

FOREWORD

Open information space, wide opportunities for mobility, and development of the internet have changed people's view on themselves and their place in the world. Since the connection between a person and place in the consciousness is very strong, the processes of globalization have caused a crisis of identification, resulting in the appearance of the so-called hybrid and unidentified identities. However human's desire to understand what he actually is, where he comes from and where he goes to is natural and unchangeable. Human's cultural identity which allows identifying oneself with some culture or group and thus preserve one's own national, religious and local identity is regarded as one of the most important. A person tries to identify oneself in different ways – by looking back on the past, comparing one's own culture with other cultures, trying to define features of one's own culture. Therefore, under the conditions of a contemporary cultural situation, when the processes of globalization, culture interaction, migration, hybridization etc. gain unprecedented topicality, the research done on the specific features of language, literature, public opinion, realm of ideas of different cultures provides the opportunity of analyzing and describing phenomena and processes going on in different cultures, and thus fix and preserve the most characteristic features of these cultures. Research papers included in this collection offer a critical vision of an individual, his identity and place in a contemporary world by analyzing effects on today's world produced by globalization, and by defining national and regional features of different cultures in a comparative perspective of synchronic and diachronic aspects.

In his paper "From Postmodernity to a Post-Truth Society?" Diego Han focuses on the analysis of the concept of the "post-truth" and attempts to prove the irreversible connection between postmodernism and "post-truth". The author inspects some of the specific social events that have brought the term "post-truth" to life – as, for example, the election of Donald Trump as the USA president and the Brexit referendum results. Although postmodernism does not

automatically mean “post-truth”, based on the research, it has given the birth to the “post-truth” condition that can be defined as a direct result of postmodernism and its relativization of the basic concepts of the human existence as the “truth”, the “morality”, “ethics”. “Subsequently, under the influence of new political characters, mostly spiced by populism, these unconventional truths gained the power not only to make their voices heard by the authorities, but also, in some cases, to replace them” (D. Han).

Graciela Susana Boruszko’s article “Living-in-between-languages@borderlands.global” discusses linguistic identities, translation, and bilingualism at the borderlands. The author studies the Basque case and tries to answer the questions how political views interact with the phenomenon of linguistic isolation and what the relation between the national identity and its expression in a translated format is. Although new translations from the minority Basque language have recently entered the international literary system and try to pursue global recognition, the linguistic borderline continues to divide two peoples and two languages that compete for attention, therefore “[l]iving between languages calls for a new global linguistic adventure” (G. S. Boruszko).

Translations have also been investigated in Tigran Simyan and Albert Makaryan’s article “On Functional-typological Plot of ‘Little Red Riding Hood’ in European and Armenian Contexts”. Initially, the source texts of the fairy-tale “Little Red Riding Hood” by Charles Perrault and Brothers Grimm’s were compared to later analysis of the target texts by the Armenian writers Ambrosius Kalfayan (1861) and Ambrosius Kalfayan (1876). The comparison of motifemes (Kenneth Pike’s term) and their “divergences” was presented.

A comparative aspect has been preserved in U. H. Ruhina Jesmin’s article “Narcissistic Personality in Arthur Miller’s ‘Death Of A Salesman’ And Saul Bellow’s ‘Seize The Day’: A Comparative Study” where the author uses relational content analysis method to explore different traits and degrees of characters’ narcissism – obsession with fostering a self-image, denial, preoccupation with unrealistic grand fantasies of success, the sense of superiority, feelings of specialness, and fear of inferiority.

Ilze Kačāne and Alīna Romanovska discuss the benefits of comparative longitudinal children’s and young people’s well-being surveys and present “European Cohort Development project” supported by the European Union in the framework of Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation programme call “Development and Long-term Sustainability of New Pan-European Research Infrastructures”.

Rapid Policy Network Mapping (Bainbridge et al.), carried out in the framework of the project, revealed that it is an effective way for developing a communication platform with which to influence decision makers in Latvia for political and financial support of the first Europe wide birth cohort survey, named *EuroCohort*. The work (face-to-face interviews, telephone conversations, skype sessions, briefings, small group meetings, discussions a.o.) with politicians will be continued.

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