

AREAS OF RESEARCH AND TYPES OF RESEARCH ACTIVITIES AT THE FACULTY OF APPLIED LANGUAGES, UNIVERSITY OF ECONOMICS IN BRATISLAVA

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Summary: The paper describes areas of research and types of scientific and research activities carried out at the Faculty of Applied Languages, University of Economics, Bratislava. Events and activities held at the Faculty in the course of the past two years are listed and commented on, while a special attention is paid international outputs. The message for our cooperating partners from abroad is to join us in our events and publications.

Keywords: research, cooperation, Faculty of Applied Languages, linguistics

Összefoglalás: A tanulmányomban bemutatom a pozsonyi Gazdaságtudományi Egyetem Alkalmazott nyelvészeti Karán folyó tudományos és kutatási tevékenységeket. Az elmúlt két év tevékenységeit, eseményeit elemzem, főleg azok nemzetközi vonatkozásait. A külföldi, velünk együttműködő partnereinknek ezzel azt üzenjük, hogy vegyenek részt a különböző rendezvényeinken és velünk együtt publikálják eredményeiket.

Kulcsszavak: kutatás, együttműködés, Alkalmazott Nyelvészeti Kar, nyelvészet

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Orientation of Scientific and Research Activities at the Faculty of Applied Languages, University of Economics in Bratislava

Research and publication activities at the Faculty of Applied Languages focus on the following main areas: developing theoretical bases of linguistics, literary science, translatology and cultural studies; applying theoretical findings in text analysis and text interpretation; designing and developing teaching materials (including multimedia programmes) corresponding to European standard.

In the area of basic research the focus is on developing the concepts and categories of disciplines of the study programme “Foreign Languages and Intercultural Communication” on the basis of the most recent findings and in accordance with the current trends of development in these scientific disciplines.

In applied research, the focus is on applying theoretical findings in text analysis and text interpretation, as well as text reception and text production, while economic text plays a key role in this respect. In terms of didactics, an adequate attention is paid to developing communicative competencies in accordance with recommendations of the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) for languages and with respect to employability of graduates from the Faculty on the labour market. Specific areas of applied research include the issues of European language policy, language culture, linguistic and didactic aspects of communication in academic as well as professional spheres, and e-learning.

Since the foundation of the Faculty of Applied Languages in June 2010 we have organised several international conferences, the first one named “Foreign Languages in Changing Times” (I., II.) started a tradition: the third year of this scientific event will be held in November this year. We are very glad that our Hungarian colleagues are going to be our guests again on this occasion.

The most significant results in the area of research include the following activities, which contributed to increasing the quality of research at our faculty:

- Research project KEGA (Committee for Educational and Grant Agency) completed in 2011 “Web-learning System for the Course in Area Studies of English- and German-speaking Countries” coordinated by Ass. Prof. D. Lišková;
- Joint publishing of an international collection of research papers in cooperation with the Volga Academy of Public Services “*Sociocultural Issues of Language and Communication*”. This is already the sixth volume of collection of research papers published in cooperation with Russian colleagues.
- Collections of conference papers from two of our conferences organised by our faculty, namely “Foreign Languages in Changing Times I., II.”;

- the first issue of our new scientific journal *Lingua et vita* (June 2012);

Numerous activities held on the occasion of the Science and Technology Week held twice since the establishment of the Faculty of Applied Languages (June 2010) included the following events:

Methodological seminar for doctoral students on how to approach to writing a doctoral thesis;
Presentations of completed doctoral papers and submitted publications;
Lectures presenting a new philosophy in the approach to teaching area studies;

Project seminar with the presentation of results of research given by members of research teams at our faculty;

A three-day professional seminar for German-language teachers on German for Specific Purposes organised in cooperation with DAAD (Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst) various lectures given by our teachers or international guests or representatives of diplomatic corps; the following are the names of some of them:

“Cultural Dimension of a Graduate from the University of Economics, Slovakia and Slovaks in Multicultural Europe, Technical and Artistic Translation, Multiculturalism in Britain and in Slovakia, and Multiculturalism in Canada”.

The event officially named as *Science and Technology Week*, held in one week in November (proclaimed in our country as well as in a number of other countries in the world) is a period when also such events as *How to obtain internationally recognised certificates DELE+DFP certificate in Spanish* are held at our Faculty, or when our colleagues and students learn more about how Italian businessmen do business in Slovakia; or an exhibition commemorating the Fall of the Berlin Wall is held on the premises of the University of Economics.

“***Sociocultural Issues of Language and Communication***”. As for the collection of papers published in cooperation with the Volga Stolypin Academy, we are happy to say that our colleague Dr. Strelková is a member of the international editorial team (this team also includes members from the Russian Federation, USA, and Turkey). During 2005-2011 25 teachers of our faculty published in this international journal. Papers published in this journal cover a wide range of topics, e.g. didactics of languages (communication competence in teaching languages for specific purposes, materials design, culture and economy); language policy, linguistics, translatology (translator competences), papers on research projects, etc.

Recently we have recorded an intensive discussion among teachers on the assessment of our research outputs, in particular publications, in the form of research points. Teachers point out, for example that book and research articles’ reviews also deserve adequate rating in research points. This is also one of the topics that we would like to discuss with our colleagues abroad.

In conclusion I would like to present our scientific journal *Lingua et vita*. Its ambition is to become a modern journal supporting mainly applied research in linguistics, literature, translatology, area and cultural studies. It is designed for academic staff of the Faculty and the University as well as for colleagues from cooperating institutions in Slovakia and abroad. The journal contains the following rubrics:

1. Language, Communication and Culture (language and linguistics phenomena on synchronic and diachronic levels); comparative linguistics; theory of communication and intercultural communication; area studies.
2. Didactics of Foreign Languages (e.g. methods and techniques, learning styles and strategies, testing in terms of CEFR).
3. Translatology (including topics, e.g.: theory and practice of translation and interpretation, translating economic text).
4. News and Reviews (information and news from the life of the Faculty of Applied Languages and the University of Economics, reviews of research and professional papers, publications and monographs).
5. Chronicle (significant events, anniversaries of leading domestic or foreign personalities of linguistics, literary science, history and culture).

Conclusion

I hope the present paper does not carry only information but also a clear message that we, teachers of the Faculty of Applied Languages are willing to cooperate with colleagues abroad and exchange ideas and experience in teaching and research work. I also hope that some of the problems or questions indicated in the paper will lead to a useful discussion when we meet at some of our scientific events next time. The paper is also my personal way of saying “thank you” for cooperation to those colleagues from other countries who have participated in our conferences, and who, as we hope will keep coming also in the future.

Sources:

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