

ABSTRACTS:

1) Jarmila Bradova:

The paper presents results of research conducted to verify the existence of an action zone of teacher's and pupils' interaction in an elementary school classroom. 32 classrooms of sixth grade were observed, teacher-pupil interaction was noted into a standardised recording sheet and then processed using quantitative analysis. The results of the research reveal that the existence of action communication zone in a classroom is not axiomatic and that it depends on various factors such as taught subject, teacher's movement in a classroom and who creates a seating chart.

2) Michal Cigan:

Indra, Beowulf and the monster's mother in the water cave Problem of genetic-based textual resemblance of archaic Indo-European narratives

This paper deals with the theoretical and methodological issues in the field of Comparative Indo-European Mythology. These are demonstrated on the case of practical textual comparison of Indrasúkta RV 1.32 and Epic of Beowulf. Mutual affinities of compared structures are rooted in their social backgrounds, which are genetically unrelated in general. However, Indo-European interpretation of both narratives remains methodologically sustainable. Author suggests reflection of different semantic layers of analyzed text in dependence on different types of its contextual processes. Hypothetical genetic relations of compared text have to be evaluated in each of the layers separately.

3) Vladimir Dordevic:

“What binds the Western Balkans to the Caucasus is, among other issues, certainly an extremely challenging legacy of the past. Dissolution of two respective multinational states-- the Soviet Union and Socialist Yugoslavia in the beginning of 1990s-- introduced ethno-nationalist conflicts on large scale. While the Yugoslav crisis ended in 1999 after FRY was bombed by NATO during its Kosovo campaign, the Caucasus still remains a conflict-ridden region where Russian and Western influences keep colliding. In that respect, the point of this article is to present an analytical comparison of the three respective regional conflicts-- Kosovo, Abkhazia and South Ossetia-- by enumerating and analyzing similarities and differences between them as this proves to be one of current and more intriguing issues of the contemporary international political scene. In that respect, this article is aimed at providing answers to two different issues: Did Kosovo's independence influence establishment of a specific political pattern applicable to other disputed regions, and on the other hand, to what degree are the cases in question comparable to each other”?

4) Lucie Grodecka

Title: Functional analysis of four SERPING1 promoter mutations

SERPING1 is a gene coding for C1 inhibitors in...?, the principal regulator of the complement activation. Many mutations of the gene have been detected so far resulting in the development of hereditary angioedema. Four of the mutations were found in the SERPING1 promoter sequence, but their role in the promoter function was not demonstrated. In order to better understand the impact of those promoter mutations on the C1 inhibitor expression, we employed luciferase reporter gene assays. We examined various promoter variants in two distinct SERPING1 sequence stretches and two distinct cell lines, U-937 and HepG2. What we found was that mutation -40 C>G significantly decreased the promoter efficiency in one of the examined promoter stretches while it was silent in the other one. Mutation -45 C>A did not exert any influence on the reporter gene transcription. The other two mutations, -101 A>G and -103 C>T significantly, though inconsistently, increased the promoter activity, which does not correspond to the decrease of C1 inhibitor plasma concentration found in patients. Further, we did not confirm a negative correlation between SERPING1 mRNA level and the C1 inhibitor plasma concentration proposed by other researchers. Therefore we conclude that the surveyed promoter mutations may affect SERPING1 promoter activity. However, their role in the regulation of C1 inhibitor expression is rather complex and deserves further examination. [Overall: well-formulated, clear sentences. Pay attention to the use of the definite article].

5) Adam Janek:

Title: Rosy Road to Russian

Abstract:

In the present paper, we showed how a modern language textbook should be designed when aiming for effective teaching of the Russian language. We defined all the criterias we consider to be most substantial for any language textbook – not only for a Russian language textbook. The criteria are founded on research that was conducted over a period of more than one year, with a target group of 16-22 year old students. On the basis of the defined criteria, we created a concept of a modern textbook of present-day Russia which guarantees a high level of efficacy during lessons. Models of how to use and work with the whole textbook as well as with single exercises are demonstrated in the paper. The main ideas, solutions and decisions related to the process of the creation of the new textbook are also offered here. [Overall, well-written; ensure tense consistency]

6) Petr Pakosta

Title: Popular beliefs about reasons of poverty in the Czech Republic from 1991-2008.

Previous research revealed that as a post-communist country, the Czech Republic has experienced rapid changes in social structure in last twenty years, accompanied by a growth in social inequalities. We consider popular beliefs about poverty and reasons “why people are poor” as an important cultural factor of social policy. However, we found that there is a lack of literature focusing on public beliefs about reasons of poverty. Therefore we analyzed datasets from the European Value Study (conducted 1991, 1999, and 2008).

We found that there was a tendency to blame the poor for being lazy or unwilling to overcome their predicament, and that these were the dominant explanations of poverty which is the highest rate between all European countries. Individual destiny, macrostructure and societal causes are cited much less. Moreover this complex of opinions was stable between 1991 and 2008. Blaming the poor is often connected with party affiliation (left or right wing) and it is not connected with any demographic characteristics of our respondents. We suggest that one possible explanation for the perceptions of the poor lies in a small proportion of the poor in the Czech Republic (in comparison with other European countries). Due to a small proportion of the undeserving poor is a main body of the poor regarded as the deserving poor whose are easy to blame from their own status.

7) David Sehnal

Title:

SiteBinder: A GUI Based Software for Superimposing Large Sets of Small Protein Motifs and Calculating their Structural Models

Abstract:

SiteBinder is a computational tool with an intuitive graphical interface to allow for comparisons of 3D structural motifs in proteins. It employs a-priori knowledge of amino acid side chains to find the optimal pairing of atoms. Subsequently, quaternion algebra is applied to minimize the root mean square deviation (RMSD). It is optimized for large sets of small to medium size domains or motifs and outperforms state-of-the-art programs like VMD, PyMOL, or Chimera in such applications. We demonstrate its applicability by a superimposition of 503 zinc finger motifs, a comparison of 66 sugar binding sites from PA-IIL lectin complexed with different sugars, and an analysis of a BH3 domain in apoptosis proteins.