

1.2. History

The beginnings of the *Department of English* at the WSP can be traced back to the academic year 1995/96 when the *Department of English* was founded as a part of the Philological Faculty. It was then headed by Prof. Olga Moltchanova. Other staff members who were the founders of the *Department of English* were: Igor Burkhanov, Ph.D., Agnieszka Kallaus, MA, Agnieszka Uberman, MA, and Jacek Wołk, MA, as well as Prof. Anna Malicka-Kleparska, from the *Catholic University of Lublin*. In the years 1997–2000 the *Department* was headed by Prof. Aleksy Moltchanov. During his term of office several junior staff members joined the *Department*. In 1996 the team of professors was enlarged by Teodor Hrehovčik from Slovakia. Other professors working for the *Department of English* in Rzeszów were: Edmund Gussmann and Bogdan Szymanek from the *Catholic University of Lublin*. It is worth mentioning that several native speakers were employed in the years 1995–97, such as Jacqui Hadfield, Nualla Mackinson from Great Britain, Sylvia Meloche, Edward Walek from the USA and Susan Niwachuk from Canada. In the year 1997/98 the *Department of English* was divided into three departments: *Department of the English Language* chaired till 1999 by Prof. Anna Malicka-Kleparska, *Department of English and American Literature* chaired till 2000 by Mirosława Buchholtz, Ph.D., and *Department of Methodology* whose head until the present day is Prof. Teodor Hrehovčik. In 2000 Mirosława Buchholtz, Ph.D. resigned from the *Department of English and American Literature*, which unfortunately, deprived the *Department* of an invaluable supervisor and specialist on literature. The authorities of the *Department of English* are so far in vain trying to make up for the loss and find an adequate substitute. The year 1999/2000 can be considered as the turning point as the *Department of English* was joined by Prof. Grzegorz A. Kleparski who took over the *Department of the English Language* after Prof. Anna Malicka-Kleparska. Moreover, Igor Burkhanov, Ph.D. was awarded habilitation degree. In the same year the *Department of the English Language* was transformed into the *Chair of Theoretical Linguistics* with Prof. Grzegorz A. Kleparski as its head.

1.3. Internal organisation



The staff members, 2/3 of whom are depicted above, apart from classroom teaching, belong to and actively participate in the three sub-divisions of the *Department of English* which is headed by Prof. Igor Burkhanov.

Division 1: Department of Theoretical Linguistics

Chair: Grzegorz A. Kleparski, Prof.

Historical semantics

Members: Igor Burkhanov, Prof.

Lexicography/lexicology

Anna Malicka-Kleparska, Prof.

Morphology

Aleksy Moltchanov, Prof.

Alexandra Miroschnitchenko, Ph.D.

Anatol Schevel, Ph.D.

Piotr Cymbalista, MA

Ewa Konieczna, MA

Małgorzata Martynuska, MA

Dorota Osuchowska, MA

Marta Pikor-Niedziałek, MA

Dorota Rut-Kluz, MA

Anna Szeliga, MA

Anna Śmiały, MA

Division 2: Department of English/American Literature

Chair: vacancy

Members: Agnieszka Kallaus, MA

Bożena Kochman-Haładaj, MA
Sławomir Koziół, MA
Anna Pietrzykowska, MA
Damian Pyrkosz, MA
Krzysztof Rusnak, MA
Grzegorz Zinkiewicz, MA

Division 3: Department of Methodology

Chair: Teodor Hrehovčik

Members: Tadeusz Kadenacy, MA

Agnieszka Uberman, MA

Jacek Wołk, MA

Five of the staff members hold the title of professor. Other staff members constitute a team of promising, ambitious and aspiring academics in their late twenties, who are currently enrolled in Warsaw, Kraków, Poznań doctoral programmes corresponding to their areas of specialisation.

1.4. Research facilities and location

Both students and staff occasionally use the WSP library resources (there are too few books and materials in relation to the *Department of English's* needs) and 90% of all the teaching materials have to be provided by the teachers, especially those commuting from other academic centres. Hand-outs are photocopied on the *Department of English's* only photocopying machine which seems to be reaching the stage of legal adulthood, yet it still serves the needs of 250 students and 25 staff members. The *Department of English* has three computers, but there is only one jet printer. At the moment attempts are being made on the part of all staff members, and especially Grzegorz A. Kleparski, Anna M. Pietrzykowska, Agnieszka Kallaus, Dorota Osuchowska to collect books in order to found a *Department of English* reference library which could help both the students and the staff in their study and research. All classes are held on the University campus. The University is situated in Rzeszów which is the capital of the province of *Podkarpacie*.

