

ABSTRACTS

Géza Balázs

■ *The International Society of Hungarian Language and Culture – on Old and New Roads*

Keywords: *Hungarian Language Conference, International Society of Hungarian Language and Culture*

The year 1970 saw the start of the movement known as the Hungarian Language Conference (Anyanyelvi Konferencia). Starting from 1 February 1992, this institution also functions as the International Society of Hungarian Language and Culture. Over the past 50 years, this initiative – bringing together Hungarian language diasporas and majority communities – has undergone significant changes. Nevertheless, it always represented its main aim: the safekeeping of the unity of Hungarian culture and its popularization. There are three main periods of this movement. (1) The organization of conferences every five years (1970-1992), (2) the period of institutional consolidation of the Hungarian Language Conference – the International Society of Hungarian Language and Culture (1992-2012), (3) the search for new ways, along with the preservation of its original mission, for the cultivation of the Hungarian language (2012). The main characteristics of this renewal have been: a) the bringing together of Hungarian NGOs from this field, b) the integration of the relevant movements into the Hungarian linguistic strategy, c) the renewal of communication (e.g. E-NYÉK), d) generational change, association with youth organisation, e) new programs (essay conferences, summer camps, summer schools).

Béla Bíró

■ *Assimilation vs. Coexistence*

Keywords: *integration, assimilation, minorities, Europe, migrants*

The basic idea of the essay is that today Europe – although it populates itself with prospective minorities (the migrants) – is fully unable to face up to the minority-problem. In Western Europe, the assimilation is today systematically confused with integration, but this “integration” could no longer transform itself in a factual basis of social cohesion. There is a fundamental difference between the – substantially always individualistic – assimilation (i.e. the full acquisition of the majority language and culture) and the – always communitarian – integration, based on multilingualism and multiple identities.

László Máté

■ *In Commitment to Kazinczy*

Keywords: *Czechoslovakia, Slovakia, Hungarian minority, Hungarian language and culture*

The Cultural Association of the Hungarian Workers in Czechoslovakia was established almost 70 years ago, in March 1919, following the initiative of the Communist Party. Currently, it functions under the name “Civic and Cultural Association of Hungarians in Slovakia”. The organization has always played an important role in the life of the Hungarian community. This was especially true fifty years ago, in the period of the Prague Spring and of the so-called “socialism with a human face”. The Velvet Revolution of 1989 has not brought about the legalized emancipation of the Hungarian community. Laws against the Hungarian minority are still being drafted, such as the language law, the law of citizenship, the laws on the inviolability of the Beneš decrees. Hence, the struggle for the protection of Hungarian language is still as current as ever.

János Péntek

■ *The Borderless Hungarian language movement*

Keywords: *Romania, Kolozsvár, Association of the Transylvanian Cultivators of Hungarian Language, minority culture, Hungarian language*

The author of this essay evokes one of his cathartic experiences from the 1990s: that of the possibility to request one’s linguistic dignity and of building a professional society of people involved in Hungarian studies, thus overcoming the previous linguistic and scholarly isolation. These developments were also favoured by the fact that, in the first months of the new decade, almost one hundred Hungarian university teachers have signalled that they would be pleased to come to Kolozsvár (in Romania: Cluj) as visiting professors. As the professional society similar to the Association of the Cultivators of Hungarian Language from Hungary, the Association of the Transylvanian Cultivators of Hungarian Language (AESZ) was established, the motivation to overcome the borders and to fasten the new society to other relevant organisations and events from the Carpathian Basin with as many ties as possible has already been clear. The AESZ has thus become the main institution of the Hungarian language movement in Transylvania.