

## **Presentation of the applicant**

### **1. Given names and family name**

Helena Grochola-Szczepanek

### **2. Diplomas and scientific degrees: names of education institutions, dates and title of doctor's thesis**

1994 Master's degree in Polish philology  
Pedagogical University in Krakow, Faculty of Humanities

2000 Doctor's degree in humanistic sciences, specialization: linguistics  
Pedagogical University in Krakow, Faculty of Humanities

Title of doctor's thesis: "Noun and adjective compounds in Polish Dialects"

### **3. Information on employment in scientific organizations**

From September 1<sup>st</sup>, 1995 to January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2007 I was employed in the Department of Polish Dialectology at the Institute of Polish Language, Polish Academy of Sciences in Krakow.

Since February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007 I have been employed in the Department of Linguistic Geography at the Institute of Polish Language, Polish Academy of Sciences in Krakow.

### **4. Description of scientific achievement according to article 16 clause 2 of the act dated March 14 2003 on scientific degrees and scientific title and degrees and title in arts (Journal of Laws no 65, item 595 with amendments)**

#### **a) title of scientific achievement**

"Język mieszkańców Spisza. Płeć jako czynnik różnicujący"

#### **b) author/authors, title/titles of publication, year of publication, name of publisher**

Helena Grochola-Szczepanek, *Język mieszkańców Spisza. Płeć jako czynnik różnicujący*, Prace IJP PAN 139, IJP PAN, Kraków 2012.

#### **c) discussion of the scientific/artistic aim in above work/works and the results achieved with a discussion of their possible use**

The book *Język mieszkańców Spisza. Płeć jako czynnik różnicujący* undertakes to study the language of the residents of the countryside in a way that extends beyond archival collections (which largely concern a now extinct area in the life of such residents) and is geared more towards the living language in its natural environment. The elaboration is based on the modern dialectal data from Spisz on Polish territory. Lingual data were collected through individual and group interviews with residents of all ages, and a auditory survey of secondary school pupils in Spisz.

The main objective is to present the dynamics of the language situation in the Polish part of the Spisz region and analyses internal differences in the dialect that are determined by various social, cultural, psychological and demographic factors. Most attention is paid to language relationships as a

factor of gender. Two-part composition of the work corresponds with two parts of the title: *Język mieszkańców Spisza. Płeć jako czynnik różnicujący*. The first part concerns with the language of the inhabitants of Spisz villages in general, and second – the relationship between the dialect and gender.

The first part is started with the chapter in which are discussed the methods used to study the speech of male and female inhabitants of local villages. A great deal of attention is paid to focus studies as this method is derived from another area of research (sociology) and is also used in language research. The historic-social sketch includes information regarding the origin of the name of Spisz, as well as the history and the material and spiritual culture of the region. There are presented statistical data regarding the number of residents and the gender structure. The chapter *Język mieszkańców wsi na początku XXI wieku* is a presentation of hitherto research results for the Spisz dialect, its most important characteristics as well as socio-linguistic description. The next chapter of the thesis analyses the role of demographic-social factors (age, gender, place of residence and intergenerational differences between children and their parents and grandparents) in speech differences between the inhabitants of Spisz villages. The data for this chapter was obtained via an auditory survey of secondary school pupils in Spisz.

The second part of the study outlines the relationship between dialect and gender factors. I first report on research from interdisciplinary gender studies to linguistics of gender. The chapter *Język mężczyzn, język kobiet* includes observations on the language spoken by men and women in a village environment. I discuss the characteristics of language behaviour, vocabulary and different ways of addressing men and women. The next chapter includes an analysis of the exponents of masculinity and femininity as well as the way information about gender is encoded in the structure of the Spisz dialect. The issue concerns phenomena at different levels of the language. I discuss, among other things, word formation of proper and common names as well as grammatical gender. A separate chapter is devoted to reconstructing the linguistic picture of men and women. Registered appellatives, for the most part emotionally charged, are categorised in three groups, which were divided on the basis of the following semantic and formal criteria: 1) period of life; 2) rural community; 3) physical features. Distinguished within each of these groups were sub-categories and intra-categorial differences.

