere in the Polish mass media: when describing the situation in Ukraine, they mainly sympathize with the struggle of the Ukrainian people, although they cover the events with certain differences due to the editorial policy of each publication.

The Literary Studies section features three articles. **Anna Horniatko-Szumilowicz** dedicates her article to the recently published short story *Woman's Day* by the Zaporizhzhia-based author Borys Artemov. It reflects the tragic realities of the occupation of Mariupol in 2022, when peaceful citizens of Ukraine were killed en masse. The author uses a micro-analysis of the text, focusing on artistic details. She shows how important the details become in the narrative of the work, acquiring the meaning of symbols. **Liudmyla Danylenko** researches the novel *Dzvinka* by Nina Kuryata. A different experience is revealed here, as the novel concerns the Soviet past. The author explores the peculiarities of the artistic construction of the space of memory, which attests to a modern view of recent events and reflects the desire to reinterpret the past. **Serhii Mykhyda** and **Natalia Kobzei** suggest the comparative analysis of the motif of madness in 20th-century literature. Volodymyr Vynnychenko's short story *Tails (Chvostati)* and Ken Kesey's novel *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* are the subject of their article. The authors of the study argue that despite significant differences between these works, they have much in common, at least in their treatment of madness as a disease and social degeneration.

We believe that the articles in the current issue of the journal will enrich modern Ukrainian studies and open up new topics for discussion and development. They show that our authors are able to work in a traditional research style, but also boldly enter into new topics and methodologies, fully reflect current cultural realities and respond appropriately to the challenges of these troubled times.

Yaroslav Polishchuk, Anna Horniatko-Szumilowicz