

Conference report

The Third International Conference of Language, Culture, and Society in Russian and English Studies

This year the 3rd International Conference of Language, Culture, and Society in Russian and English Studies was held on 9th and 10th July at Senate House of the University of London. The conference organizers were the Institute of English Studies, the University of London, the Russian Academy of Sciences, the Russian Academy of Linguistics, and the Moscow Institute of Foreign languages. The organizing committee comprised directors and professors of these institutions; the presidents of the committee were Emma Volodarskaya, Chancellor of Moscow Institute of Foreign Languages, and Jane Roberts, Emeritus Professor of London University.

The conference was opened on 9th July at 10.30 am by Warwick Gould's (Director of the Institute of English Studies at the University of London) warm and welcoming speech. This was then followed by four plenary presentations, chaired by the committee's presidents, Jane Roberts and Emma Volodarskaya. Robin Aizlewood (of the School of Slavonic and East European Studies) presented a talk on the theoretical aspects of the semantics of rhythm: the poetics of monotony in Lermontov's "I skuchno I grustno". Warwick Gould (of the Institute of English Studies) spoke about Byzantine art and *Yeats's sailing to Byzantium and Byzantium*; Eric Stanley (from Oxford University) presented "On the oration of Old and Middle English Legal Discourse", and Tessa Murdoch and Frances Parton (of the Victoria and Albert Museum) discussed "Diplomatic Impressions: ambassadorial Experiences in London and Moscow from the 1550s to the 1680s". These four talks emblemize what would be the contents of this conference and that is papers devoted to Russian language studies (like Aizlewood's), papers devoted solely to English language studies (like Stanley's), and papers dealing with more cultural aspects of both the English and Russian speaking world (such as Gould's and Murdoch-Parton's plenaries mentioned above).

After a lovely buffet lunch in the elegant grand lobby of the ground floor of Senate House, the afternoon papers were presented in two parallel sessions, one devoted to English studies, the other to Russian studies. Two papers dealt with literary studies: Stewart Brookes' (King's College, London) "Aelfric's Adaptation of the Book of King's as Saint's Life", and Richard Hawtree's (University College Cork, Ireland) "A Third-century Holyweek Sermon and its implication for the Texts of *The Dream of the Rood Tradition*"; and two with linguistic issues: Barbara Berti (University of Como) and Laura Pinnavaia's (University of Milan) "Collocations before Collocations: Exploring Word Combinations in the early history of English Lexicography", and Giovanni Iamartino's "Lexicography as an Educational Tool: *The Ladies Dictionary of 1694*". In the Russian studies' session, Svetlana Mishlanova (Perm State National Research University, Russia) spoke about "Metaphor Modelling in Popular Medical Discourse", Isaeva Mishlanova (Perm State National Research University, Russia) about "Finding Metaphors in the Cyberterrorism discourse", and Inna shved (Brest State University, Belarus) about "Colour Code of Russian Folklore.

The afternoon closed with a workings group session chaired by Andrew Breeze and Yuriy Vorotnikov. Here three papers were delivered, the first by Mikhail Osadchiy about the "The tactics of Legal risks Avoidance in Political and Business communication in Modern Russia", the second

by Ratnesh Dwivedi on “An analytical Study of Sanskrit and Panini as Foundation Communication in India and the world”, and the third by Farouk Benabdi on “Immigration and State Educational Policy in England from the 1960s to the 1990s”.

The second day of the conference started at 10am with six plenary presentations. The first was delivered by Olga Aleksandrova (Moscow State University, Russia) and was about “Oral and Written Speech as the Foundation for Human Cognitive Activity”, the second by Emma Volodarskaya (Moscow Institute of Foreign Languages, Russia) centred on a “Comparative Analysis of English and Russian in their Historical Development”, and the third regarding “Alec Craig: Opponent and Victim of the Censoring Discourse of Obscenity” was presented by Richard Espley (University of London). These verbal-based analyses were then followed by three speeches featuring the examination of non-verbal communication. The first by Roger Kain of the University of London was “On the International History of Cartography project”, the second entitled “*The Russian Ideographic Dictionary and Linguistic Picture of the World*” was delivered by Yuri Vorotnikov and Natalia Zanegina (Institute of the Russian Language, Moscow), and, last but not least, Michelle Brown of the University of London talked about “East meets West: preliminary work on the Latin mss of St. Catherine’s Sinai”.

