

THE XXVI ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIC CONFERENCE, LANGUAGE AND CULTURE, 27–30 October 2015



Dear reader,

I am honored to introduce our interminable series of world-class academic papers, selected from leading Russian and international academics, and presented at our renowned *XXVI International Academic Conference LANGUAGE & CULTURE*. The conference this year is dedicated to the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Faculty of Foreign Languages at National Research Tomsk State University.

Frankly speaking, I am proud that our Faculty has grown to become a beacon for foreign language instruction shining not only in Russia, but across the world. It is testament to our unlikely success that so many gifted keynote speakers deigned to participate in our work and assist in our search for self-perfection.

This year sees the involvement of a formidable team of linguists from overseas: *Prof. Kecskes*, *Prof. David Gillespie*, *Prof. Gert Rijlaarsdam*, *Prof. Jean-Claude Regnier*, and *Prof. Svetlana G. Ter-Minasova*, *Prof. Nikolay N. Nechayev*, *Prof. Vladimir I. Karasik*, *Prof. Radislav Millrood* from Russia. They have graced us with their articles and scientific wisdom. The articles published herein cover such diverse topics that it is impossible to give a thorough overview, but the reader will discover contributions on language learning and teaching, discourse analysis, translation, literature, history, and culture studies.

This issue also showcases research carried out by the most eminent scholars at our Faculty of Foreign Languages and numerous articles by other leading researchers in their respective fields.

I would like to express my special thanks to our Guest Editors, who reviewed the papers for this volume, namely, *Prof. David Gillespie (University of Bath, UK)*, *Prof. Gert Rijlaarsdam (University of Amsterdam, Netherlands)* and *Prof. Istvan Kecskes (State University of New York at Albany, USA)*, whose expert opinion and critical and valuable remarks helped us in working on the issue.

The publication of these Proceedings was made possible by the distinguished contributors and due to the support of National Research Tomsk State University and its Rector, *Professor Eduard V. Galazhinskiy*, within the framework of the TSU Competitiveness Improvement Programme. I would like to express sincere thanks to the Elsevier team for the splendid opportunity to publish the works of our colleagues and make them available for the researchers and practitioners on the global scale. I hope you will find these papers interesting and useful and I would be sincerely glad if this publication promoted further international communication and interaction inside the global academic community.

Yours sincerely,

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Dean of the Faculty of Foreign Languages, National Research Tomsk State University;
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Chair of the FLT Coordinating Board for Siberian Universities;
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