

Studia Animalia 2: the Image of Animals in Language, Literature and Culture

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The previous, 20th issue of “Poznańskie Studia Slawistyczne” (Poznan Slavic Studies) aroused considerable interest in the academic community, which was confirmed by the great number of authors who responded to the invitation to cooperate. As a result, two volumes of the journal with the same title were published. It is with exceptional pleasure that we present to our readers the second part of *Studia Animalia: The Image of Animals in Language, Literature and Culture*, which sheds new light on this engaging and inspiring subject. Also in this volume, esteemed scholars describe from different perspectives the complex human-animal relationship and the role the animal world plays in language and culture. The authors focus on anthropocentrism and its consequences, analyse stereotypes, symbols, mythologies and many other phenomena in the spheres where the figure of the animal appears. Dragana Mršević-Radović, drawing on Heidegger’s views, points out that in modern times, compared to antiquity and the Middle Ages, the position of man has changed – he has become a subject, while the world has been transformed into an object that man observes and forms certain ideas about it. “Of greatest significance is the fact that with the transformation of man into a subject it is man who has become the measure of all things.”¹ This means that the presented image of reality is clearly anthropocentric – intertwined in it, besides physical mechanisms (such as perception), are psychological, cultural and social phenomena.

The current issue has been divided into two sections: linguistic and

¹ Д. Мршевић-Радовић (2008). *Фразеологија и национална култура*. Београд: Друштво за српски језик и књижевност Србије.

literary studies. The first section opens with an article by Katarzyna Zagórska, who examines the frequency of animal names in the language of children. The researcher shows how the range of names changes; she bases her analysis on material collected in the years 1980–1983 and 2010–2015. The results of the discussed studies may find practical application – primarily in language pedagogy, but they may also support work related to the participation of animals in medical therapies. A significant place in this part of the volume is occupied by phraseology, especially animal set phrases in Slovak and Slovenian, Polish and Russian. Svetlana Kmecová, drawing on the Slovak and Slovenian material, reconstructs the belief that animals have the gift of predicting the future. The author focuses on the semantic basis of phrasemes, noting that they are largely based on mythology. Agata Piasecka analyses set phrases with pet names in Polish and Russian to show the relationship between man and animal. The study also covers different types of paroemias, proving that animal phrasemes emphasize the negative traits of animals. They are characterised as immoral and uncultured, although these are not their inherent features, but result from anthropocentrism and didacticism. Elena Carter’s text deals with the metaphor “man is a bird” in Nikita Khrushchev’s speeches from the perspective of comparative linguistics. On the basis of a corpus based on the Soviet leader’s public speeches, his memoirs in Russian and their translations into English, the author analyses set phrases with a bird-name component. She uses the method of conceptual analysis, providing significant insight into conceptual metaphor, but also into the problems accompanying its transfer from one language to another, which is influenced by linguistic and extra-linguistic obstacles.

The part of the issue devoted to literary studies consists of works exploring Bosnian-Herzegovinian, Croatian, Polish and Serbian cultural space. Tomislav Bogdan, Borna Treska and Snježana Husić write about the so-called animal of love in Croatian early Renaissance poetry. Based on the poems by Džore Držić and Šiška Menčetića, the authors show how animal motifs are combined with different types of love discourse, while also indicating the origin of the analysed motifs. Evelina Rudan and Lahorka Plejić-Poje are also interested in the positive connotation of animals, the researchers write about the function of a pair of pigeons in Croatian love poetry. Adriana Kovacheva studies scenes of killing and torturing domestic

animals in Wilhelm Mach's prose, mainly in terms of ecocriticism, offering an innovative perspective on literature of the socialist period. Marko Avramović sheds new light on the poetic depiction of the animal world in Serbian poetry of the second half of the 20th century. He reaches for a modern methodological tools – a new humanism, which is dominated by the theory of the dethronement of man as the measure of all things and by looking at animals as they really are. Evelina Rudan presents the symbolism of the donkey in the poetry of the Chakavian poet Zvane Črnja, where the animal becomes a symbol of resistance of the oppressed and despised: linguistically, culturally and in terms of class. Ewa Szperlik's text is an original contribution to research on the work of the Bosnian-Herzegovinian writer Josip Mlakić. The central place is occupied by the relationship between man and dog described in the author's works. The researcher applies an interdisciplinary approach to the described issues, using mainly post-humanist and post-anthropocentric theories. Agnieszka Groniek, an art historian, introduces the reader to the depiction of the Watchful Emmanuel on the contemporary Serbian iconostases. The author is interested in the meaning and function of this depiction, which illustrates the intellectual Emanuel-lion parallel.

In the *Off-Topic* section, there are papers from the fields of linguistics and literary studies. Tetiana Moroz studies Polish paroemiological units built on the basis of semantic oppositions. She shows how the image of family members and family relations is stereotyped in them. Wojciech Józwiak analyses four Bulgarian historical novels in an interdisciplinary manner, examining the motif of crime as one of the foundations of the story about the emergence of the Bulgarian state. The researcher deals with the problem of justifying violence in the imposition of a new religious/ideological paradigm, of the relation between the perpetrator and the victim, and of the transformation of the victim into the perpetrator. Đorđe Despić analytically shows the reach and influence of oral, medieval Serbian literature on the works by the well-known contemporary Serbian poet Miodrag Pavlović.

The volume also includes three review articles. Ana Samardžić discusses Slobodan Novokmet's book *Nazivi životinja u srpskom jeziku. Semantička i lingvokulturološka analiza*, concluding that the author's interdisciplinary approach, the wide range of material analysed and a precise

concept compensate for the minor shortcomings of the book which is an important contribution to lexicology, lexicography and cultural linguistics. Mariola Walczak-Mikołajczakowa's article concerns the recently published monograph on the origin and development of the linguistic norm of the Bulgarian minority in the Romanian Banat. The author indicates the linguistic and extra-linguistic factors that have shaped the grammar of Bulgarian in Banat over the centuries. Maja Ivanova has authored a review of the book by Ewelina Drzewiecka, a Polish-Bulgarian researcher, who places the Cyrillo-Methodian tradition and the transformation of the Cyrillo-Methodian discourse in Bulgaria in the 1950s–80s at the centre of her research.

The texts published in the 21st issue of "Poznańskie Studia Slawistyczne" supplement the studies published in the previous volume of the journal, offering new conclusions and innovative approaches. They argue that in order to obtain a comprehensive picture of the animal world in human culture, one should take into account a variety of sources – linguistic material, oral and written literature, folk customs but also other forms of artistic expression. Taking into consideration the opinion of Aleksander Gura, according to whom "one can speak of a separate animal code of cultural language,"² both issues of "Poznańskie Studia Slawistyczne" devoted to animal subjects illustrate how this code is analysed, and how conclusions regarding this segment of reality are deepened by new sources, different points of view, and an updated research tools.

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² A. Гура (2005). *Симболика животиња у словенској народној традицији*. Београд: Бримо, Логос, Александрија, pp. 13–14.