I enclose fragments of interviews with inhabitants in an annexe. The book has the index of names connected with gender which are discussed in particular chapters of the thesis.

As the study showed, significant differences in the inhabitants' knowledge and use of dialect vocabulary on the one hand and general Polish vocabulary on the other are shaped by many factors. The weakening of the vitality of dialectic lexemes, followed then by their elimination from the language, is a consequence of the influence of the general Polish system on the dialect and the disappearance of certain forms of social life of village inhabitants. The dialect vocabulary is most actively used by the area's oldest residents and is gradually less actively used by younger generations. The reverse trend is noted in the case of general vocabulary. Differences in the inhabitants' knowledge and their use of dialect vocabulary in particular villages are mainly determined by the degree of their isolation.

An analysis of the gender factor in three areas, i.e. the language behaviour of men and women, the way information is encoded in the language structure, and the language picture of men and women, leads to the general conclusion that gender is an important differentiating factor in folk

language. The gender factor influences the different ways that men and women communicate. However, these are not absolute or regular differences that are present in the utterances of men but not present at all in the utterances of women, or vice versa. These dissimilarities come down to the fact that some forms of language behaviour are evident in men to a much greater or lesser degree than in women. A review of gender exponents in dialect structure reveals heterogeneous ways of encoding information about male and female gender. Several types of gender exponents can be identified in the analysed language data: lexical, morphological (word-forming and inflective), constituent, contextual and consituational. In the language picture of the world there is a distinct opposition between the male and female worlds. In the opinion of village residents men and women perform specific roles in the village community. According to the traditional division of functions and social roles which emerged from the language data, men are associated with the social sphere, with work outside the home, with earning a wage and with representing the family to the outside world. Women belong to the private sphere, the home, to the world of raising children. Man is perceived as dominant, active, while woman is dependent and passive.

The book forms part of a wider trend in interdisciplinary research that looks at the language and culture of so-called 'little homelands'. It is concerned with issues that affect the contemporary countryside, its linguistic, cultural and customary wealth and transformations associated with globalization. It fills a currently existing gap in the description of dialects. The study provides a record of folk dialect in Spisz in the first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It contains longer texts, records of conversations and responses to surveys. The book also represents a lively voice in the ongoing debate in Poland and beyond on the role of men and women in society, as well as on their rivalry, potential and accomplishments. The study will be of interest not only to dialectologists, but also to ethnolinguists, sociolinguists and researchers interested in regional forms of Polish.

## **5. Other research and scientific achievements**

### **a) lexicography**

One of my chief interests is lexicography. During my 12 years of work in the Department of Polish Dialectology I was the co-author of *Słownik gwar polskich* (SGP). My dictionary entries were compiled in a number of SGP booklets from the years 1998-2010. I am also the co-author of studies linked with this dictionary: *Indeks alfabetyczny wyrazów z kartoteki Słownika gwar polskich* (1999) and *Miejscowości ze źródeł rękopiśmiennych z odpowiednią numeracją w powiatach* (2001).

In 1995 I took part in work on *Słownik współczesnego języka polskiego*, ed. by Bogusław Dunaj (1996), my task being to prepare entries for the letter G.

### **b) dialectal compound words**

In the years 1996-2000 I was involved in research into compounds in Polish dialects, a result of which was my PhD thesis *Złożenia rzeczownikowe i przymiotnikowe w gwarach polskich* (2000), written under professor Tadeusz Szymański guidance). This is the first comprehensive systematization and compilation of dialectal compounds. I published research results in monograph *Rzeczowniki złożone w gwarach polskich* (2002) and two articles: *Przymiotniki złożone w gwarach polskich* (2006), *Główne typy strukturalno-semantyczne rzeczowników złożonych w dialektach polskich* (2008).

### **c) linguistic geography**

Since 2007 I have taken part in work on two international projects: *Ogólnosłowiański atlas językowy* (OLA) and *Atlas językowy Europy* (ALE). The linguistic materials for OLA are drawn from all of the Slavic languages, while in the case of ALE they are derived from 51 European languages. Compiling a linguistic map requires great expertise in the etymology, historical and comparative grammar of languages as well as in the use of graphical programs prepared specifically for this purpose. My work on OLA and ALE also involves closely collaborating with national committees in individual countries.