2. Setting the *Department of English Philology* in Regional Context

2.1. The *Podkarpacie* – general outline

The province of *Podkarpacie* is situated in the south eastern Poland. It covers the area of eighteen thousand square kilometres and is inhabited by over

two million people. It borders with three provinces: *Lubelskie*, *Małopolskie*, and *Świętokrzyskie*, as well as with Slovakia and the Ukraine. The capital city of the province is Rzeszów, with a population of over 160,000, which is an economic and industrial, as well as cultural and academic centre.

2.2. Foreign links – historical view

The region of *Podkarpacie* is closely linked with the USA. This can be attributed to the economic migration which reached its peak at the end of the turn of the 20th century. Its main roots lay in the grinding poverty (the so called *Galician Misery*) of the countryside, whose rural population possessed few sources of employment other than subsistence farming and whose overpopulation reached terrifying proportions. Overseas emigration, largely to North and South America, was essentially a feature of the fifty years preceding the First World War. According to Norman Davies, some 3.6 million people left Poland in the period between 1870 and 1914 – 31 percent being from *Galicia*. The conditions which provoked this exodus were often harsh indeed. The *Galician Misery* became proverbial. According to another statistic, over 400,000 peasant holdings in *Galicia* in 1902 were so small that they could only supply food for the average family for three months of a year. Approximately one-quarter of the population of *Galicia* is estimated to have emigrated in the three years, 1911–14, overwhelmingly to the booming cities of the American mid-West. Before 1939 over 40,000 people from *Galicia* left for America.

2.3. Rzeszów – the capital of Polonia festivals

Since 1969 the *World Festival of Polonia Folk Ensembles* has been held in Rzeszów. Every three years, in July, folk groups and guests from all over the world, especially the English speaking communities, come to Rzeszów to perform traditional Polish dances. In 1999 over 50 ensembles visited Rzeszów to get acquainted with the language and culture of their ancestors. The choice of Rzeszów as the capital of Polish folklore was not random as it lies in the part of Poland which in the past was the centre of economic migration. Consequently, most of the families in the region have certain links with abroad, especially the USA. This enhances the popularity of English among young people, as they study the language in the hope of joining the families in the USA, unfortunately – many of them – forever.

2.4. Geographical location and characteristics of the region

The province of *Podkarpacie* is located between the Carpathian mountains (*Karpaty*), which comprise the ranges of the Lower Beskid (*Beskid Niski*), the uplands of the *Bieszczady* and the valley of Sandomierz, situated in the fork of the Vistula (*Wisła*) and *San* rivers. The valley is covered by the remnants of the former primeval forest of Sandomierz.

The province of *Podkarpacie* is characterised by beautiful countryside and attracts tourists both from Poland and abroad, especially mountain climbers and tourists. This is also a region rich in monuments of architecture (*inter alia* the castles in Łańcut, Krasieczyn, Sandomierz and Baranów). However, tourist facilities are scarce, which obstructs tourist development of the region. Also, there is a great demand for people knowing foreign languages, especially English, who would provide for the tourist industry oriented on the visitors from abroad.

2.5. Agriculture in the region

Historically, the province of *Podkarpacie* used to be the poorest and most backward region of the Austrian-Hungarian empire. Nowadays, the Carpathian plateau and the valley of Sandomierz enjoy conditions which are the most favourable for agriculture and horticulture (chokeberry, cherry, walnut), especially for apple growing due to the features of their landscape, as well as soils and climate. These areas are suitable both for growing crops and breeding. The areas of the *Bieszczady* and the Lower Beskid are the best for livestock breeding.

Podkarpacie is mainly an agricultural region, which is characterised by a large number of small farms. Cheap land, relatively unpolluted environment, and the high quality of food and agricultural products stimulate the interest of foreign investors. In the context of the upcoming accession of Poland to the *European Union*, Polish agriculture calls for restructuring, especially involving the introduction of the technological know-how of the highly developed countries. International co-operation in these fields requires specialists with a good command of foreign languages, especially English.

2.6. Industry

The main branches of industry in the region of *Podkarpacie* are: the oil industry, the natural gas industry, sulphur mining, the electric industry. Despite the existing branches of industry and the plants in operation, the province of *Podkarpacie* belongs to the least industrialised regions in Poland and it holds one of the lowest positions in the ratings of the developing regions in Poland (so called *Poland C*). It is characterised by low investments, and a high rate of

unemployment. After the transformation of the political system in 1990, foreign capital entered Poland. The knowledge of foreign languages, especially English, has become indispensable to job applicants, which results in ever growing popularity of this language with young people, especially in smaller towns, as the knowledge of English offers an opportunity of employment in companies with foreign capital.

