

13th World Congress of the International Association of German Studies in Shanghai (23 – 30 Aug 2015)

The International Association of German Studies (IVG) was founded in Florence in 1951 in order to support international collaboration in the field of German Studies. The world congresses of this organization are held every five years, in 2015 for the first time in China, hosted by Professor Dr. Jianhua Zhu of the German Department at Tongji University. More than 1,200 scientists from 69 countries gathered in Shanghai to discuss “German Studies between Tradition and Innovation“. With over 50 panels and about 1,000 presentations, the congress provided all the attending scientists a very rewarding opportunity to present their research on a variety of topics related to German linguistics, literature and cultural studies, language didactics and language acquisition. Announced as top event by the German Consul General in Shanghai, Peter Rothen¹, the IVG congress was a highlight for the attending scientists.

In linguistics, eleven panels took place, among these one chaired by Silvia Bonacchi on *relationship formation through language in contrastive analyses of communicative practices*. The panel *German on the move: Grammatical variation of the standard language* was headed by Arne Ziegler, while Andreas Gardt chaired presentations on *Language and identity: cultural, political, and social perspectives. Oral or Written? Language under media conditions* was discussed in the panel of Stefan Hauser and Dennis Scheller-Boltz organized presentations related to *bilingual lexicography – its development, current status, and tendency*.

Languages for Specific Purposes were at the centre of 25 presentations in a panel chaired by Sambor Grucza (co-chairs: Michael Szurawitzki, Thorsten Roelcke, and Heinz-Rudi Spiegel). These presentations included studies on how to transfer LSP research into practice, for example, in a study on German-Polish project communication (Sambor Grucza), knowledge transfer and e-learning (Karl-Hubert Kiefer) as well as German as a foreign language for ice hockey players (Heinz-Rudi Spiegel, Julia Remih). Taking up the topic from Grucza’s presentation, Kristina Pelikan presented various approaches of classifying project communication. Hans-Rüdiger Fluck outlined the development of LSP research and teaching at Tongji University. Moreover, this section included studies on scientific publications, e.g. on scientific texts

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(Irem Atasoy), on introductions into scientific publications (Michael Szurawitzki) and a study on peer reviews (Heinz L. Kretzenbacher). Monika Pluzyczka and Anna Bonek discussed eye-tracking as a method for applied LSP research in the field of translation processes. While the presentation of Pawel Bak addressed terminology of commercial German, Irina Chernenok compared terminology with the use of metaphors. Altogether, this panel outlined current research in applied LSP research.

The multifarious IVG congress programme was embedded into a stirring supporting programme, with a sparkling Chinese culture night, cultural events of the German-speaking countries and author sessions as well as award ceremonies. Under the auspices of DAAD president, Prof. Dr. Margret Wintermantel, James Mewa Ikobwa was acknowledged with the Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm Advancement Award and Paulo Astor Soethe received the 2015 Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm Award.

The thoroughly organized conference programme and the meticulous planning of Michael Szurawitzki and his team at Tongji University made the 13th world congress of the IVG a tremendous success. Abridged versions of all presentations will be published in the series *Internationale Vereinigung für Germanistik*, edited by Jianhua Zhu, Jin Zhao and Michael Szurawitzki and published by Peter Lang Verlag in 2016/2017. Full panel papers on applied LSP research will be published online in *Lingwistyka Stosowana/Applied Linguistics*, edited by Sambor Gucza.

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