One of the most notable results of my work as part of the OLA project is vol. 9 of the series *Człowiek*, ed. by J. Siatkowski i J. Waniakowa (2009) in which I co-authored 13 linguistic maps and the volume secretary. For this volume I graphically compiled 50 maps.

### **d) language of the rural population**

One of my major research interests is the speech of residents of rural Spisz. The countryside is currently undergoing great civilizational and social change, which is having an impact on the language and culture of its residents. Rural residents today form a society which varies socially, culturally and linguistically. This is an interesting area of research for specialists from many fields. Also of key importance to my research is the fact that this is the final moment when we can record an old, traditional, rural world that is now passing into history. In my work, the results of which are described in various articles, I have mainly focused on the following issues:

- social and cultural transformations and their effect on the language of residents;
- changes in the lexical layer (level of knowledge and use of dialectal and general vocabulary in individual generations);
- the share of demographic and social factors in dialect diversification;
- the language of residents of the countryside in an official situation;
- principles applied in the inflection of proper names and local custom;
- a linguistic picture of a resident of rural Spisz;
- utilization of new means of researching the language of rural residents (focus group research);
- linguistic politeness.

### **e) gender**

The relationship between language and gender forms a separate chapter in my research on the language of rural residents. To conduct interviews with men and women of various ages based on a single-standardised formula, I compiled a questionnaire for the interviews. I utilized the focus group method, which I borrowed from sociology, and adapted it to the needs of researching the language of rural residents. Through my research into the links between language and gender I have determined indicators of gender in dialect structure, identified differences in the language of men and women and reconstructed a linguistic picture of the male and female sex.

In the section concerning my interests regarding the issue of gender I must single out two articles of a different nature: one discussing gender terminology and another comparing lexicographic descriptions in the Polish and Bosnian languages. In the first article *Od gender studies do lingwistyki płci, czyli o terminologii genderowej w języku polskim* (2010) I discussed matters of

gender terminology in Polish, that is, the question of the degree to which Polish has assimilated foreign names and the extent to which it has developed its own notions. The purpose of the article *Informacje o płci w słownikach języka polskiego i bośniackiego* (2012) was to identify the means used to express the male and female sex in contemporary dictionaries of Polish and Bosnian.

Since I have been awarded my doctor's degree I have written over 20 articles on issues linked to the language of residents of the countryside, which have been published in various linguistics periodicals, including *Język Polski*, *Jezikoslovni Zapiski*, *Prace Filologiczne*, *Prace z Filologii Polskiej i Słowińskiej*, *Socjolingwistyka*. The articles I wrote on the dialect of Spisz and the issue of sex were published during the course of my work on my postdoctoral book, which included some modified passages of these publications.

#### **f) science popularization**

In 2008 I published the article *Kobiecość, męskość, czy może płęć komplementarna i neutralna?* in which I discussed the most popular theories and views on the categories of femininity and masculinity.

Since 2006 I have collaborated with the local periodical *Na Spiszu*, in which I have published brief notes on the dialect and customs of Spisz. In 2008, at the request of the editors, and for the needs of this periodical, I compiled a standardized spelling of the dialect of Spisz. The need for standardization arises from the fact that folk authors apply very different methods when writing dialect words.

#### **g) participation in conferences**

I have presented papers at many national and international linguistic conferences, as well as at the foreign *Obdobja 26: Slovene dialects – system and use* symposium (Ljubljana, Slovenia 2007) and *The First Slavistics Congress of Bosnia and Herzegovina* congress (Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina 2011).

I took part in international *Atlas Linguarum Europae* conferences (Glasgow, Scotland 2009, Krakow, Poland 2010, Riga, Latvia 2012) and *Ogólnosłowiński atlas językowy* conferences (Minsk, Belarus 2009, Zvenigorod, Russia 2011).

#### **h) others**

Since 2009 I have been the secretary of the periodical *Socjolingwistyka*.

In 2011 I was awarded a prize from Director of the Institute of Polish Language, Polish Academy of Sciences for my publishing achievements in 2010.

*Melena Epochole-Zmurepauek*