In the afternoon, contemporary sessions were held of Russian and English studies, like the day before. In the English session, the focus was primarily on medieval studies. Chaired by Ian Kirby and Jane Roberts, the speaker Francisco Lopez Alvarez (University of London) talked about “Two languages, Two scripts, Two Scribes: the case of BL, Cotton Titus, A.iv”, N. Sparks (University of London) about “Ex Musaeo Petri Dubrowsky: Insular Manuscripts in Russian Collections”, Lucy Perry (University of Geneva) about “Marking and Quoting Speeches in Layamon’s *Brut*”, and Andrew Breeze (University of Navarra, Spain) discussed the issue “Did a Woman Write the Whitby Life of St. Gregory?” Then, chaired by Louise Sylvester and Tadashi Kotake, the English studies session continued with the speakers Sara Pons-Sanz (University of Westminster) who debated “Does Order Matter? A Study of Alfred’s Multiple Glosses to the Lindisfarne Gospels”, Mark Chambers (University of Westminster) who spoke about “*Clothing by Name: Approaching the Study of Late Medieval Multilingualism Through Specific Technical Lexis*”, Annegret Mester who discussed “Emaré, A Romance Concerned With the Cultural, Social and Historical Issues of a Late Medieval World”, and T Solomonik-Pankrashova (Vilnius University, Lithuania) who delivered a speech on “King Alfred’s Prose Psalter: Vernacular Translation as an Exegetical Practice”.

In the Russian studies session, two speakers dealt with medieval matters: Agnes Kriza (Warburg Institute, London) delivered the paper “Byzantine Sources of the Theology Icon in Medieval Russia..”, and Inna Matyushina (Exeter University) the paper “Gains and Losses in Translating Anglo-Saxon Poetry into English and Russian”. Another two dealt with modern lexical issues: Larisa Plotnikova (Belograd State University, Russia) talked about “Everyday Speech tendencies of Modern Word Creation”, and Larisa Ratsiburskaya about “Sociolinguistic Specificity of Word-building Neologisms in the Modern Russian Language”.

The afternoon of 10th July was completed by two working groups session. The first focused on English and Russian Literature; the second on Language Teaching. In the former, Sandra Clark (University of London) spoke about “Macbeth and the Limits of Agency”, Svetlana Klimova (Linguistic University of Nizhny Novgorod, Russia) about “The Image of Russia in Contemporary

English Literature”, and Conor Wyer (University of London) about “The Whole Stinking Mess of Life, Coldly Observed: Reading Joyce in 1940s”. They were all chaired by Sandra Clark and Marcus Dahl. In the Language Teaching working group, chaired by Dina Nikulicheva and Irina Sorokina, Natasha Kurashova (Regent’s College London) presented the paper “Pedagogical Approaches and Instructional Materials for Developing Professional Language Proficiency Among Heritage Students of Russian”, Dina Nikulicheva (Institute of Linguistics of the RAS, Moscow) the paper “Correlation between Time Perception and Time Conceptualization in Grammar Systems: English vs. Russian”, Yelena Romanova (Saint-Petersburg Institute of Management and Law, Russia) the paper “The Competence-Based Approach in the Educational Process”, and finally Irina Tverdokhlebova (Moscow City Teacher Training University, Russia) delivered the paper “Linguistic Aspects of Upgrading Presentation Discourse in ESP Students Training”. The day and conference closed with a delicious caviar and vodka tea-party in Senate House’s grand lobby.