

Olga Tokarczuk's Nobel Lecture “The Tender Narrator” meets great enthusiasm around the globe

Olga Tokarczuk is a phenomenal writer, whose writing spans way outside the literary world. She gained popularity with her work and activism long before earning the Nobel Prize. She was able to connect popular and high culture topics with no damage to the depth and art of her literature. Literature in which Tokarczuk, similarly to the likes of Balzac or Proust, creates her own genre, language and style of describing the world. Therefore, to read her or to write about her, one needs to stay humble to ‘word’ – the carrier of all gravity – the soul. In other words, one always needs to be ‘tender’ with it, like ‘The Tender Narrator’, who became the focal point of her speech delivered on Saturday 7th December at the Swedish Academy in Stockholm.

According to Olga Tokarczuk, “The world is made of words” and in this sense we need to tell our stories. However, inundated with fast information, very often contradictory and mutually exclusive, we came to a wall, where we no longer know what the narrative for the future is. The biggest task Tokarczuk leaves us with is to connect, as opposed to divide! Connecting instead of dividing seems to be the message; on every level. Instead of excluding ourselves and experiencing the world through the screens, which allow us to see only fractions of it, we should start connecting the facts and finding orders to discover a new universal form of the world. If we do not take the challenge, everything will remain secluded and with no relevance to each other. The world, that is now instrumentalized and objectified because of “greed, failure to respect nature, selfishness, lack of imagination, endless rivalry and lack of responsibility”, must become a common space for us, animals, plants and objects.



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And so, we come full circle to where Olga Tokarczuk starts – tenderness – a key to compassion, that goes far beyond simple empathy. This is what literature is built on. It gives us deep access to other people's lives and allows us to understand, share and experience their emotions, therefore unifying us with the surrounding world.

Read, or watch her full lecture here:

<https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/literature/2018/tokarczuk/lecture/>

Karolina Całka, M.A.

21st National English Language Olympiad for Technical University Students



On 6 December 2019, more than 400 students representing 15 technical universities in Poland took part in the first stage of the 21st National English Language Olympiad for Technical University Students.

The Olympiad, organized and coordinated annually by the Centre of Languages and Communication at Poznan University of Technology, has invariably been a popular event attracting first-, second- and third-cycle students from the whole country wishing to test their language competence that covers both general English and ESP as well as knowledge of English-speaking countries.

The 2nd stage of the Olympiad will be held between 24 and 25 April 2020 at Poznan University of Technology. Having taken written and oral tests, 10 laureates will be selected who, during the grand finale of the competition on 25 April

2020, will deliver multimedia presentations on one of the following topics:

*"I not only use all the brain that I have,
but also that I can borrow."*

Woodrow Wilson

*"We generate fears while we sit.
We overcome them by action."*

Henry Link

Honorary patronage of the Olympiad:

His Magnificence Rector of Poznan University of Technology – Professor Tomasz Łodygowski, PhD, D.Sc.

Mayor of Poznan – Mr Jacek Jaśkowiak

Honorary Consul of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland – Mr Włodzimierz Walkowiak

Honorary Consul of Ireland – Mr Artur Sikora
Fulbright Polska

Media patronage of the Olympiad:

Radio Afera

TV Spacja

CLC hosts of the Olympiad:

Director of the Centre of Languages and Communication – Liliana Szczuka-Dorna, Ph.D.

Deputy Director of CLC – Małgorzata Bączyńska, M.A.

Deputy Director of CLC – Barbara Sawicka, M.A.

Head of English, French and Spanish Section at CLC – Anna Raulinajtys, Ph.D.

Olympiad organizers:

Karol Matysiak, M.A. – coordinator

Karolina Całka, M.A.

Waldemar Korczyk, M.A.

Katarzyna Sobańska, M.A.



The organization of Culture Week for foreign students of our university at Centre of Languages and Communication has become our tradition and this year was wildly successful! In the last week of November almost 200 participants from all over the world gathered in one place. Students came from Europe: Spain, Italy, Portugal, Greece, France, Hungary, Germany, Romania, Turkey, and other, more distant parts of the world, such as: China, Japan, Ethiopia, Brazil or Australia.

On the first day the participants learnt about Polish cinematography, then took part in a film show and watched *Listy do M.* During the following days of the tightly-packed itinerary, the students watched presentations, played games and solved quizzes about famous Polish people, traditions and holidays. They also had the opportunity to discover traditional Polish cuisine, and try many delicious Christmas dishes. On Friday evening students attended *Andrzejki* and had a lot of fun pouring wax and playing future telling games. During the final day, they enjoyed a visit to Rogalowe Muzeum Poznań where they baked the legendary Saint Martin Croissants.

Culture Week presents students with a wonderful opportunity to learn and better understand the place they

CULTURE WEEK



spend their whole semester. Yet, it is also a chance to meet other Erasmus students and enjoy spending the time together.

Organisers of Culture Week
Justyna Połomka, M.A.
Małgorzata Konopko, M.A.
Agnieszka Rutkowska, M.A.
Agata Jankiewicz, M.A.



DAY OF LANGUAGES AT PUT

December 4, 2019 was the day when the future of the Earth was saved by the students of Poznan University of Technology. During the 18th Day of Languages, organized annually at the Centre of Languages and Communication, they learned that an international organization is selecting a group of scientists, engineers, astronauts, and daredevils to set off on a wormhole journey in search of a new home for humanity. To qualify for this group, the students had to demonstrate knowledge, skills, creativity, perceptiveness and the ability to make the right decisions quickly.

There was not much time left - only 60 minutes during which the students had to crack their brains to solve the puzzles and clues to save the world. Each solved riddle brought them closer to qualifying for the team. Fortunately, our students rose to this challenge and within 40 minutes managed to solve all the tasks and create the rescue group. The winners could enjoy numerous rewards as free pizzas, billiards, bowling or even visiting the roof of the city Stadium in Poznan.

Kinga Komorowska, M.A.

BADGE PROJECT

Centre of Languages and Communication (CLC) of PUT participates in an Erasmus+ project entitled Becoming a Digital Global Engineer (BADGE) which started on 1st of September 2019 and is going to last 36 months. The main objectives of the programme are as follows:

- to design LSP materials for intercultural communicative competence to be used by the wider community of LC teachers in engineering schools, identified below as Intellectual Outputs (IOs);
- to create a multilingual Open Educational Resources (OER) platform with the learning materials and lesson plans, jointly developed by BADGE members, engineering students and faculty and industrial partners, allowing LC teachers to choose lesson plans or learning units which can be adapted to local/national needs, be integrated in existing courses and even lead to new curricula;
- in the long-term, to form engineers with digital global skills in sustainable internationalisation as a result of improved educational practices.

CLC in a team with two other universities (Spain and Poland) is responsible for the following IOs:

1. IO1 - creating a communication course for future engineers;
2. IO8 - preparing English-Medium-Instruction (EMI) for academic teachers and administrative staff.

The first partners' meeting took place at CLC PUT on 13th and 14th of January 2020 with representatives of Language Centres from Polytechnic University of Valencia, Spain and University of Science and Technology, Kraków to discuss the main objectives of IO1 and IO8 and talk about future plans.

Edyta Olejarczuk, PhD