3. The *Podkarpacie* region in the context of English Studies

3.1. Needs for English teaching and English learning

After the transformation of the political system in Poland the economy of our region ought to be pushed onto new tracks, which requires highly educated people who know foreign languages, especially English. The need for language education may be easily perceived in the following areas:

Business (training of secretarial staff, managers, translators, interpreters, public relations officers),

Tourism and hotel industry (training of tourist guides, air hostesses, and hotel receptionists),

Industry (need for specialists in various fields of industry who have a command of foreign languages adequate to communicate with foreign investors),

Agriculture (health food production, fruit growing),

Army (training of soldiers with an eye to Poland's participation in NATO),

Public administration (training of the local government administrative staff with an eye to Poland's accession to the European Union),

Education (training of foreign language teachers at all levels, from early childhood education, primary and secondary schools, to colleges and universities).

3.2. Language teachers' colleges and language schools

Wide demand for foreign language teaching is partly fulfilled by language teachers' colleges and state, as well as private language schools, with a wide range of language courses. The institutions in the region include:

— **state-owned schools** (the *Department of English* at the WSP pedagogical university),

— **language teachers' colleges** offering 3-year licentiate (BA) studies in: Rzeszów, Przemyśl, Krosno, Tarnobrzeg, Jarosław, and Jasło,

— **private language schools** offering general and specialist language courses at all levels.

There are about twenty colleges and universities, as well as private schools, in the region, and over ten in Rzeszów itself. The most important of them are: the PROMAR school of languages and management, the WSiIZ college of information science and management, the WSZiA college of management and administration. These schools offer licentiate (BA) programmes and intensive language courses (120–180 hours a year). An average school fee amounts to around USD 1,000 a year, which is four times as much as an average monthly pay in Poland. These schools provide well developed teaching facilities (computers, the Internet, books, audio-video equipment), but the level of teaching leaves much to be desired (frequently, people with a licentiate's /i.e. bachelor's/ degree, or an international certificate of English /e.g. Cambridge Certificate of Advanced English/).

3.3. English studies at the WSP

The English philology at the WSP in Rzeszów is one of the most popular fields of study (eight applicants per one vacancy). Such a degree of popularity of the *Department of English* in Rzeszów is influenced by two factors:

- the studies in Rzeszów are cheaper for the applicants from the region in comparison with academic centres in more developed regions,
- low level of teaching English in rural areas discourages the students from applying to colleges and universities in major academic centres.

Given the weak financial position of the inhabitants of the province, it is not surprising that each student would like to use the opportunity of obtaining education free of charge at a local university in Rzeszów. However, in order to provide high quality services (which is a strong advantage over the privately owned institutions), the WSP university requires adequate teaching facilities. Moreover, a continual process of staff training is necessary, which might be effected via grants, scholarships, foreign exchange programmes, and access to the most recent publications, which might consequently enable to provide the students with high quality education.

3.4. Prospects for the future

The existing schools have promptly responded to the needs of the market with respect to English users, which are bound to be satisfied soon (there are about 400 graduates from English departments in universities and colleges each year, which accounts for approximately 0.02 per cent of the population of the province). In spite of gradual inflow of foreign capital, the number of privately-owned companies which would employ graduates from English departments is

limited (the Alima-Gerber food-processing company, the ICN-Polfa pharmaceuticals company, the WSK aircraft factory). Mostly, they can be employed in the educational sector. Therefore, WSP Rzeszów should expand the range of the courses offered. The education of students should take into account future needs of the market, and thus could comprise the following:

- home-based work, requiring **computer**, especially the **Internet**. That would allow future graduates from the *Department of English* to do jobs for institutions located at a distance (e.g. translations, CV and resume writing),
- language teaching with the elements of early childhood education, providing children with an opportunity to acquire English in a natural way, which would require **audio-video** equipment.
- air hostess training, in relation to the prospective construction of a new airport in Rzeszów, which requires **specialised textbooks**.

