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Justyna Wawrzyniuk\*

University of Białystok, Poland

<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7359-0617>

**Polish Cognitive Linguistics Association Conference 2019:  
Cognitive Linguistics in the Year 2019<sup>1</sup>  
September 26 to 28, 2019, University of Białystok, Poland**

Every year, the conference of the Polish Cognitive Linguistics Association, an affiliate of the International Cognitive Linguistics Association, takes place in a different Polish city. In September 2019, the Faculty of Philology of the University of Białystok had the privilege of hosting this international event.

The first day of the conference started with inauguration speeches by the dean of the Faculty of Philology, Professor Jarosław Ławski, and the chair of the organizing committee, Dr. Daniel Karczewski. In opening remarks, Professor Ławski welcomed the participants to Białystok and the university and officially opened the conference. Dr. Karczewski paid tribute to Ludwik Zamenhof, the Białystok-born creator of Esperanto. The international character of this constructed language was not unlike that of the conference; its attendants came to Białystok from all around the world, including China, Finland, Hungary,

\* Justyna Wawrzyniuk, MA is a doctoral student and research associate at the Faculty of Philology of the University of Białystok in Poland and the scientific secretary of the Cognitive Linguistics in the Year 2019 conference. Her research combines pragmatics and cognitive linguistics with a focus on figurative language of humor and popular culture. Her doctoral thesis is a metaphor-led discourse analysis of gender construction in stand-up comedy.

<sup>1</sup> A PhD student at the Faculty of Philology and the scientific secretary of the *Cognitive Linguistics in the Year 2019* conference.

Russia, United Kingdom, Spain, and Sweden. In his opening address, Dr. Karzewski stressed that the mayor of the city of Białystok had taken honorary patronage over the event and that the conference was being supported financially by the marshal of the Podlaskie Region, as well as by a grant to the Faculty of Philology from the Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education under the Regional Initiative of Excellence programme for the years 2019 to 2022.



Photograph 1. Participants listening to the inauguration speeches

Professor Jordan Zlatev (Lund University, Sweden) gave the first plenary lecture, titled *Polysemiotic Communication vs. Multimodality: Narration, Pantomime and Metaphor*. In his talk, Professor Zlatev analyzed definitions of multimodality across disciplines and stressed the need for distinguishing it from polysemiotic communication. Subsequent panel sessions covered such topics as multimodality and emotions and gestures, as well as construction grammar and translation studies. A separate theme session was devoted to metaphor identification.

The second keynote speech was given by Professor Jeannette Littlemore (University of Birmingham, United Kingdom), who discussed variations in experiencing metaphor, namely how the physical experience of the world shapes the way people use metaphors to talk about abstract concepts. Six parallel sessions followed the lecture. They were devoted to medical discourse, figu-

rative language, and contrastive studies. Additionally, the morning sessions of the panels on emotions and contrastive grammar continued into the afternoon. The conclusion of the afternoon panels did not signal the end of the first day, however; more learning and networking opportunities ensued.

One of the highlights of the first conference day was a workshop led by the keynote speakers, both from the University of Birmingham: Professor Dagmar Divjak and Professor Jeannette Littlemore. During the workshops, young researchers and doctoral students could learn about increasing one's chances to publish articles in leading scientific journals. The insights were especially beneficial because they were provided by our guests, who were not only fellow authors but also reviewers. Those who did not wish to participate in the workshop had a chance to take part in a sightseeing tour around Białystok's city center with our wonderful guide, Sylwia Bućko. Warm and sunny weather allowed for fantastic photo opportunities in Kosciuszko Square, around the Branicki Palace, and at many other sites.

The 2019 conference was important for the Polish Cognitive Linguistics Association because board elections were held during the event. Professor Małgorzata Fabiszak (Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań) was elected president, and Professor Krzysztof Kosecki (Łódź University) was elected vice president. Professor Iwona Kokorniak (Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań) was elected treasurer, and Professor Anna Drogosz (University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn) was elected secretary. Dr. Hubert Kowalewski (Marie Skłodowska-Curie University in Lublin) became an ordinary member of the board. The day ended with the conference dinner, during which participants had even more opportunities to socialize and unwind after the eventful and fruitful first part of the conference.

The second day started with the third plenary lecture, this time by Professor Alan Cienki (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Netherlands), whose speech was titled *Constructions on the Level of Utterances: Approaching the Variable Multimodality of Spoken Language Use*. Professor Cienki discussed the analysis of gestures in multimodal communication and construction grammar. A series of consecutive panels followed the lecture. The morning session included the topics of political discourse, normativity, word formation, contrastive grammar, and metonymy. A separate theme session discussed the topic of focus shifts. After the coffee break, it was time for the fourth and last keynote lecture. Professor Dag-

mar Divjak (University of Birmingham, UK), in her talk *The Cognitive Commitment: Not Words, but Deeds*, proposed a new way to describe data derived from language speakers' knowledge. The approach, which includes linguistics, psychology, and engineering, puts the cognitive commitment into practice.

The last lecture served as an ideal foundation for a round table debate with all the keynote speakers. The discussion, led by Professor Barbara Lewandowska-Tomaszczyk (State University of Applied Sciences in Konin), was devoted to the ways cognitive linguistics can contribute to and gain from other disciplines. Both the keynote speakers and the other participants stressed the importance of cognitive linguistics and the possible influence it could have on all aspects of science and life.



Photograph 2. The round table debate was one of the highlights of the second day of the conference.

The afternoon of the second day further proved the interdisciplinarity of cognitive linguistics. While sessions on multimodality, focus shifts, and figurative language continued, sessions on film and television, as well as corpus studies and philosophy, began and added to the wide range of subjects covered during the conference.

The official part of the conference ended on the second day with the closing address from the chair of the organizing committee, Dr. Daniel Karczewski, and the newly elected president of the Polish Cognitive Linguistics Associa-

tion, Professor Małgorzata Fabiszak, who announced that the following 2020 conference would take place from September 24 to 26, 2020, at the University of Łódź, Poland<sup>1</sup>. The informal part of the conference continued into a third day, with a trip to the nearby town of Supraśl, which is famous for its Orthodox monastery and the Museum of Icons. Attendees had a chance to witness the cultural mix of the region and taste the local cuisine.



Photograph 3. Student volunteers helped the conference run smoothly.

The multidisciplinary character of cognitive linguistics provided an academic platform for cognitive linguists to present their research findings, exchange ideas, share experiences and research results, explore opportunities for collaboration, and recognize outstanding achievements within their scientific community, making it a highly valuable and memorable event. Some of the insights stemming from this very rich conference will soon be published in three journals: *Studies in Logic, Grammar and Rhetoric*; *Crossroads: A Journal of English Studies*; and *LaMiCuS: Language, Mind, Culture and Society*.

<sup>1</sup> Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the event had to be postponed until September 2021.