

RÁCOVÁ Anna, BUCKOVÁ Martina (eds.). *Studia Orientalia VICTORI KRUPA Dedicata*. Bratislava: Institute of Oriental Studies, Slovak Academy of Science Press, 2016. 302 pp. ISBN 978-80-89607-48-8 2016.

The publication *Studia orientalia Victori Krupa dedicata* is, as according to the title, a dedication to the 80th anniversary of prominent Slovak orientalist Victor Krupa. In the introduction of the volume, Dr. Anna Ráková enumerates the significant features of Krupa's personality, and the most important milestones of his personal and professional life.

The first chapter of the book deals with the quantitative properties of polysemy in Persian language. Tayebah Mosavi Miangah, Mohammad Javad Rezaei and Gabriel Altmann present the results of their experiment, which confirms that polysemy in text displays a regular distribution. The authors selected five Persian texts from various textual genres (law, politics, science, religion and literature) and they used this material to prove that the majority of links in Köhler's control cycle is present also in Persian. The authors support their claims with numerous graphical, statistical and formalized explanations.

In the second chapter Emanuel Beška examines the defence speech of ʿĪsā al-ʿĪsā which took place in Jaffa in 1914. ʿĪsā al-ʿĪsā was the managing director of Arabic newspaper *Filastin*. Beška analyses *Filastin's* critical attitudes to Zionism, which was in many aspects considered a potential threat to Palestinians and to the Ottoman Empire as well.

Martina Bucková describes the extremely curious circumstances of the Christianisation of Rennell and Bellona Island in Polynesia. Bucková describes the cultural confusion caused by attempts to spread the Gospel in the islands. The crisis reached its peak in 1938, when chief Taupongi convened a meeting which was supposed to be held in both a Christian and traditional manner. The clash of the cultural system of natives with Christianity was accompanied with profound cultural and religious misconception, and resulted in several casualties. After these dramatic events, the natives converted to Christianity in a very short time. According to Bucková, in consequence of their conversion, local societal organisation was destroyed.

Marina Čarnogurská reveals the social symbolism in Chinese medieval landscape paintings. Čarnogurská claims that from the time of the Tang Dynasty (618 – 907) the fine arts of China did not serve only for religious purposes, but began to fulfil its cultural and social mission. Čarnogurská interprets these landscape paintings as “hidden statements” of cultural and social symbolism. According to Čarnogurská, painters expressed their perception and attitudes to political and social reality through the visual images of the country. Čarnogurská tries to approve her statements by arguing that the transformation of approaches to painting corresponds with the social and political changes within medieval China.

Ľuboš Gajdoš deals with the linguistic problem of quantitative description of written Chinese. His purpose is to refine the methodology for quantitative description of different registers of written Chinese. Gajdoš tries to show that the variations of written Chinese could be described with the use of statistical method.

Marián Gálik describes the Slovak scientific interest about Bible and Christianity since the times of the velvet revolution. Gálik introduces the reader to the history of the

Chinese encountering with Bible. Afterwards he enumerates his and his colleague's contributions to better understanding the specific cultural contexts of the Bible and Christianity in China.

Jozef Genzor devoted his paper to the problem of endangered languages and the disappearing of languages. At the beginning of his text, he presents a range of classified endangered languages (*moribund*, *nearly extinct* and *extinct*). Genzor describes the language situation in Europe and in the Russian Federation. In the next part, Genzor deals with the different forms of language revitalisation in the word. In the final part of the chapter, he illustrates his topic with the specific case of Korean language revitalisation.

Jozef Hudec considers the natural factors which impacted the oscillations in ancient Egyptian civilization. He argues that besides human activity, Egyptian history was also affected by natural conditions/events. According to Hudec's opinion climate, meteorological, hydrological and tectonic and seismological circumstances were the natural factors which most significantly influenced the history of ancient Egypt civilization.

The article of Dušan Magdolen is also dedicated to ancient Egypt civilization. His text deals with the Egyptian coffin in the Slovak National Museum. Magdolen tells the story of the coffin and describes its journeys until the coffin arrival at the Slovak National Museum. Magdolen explains the methods and procedures of restoration works on the coffin which were carried out in the 1970's.

