

**MICHAELA MARTINKOVÁ, MARKÉTA JANEBOVÁ,
JAROSLAV MACHÁČEK AND IRENA PAUKOVÁ (EDS),
IVAN POLDAUF: COLLECTED WORKS, VOLUME I (1940–1960)**

Olomouc: Palacký University in Olomouc, 2016.



The monograph, forming the fifth volume of the Olomouc Modern Language Monographs series, is the first volume of a planned three-volume collection of writings of Ivan Poldauf (1915–1984), prepared by a group of linguists from the Department of English and American Studies, Faculty of Arts, Palacký University in Olomouc.

First and foremost it must be stated that the editors of the volume deserve full credit for satisfying the long-felt need for a collection of representative scientific writings of Ivan Poldauf, one of the key figures of Czech linguistics. The collection may also be seen as a tribute to the founder of the Olomouc English Department, who educated a number of followers, some of whom have been active in the department up to the present day.

It must be added at the same time that the preparation of the edition of Poldauf's writings is the continuation and culmination of a long-term interest in and development of his scholarly heritage. It was preceded by the publication, in 2014, of a collective monograph edited by Michaela Martinková, Markéta Janebová and Jaroslav Macháček (*Categories and Categorical Changes: The Third Syntactical Plan and Beyond*, published by Palacký University in Olomouc), systematically building on Poldauf's work on linguistic categorization, which was, as explicated by Martinková in the Introduction, a theme central to his research. The Olomouc Anglicists also incorporated a course on Poldauf's writings, taught by Professor Jaroslav Macháček, into their doctoral studies programme in the spring semester in 2013, and dedicated to him the workshop "Use of Parallel Corpora: Research and Applications" at The Olomouc Linguistics Colloquium (Olinco), an international biannual general linguistics conference, held in June, 2016. Last but not least, an international symposium celebrating the hundredth anniversary of English studies at Charles University in Prague (entitled "A Centenary of English Studies at Charles University: from Mathesius to Present-day Linguistics"), convened in May, 2012, by the Department of English Language and ELT Methodology, included three lectures, namely, by Jarmila Tárnyiková (of Palacký University, Olomouc), Aleš Klégr (of Charles University, Prague) and Gabriela Brůhová (of Charles University, Prague), recalling Poldauf's outstanding contribution to general linguistics, lexicography and semantico-syntactic theory, respectively. The latter two lectures then appeared in the collective monograph *A Centenary of English Studies at Charles University: From Mathesius to Present-day Linguistics* (2012), edited by Markéta Malá and Pavlína Šaldová and published by the Faculty of Arts, Charles University in Prague. Very recently, the Prague Anglicist Kateřina Vašků recollected Poldauf's exceptionally significant role in the growth of Czech Anglicist studies in her portrait "Ivan Poldauf — vzpomínka na slavnou dobu" [Ivan Poldauf — Recollection of a famous era], published in *Časopis pro moderní filologii* [Journal for Modern Philology] on the occasion of the hundredth anniversary of his birth.

Ivan Poldauf was an eminent scholar. His work is very broad in scope, ranging from linguistics and lexicography to the methodology of foreign language teaching,



extraordinarily prolific in output and of the highest quality. His writings are marked by a depth of insight into the problems studied, minuteness of analysis and precision in thought and formulation. Poldauf was one of Czechoslovak greatest linguists, well-known also abroad and in many respects ahead of his time. His scientific writings are valuable and inspiring not only for the solutions offered but also for the manner of thought and argumentation.

Poldauf's writings appeared in a variety of domestic and foreign publications and some of them are not easily accessible. The editors have drawn on the bibliography of his works compiled by Jiří Nosek, published in 1975, and on the supplement to the bibliography, compiled by Nosek after Poldauf's death and published in 1984. The editors have prepared for publication Poldauf's linguistic writings, lexicographic writings having relevance for linguistic research and writings including his reflections on the state and objectives of linguistic research. Not included are writings on the methodology of foreign language teaching as well as all the other writings published in the journal *Cizí jazyky ve škole* [Foreign Languages at School], all of which represent a field of its own and would require a separate volume. Not included are also reviews and shorter notes on writings of other authors.

The present volume (and no doubt the other two volumes under preparation) will serve as an invaluable source of knowledge and inspiration not only for Anglicists, Bohemicists, contrastive linguists and general linguists, but also for lexicographers and translators. It contains seventeen papers written in Czech, published between 1940 and 1960. (A succeeding volume will cover subsequent years, up to 1977. The third volume will comprise works written in English, published between 1956 and 1984.) The volume brings together papers exploring various aspects of the Czech and English languages (including syntax, semantics, morphology and word formation) as well as contrastive papers and a paper on the state and objectives of Czech linguistic research into Western European languages.

The volume opens with an introductory chapter by Michaela Martinková and Markéta Janebová, who characterize Poldauf's scholarly achievements and his fundamental role in establishing English studies at Olomouc University. They also lay out the principles of presenting the material, describe the editorial work undertaken and explain their editorial strategy. The introductory chapter is followed by a commemorative article by Jaroslav Macháček, Poldauf's pupil and one of our leading linguists. Macháček not only characterizes, in a cogent and perspicacious way, the most characteristic traits of Poldauf's research work but also provides an engaging personal recollection of a prominent teacher and colleague.

The preparation of an edition of such character and scope necessitates high expertise, linguistic erudition and knowledge of editorial work, and is very time demanding. The editorial team have succeeded well and have prepared a conceptually well-thought-out volume, not only with regard to the selection of papers (reasons why certain texts are not included are expounded in the introductory chapter) and their arrangement but also with regard to general editorial strategy. In view of the intricacies involved in Poldauf's very distinctive authorial style of writing, the editors decided not to translate Czech-written papers into English in order to provide the linguistic audience with original texts.



The editors have applied an appropriate and consistent way of editing. The editorial work was especially demanding due to the fact that Poldauf's writings appeared over a relatively long time span (nearly 45 years). The papers are edited consistently and accurately; the editorial section of the book provides a meticulous list of all editorial corrections and amendments. In addition to this, all the papers are provided with indications (in square brackets) of the pagination of their original editions both in the texts themselves and in the list of editorial corrections, which substantially adds to the usefulness and reliability of the book. The volume ends with an author index and an interesting selection of photos of Poldauf.

It can only be stated that the editors have performed a signal service in making available, in very convenient and reliable form, a collection of representative writings of one of Czech foremost linguists, Ivan Poldauf. The collection will further stimulate interest in his work and widen the influence of his thought. Poldauf's work will thus continue to provide knowledge and sustaining inspiration to all interested in the study of language.

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