3.5. Recent initiatives of the *Department of English* at the WSP

The academic year 1999/2000 can be considered as the beginning of significant transformations in the *Department of English* with regard to both the quality and quantity of the process of research, as well as education. The most recent initiatives are:

- the journal *Studia Anglica Resoviensia*, founded on the initiative of Grzegorz A. Kleparski, the editor in chief, assisted by Anna M. Pietrzykowska, which enables the academics from the WSP, as well as from other centres in Poland and abroad, to publish research papers and reviews. The journal is intended to serve not only teachers and students of English, but also enthusiasts of English studies eager to contribute. The Advisory Board of *Studia Anglica Resoviensia* features such names as Prof. Jacek Fisiak (The University of Poznań), Prof. Andrzej M. Lewicki (The University of Maria Curie-Skłodowska), Prof. Brigitte Nerlich (The University of Nottingham), Prof. Christian J. Kay (The University of Glasgow), Prof. Pedro J. Chamizo Dominguez (The University of Málaga), Prof. Carl James (The University of Bangor), Prof. Leszek P. Kolek (The University of Maria Curie-Skłodowska), Prof. Joseph Voyles (The University of Washington), Prof. Marian Bobran (The University of Rzeszów). Special thanks should be directed to the Rector, Prof. Włodzimierz Bonusiak for his personal support of Prof. Kleparski's initiative, and to Mr. Dudziński, the director of the WSP Publishing House.
- **preparation course** for the applicants for the 3-year bachelor's degree programme which started on the initiative of Dorota Osuchowska.

— **new practical English curriculum**, which is currently being designed by our staff members (Igor Burkhanov, Dorota Osuchowska) with a view to prospective establishment of a 5-year master's degree programme.

— **recent publications:**

Burkhanov, Igor: *Lexicography: A Dictionary of Basic Terminology*,

Burkhanov, Igor: *Linguistic Foundations of Ideography: Semantic Analysis and Ideographic Dictionaries*,

Kleparski, Grzegorz A.: *First Facts First: An Introductory Guide to Great Britain and the USA*,

Kleparski, Grzegorz A. & Wołk, Jacek: *Test It before You Taste It: Examination Tests for English Philology*,

Kleparski, G.A. & Pietrzykowska A.M.: *English Communicative Strategies: Openers, Links and Closers*, a manual for writing in English, now in preparation,

Kleparski, G.A. & Urban A.: *I (Have) Milked My Cow (Yesterday): Aspectual Approach to Teaching English Tenses*, now in the final stages of preparation.

Volume 3 of *Studia Anglica Resoviensia* will be published at the end of 2001.

At the moment the *Department of English* is looking for the means to be supplied for the publication of *The Dictionary of Nominal Semantic Changes*, the project which is being prepared by Grzegorz A. Kleparski and other members of the *Chair of Theoretical Linguistics*.

Our staff members are actively participating in the biweekly academic research meetings of the *Chair of Theoretical Linguistics*, which present both senior and junior academics with an opportunity for mind-inseminating discussions and exchange of ideas. Depending on availability of resources and prospective external support, the most interesting projects and papers are to be published in *Studia Anglica Resoviensia* or as separate volumes.

3.6. Looking for academic links

To facilitate the academic contacts, so far hardly existent, with institutions both in Poland and abroad, the heads of the *Department of English* and *Chair of Theoretical Linguistics* have started the necessary queries. At present, efforts are being made by the *Department of English's* head, Igor Burkhanov, as well as other chair heads, to establish formal co-operation with the British Council and other well known institutions which conduct linguistic research in Anglo-Saxon, and Scandinavian countries. However, the poor quality of the technical and information-processing facilities available is a major obstacle. Fortunately, the Department of Education and Foreign Co-operation, headed by Ms. Lucyna

Kustrza, as well as the Administrative Department, directed by Mr. Lipski, are doing their best to get over these obstacles.

Since funds are scarce or non-existent the Department of English is now desperately looking for sponsors and international contacts to remedy this situation. Letters are sent out to charity organisations and people of good will asking for book donations and other appropriate teaching materials which would be used to create a base for our Department of English's reference library.

We have already managed to collect a few hundred books in this way. Prof. Jacek Fisiak (The University of Poznań) has provided us with several books on recent developments in linguistics, Prof. Anna Stadnik (The University of Wrocław) has arranged for a couple of boxes to be sent to our Department, Prof. Christian J. Kay (The University of Glasgow) has given us a boxful of valuable books on the history of English, Prof. Kleparski has donated a collection of 200 volumes, Prof. Carl James (The University of Bangor) has provided us with 400 volumes of valuable books on linguistics and methodology of foreign language teaching. Students are encouraged to participate in various fundraising initiatives, owing to which we have recently been able to redecorate the Department of English's premises.

Government-run educational institutions in Poland are not provided with people who do fundraising on a professional level. Whatever the staff does, they do it on top of their everyday duties and since we have little experience in this field, the many letters we send may never get answered. We would therefore be grateful for any help on who could be contacted for aid in our situation.