The chapter of Anrew Pawley describes pronominal gender assignment in "animated style" in Australian Vernacular English. Contemporary Australian Vernacular English is defined by a cluster of non-standard phonological and grammatical usages and can be heard in the informal speech of many Australians, especially country people and working-class city people. The author suggests the view that masculine is the unmarked gender for living things and feminine for inanimate things. Moreover, he emphasises that gender assignment like the Australian Vernacular English system may go back do Middle English.

In the next article, Gabriel Pirický tries to analyse articles published on the pages of the Slovak newspaper *Národné Noviny* (the National Journal) by Vladimír Krivoš, a famous Russian polyglot of Slovak origin. The author focuses especially on Krivoš's ideas, attitudes and bias with regard to the life and identity of Crimean Tatars and his attempt to (mis)use his own writings to strengthen the Slovak national consciousness under the aegis of Russian panslavic ideology. The author concludes that, although there is still a lack of information to make a clear statement regarding Krivoš's convictions, we could consider Krivoš's contemptuous attitude toward Crimean Tatars in the Orientalist discourse as services of a bigger colonial power.

Total reduplication in Bengali is the subject matter of the next chapter written by Anna Rácová. The article concentrates only on total reduplication. The corpus of 45 titles of short stories written in the twentieth century by 44 authors, the set of fairy tales by Upendrakīṣor Rāycaudhurī and a book by Samareś Basu were analysed for this purpose. The author concludes, that in Bengali reduplication applies, although not equally, to all word classes, except for conjunctions and participles.

Ivan Rumánek is the author of the following chapter dealing with some parallels in the verbal systems of Manchu-Tungusic and Old Japanese and with possible genealogical implications. This study, dedicated to Viktor Krupa, teacher, doctoral supervisor and colleague of the author, uses as a methodology research context followed by a chronological context of the language changes, and afterwards, particular cases of morphological verbal correspondence between two examined languages is subject to a comparative analysis. From the conclusion of the author, we can say that typological comparisons and analyses indicate the possibility of a deeper, paradigmatic cognacy in the morphologies of the verb in selected languages.

In the life of Martin Slobodník, author of the next chapter, Dr. Krupa played a significant role, as he suggested to his parents in autumn 1987 that he should apply for Chinese Studies. Nowadays, a few decades after, Martin Slobodník is the leading Slovak tibetologist and sinologist. In his chapter he analyses the image of Taiwan in Czechoslovakia during the 1950s in travelogues and newspapers of the period and especially focuses on the typical negative images associated with Taiwan in these writings.

The next chapter by Karol R. Sorby gives a brief description of diplomatic skirmishing post the 1967 Six-Day war that was fought by Israel and the neighbouring states of Egypt, Jordan and Syria. The author claims that while Israel's victory had been too swift for the Soviet Union to help its Egyptian and Syrian friends, Western governments and public opinion were almost unanimously hostile towards the Arabs and favourable toward Israel.

In the next part of the publication entitled "Multilingualism in Africa: Challenges and Solutions", Viera Pawliková-Vilhanová discusses the issues of multilingualism, education and languages of the Africa. She points out that Africa is the most multilingual continent in the world and that national boundaries of African countries drawn arbitrarily by the colonial powers during the time of imperial partition of the African continent paid little regard to the historical, cultural and linguistic affinity of the Africans. The author concludes that strengthening and empowerment of African languages is impossible without political will and public opinion.

The book finishes with a chapter dedicated to the work of contemporary Chinese avant-garde painter Zhang Yu in relation to Experimental Ink and Wash Painting in mainland China. According to Daniela Zhang Cziráková, author of the chapter, his work is not characteristic by severe emotional distress manifested in expressive gesture, but rather in silent meditation, reflection and sinking into the inner self. The author also mentions that Zhang Yu's work has already gone beyond the boundaries of the experimental ink painting and beyond Chinese cultural context too.

On the one hand, the publication *Studia orientalia Victori Krupa dedicata* presents a strong collection of various interesting and wide-ranking articles, as they contain a variety of thought-provoking topics which could contribute to a deeper understanding of several issues regarding Oriental studies. On the other hand, the attentive reader may have trouble finding the thread, connecting all the articles in the book and therefore obtaining a clear picture of the intention behind the concept of book. However, this book can be highly recommended to everyone with a deep interest on issues relating to Oriental studies.

*Matej Karásek, Ivan Souček*