Symposiums have a long tradition. The first Symposium was held at University of Vienna, Austria. This Symposium determined the themes and trends for the discussions. Further Symposiums took part each two years in such countries, as Denmark, France, Belgium, Finland, Hungary, Norway, Italy, Great Britain and Germany. The organizers of the following symposiums observe traditions, established at the first Symposium. The first printed journal of the Symposium was Fachsprache published in 1979.

There were 17 LSP Symposiums in the Western Europe. The 18th Symposium for the first time took place in Russia, at Perm State National Research University in August 2011. Perm University is the first Higher School in the Urals, founded in 1916. The Symposium was hosted by the Department of English Philology of the Faculty of Modern Foreign Languages and Literature.

The Symposium theme was “Special Language and Innovation in Multilingual World”. It reflected important issues of multilingual professional communication related to terminology and terminography, professional communication, special language training, translation and LSP. These issues form the content of the keynote lectures and presentations of the participants. The programme of the Symposium included more than 80 presentations and 2 colloquia.

The main aim of the Symposium correlated with the following purposes: to study anthropology and ecology of the language for special purposes, to research the possibility of its planning and prognostication, and to train students by means of modern effective methods and technologies. Within the programme of the Symposium the participants got the possibility to get a picture of the system of special knowledge about the cognition of the world and the presentation of this picture in the special language.

There were 4 world known keynote speakers at the Symposium. Prof. Gerhard Budin, University of Vienna, Austria, made a presentation “Designing and Implementing Strategies of Global, Multilingual “Disaster Communication”. He discussed the issue of the ‘language of risk’. In his presentation, through the analysis of a multi-annual data, the author demonstrated the special nature of concepts in disaster management. He suggested that natural disasters (earthquakes, tsunamis, volcano eruptions, etc.) as well as human-induced disasters (oil-spills, nuclear disasters, etc.) were increasingly communicated and discussed in the world events. In addition to the presentation of the research results in applied LSP-research, terminology work, lexicographical activities, and domain-specific corpus linguistics, the
author reported on ongoing research work and gave an outlook of future research perspectives.

A further keynote presentation of Prof. Sergiusz Grinev-Griniewicz, Chairman of the TK -55 “Terminology”, Moscow Humanities Pedagogical Institute, Russia, University of Białystok, Poland, was concentrated on the terminological aspect of language policy. He tried to discover and to describe the basic conceptual system and terminological field of the social sphere, called language policy. The author pointed out that there was already quite a substantial amount of publications on the language policy, but quite a few touched upon terminological aspects of the subject, aside from mentioning that in the area of respective terminology there were many ambiguities, complicated by the fact that the field has a different terminological structure in different languages.

Prof. Johan Myking. Department of Linguistics, Literature and Aesthetic Studies University of Bergen, Norway, tackled the issues of language planning. He drew out five parameters of special language planning, such as domain dynamics, parallel language use, horizontal vs. vertical specialisation, conversion and subversion, indeterminacy. The author discussed the following statement: “Language can always be exposed to ‘management’” (Laurén & al. 2008, thesis 10). He suggested that this thesis would be crucial to the social rationale of SLP, and its scope as well as its limitations would be explored.

The next keynote speaker Prof. Boris Proskurnin, Dean of the Faculty of Modern Foreign Languages and Literatures, Perm State National Research University, devoted his research to an original reconstruction of Dickens’s narration in the aspect of special language. The speaker intended to show what peculiar features of speciality consist in, and in so doing demonstrate how they influence literary and SLP analyses.

The programme of the Symposium included 2 Colloquia. Colloquium 1 “Language policy and LSP planning”. The coordinator and organizer – Prof. Heribert Picht, Denmark. Since 2001 the International Institute for Terminology Research (IITF) has organised colloquia within the organisational framework of the European LSP Symposium which takes place every two years. The general aim of these colloquia is to offer a platform for discussion of modern theoretical and applied issues within the field of terminology. Prof. Heribert Picht took a thoroughgoing cognitive view of the concept ‘parallel language’. For this purpose, he concentrated on the description of three main concepts: domain, domain loss and parallel language use. He also offered some proposals and measures in connection with the implementation of parallel language use in a language community.

Participants of Colloquium 1: Ass. Prof. Viktor Smith, Ass. Prof. Henrik Selsøe Sørensen, Copenhagen Business School, FairSpeak, Denmark, theme “When cognitive sciences meet real life: Decoding the semiotic cocktail of food labels from a fairness perspective”. Respondents: Dr. Niina Nissilä, Vasa University, Finland, Dr. Serguey Shelov, Russian Language Institute, Moscow, Russia. Dr. Albina Aukšorute (Head of the Centre of Terminology; the Institute of the Lithuanian Language) Lithuania “Language policy in Lithuania - State-of-the-art and social conditions and theoretical foundation”. Respondent: Prof. Dr. Sergiusz Griniewicz, University of Białystok, Poland. Prof. Dr. Christer Laurén, Vasa University, Finland, ”Nordic language policy – a long tradition which is still very much alive”. Prof. Dr.h.c. Heribert Picht, Denmark
"Parallel language use – a solution for minor languages?" Respondents: Prof. Dr. Merja Koskela, Vasa University, Finland. Prof. Dr. Nina Pilke, Vasa University, Finland. Dr. Christian Galinski, Director of Infoterm, “The work of today’s TC/37 in the light of ‘semantic interoperability’. Standardisation as an issue of corpus planning” Respondents: Birthe Toft, PhD, Syddansk Universitet, Denmark. Prof. Dr. Vera Tabanakova, Tyumen State University, Russia. Prof. Dr. Klaus-Dirk Schmitz, Fachhochschule Köln, Germany. "Localisation – an issue of terminology planning. Theoretical foundation and practical implications”. Respondents: Prof. Dr. Sue Ellen Wright, Kent State University USA. Prof. Dr. Sergiusz Griniewicz, University of Bialystok, Poland.

Colloquium 2 “The Many Faces of Analysis in Cognitive-Communicative Terminology”. The coordinator and organizer – Prof. Dr. Larissa Manerko, Moscow Lomonosov State University, Russia. The colloquium follows the tradition of presenting the achievements of the Russian school of Terminology at European Symposiums on Language for Special Purposes (XIV (2003) – Great Britain, XV (2005) – Italy, XVI (2007) – Germany, XVII (2009) – Denmark). This colloquium is intended to show the variability of approaches in cognitive methodology advocated by the nature of terms, their semantics and conceptualization, terminological systems and relationships between parts of it, the possibility to distinguish cognitive systems affecting professional discourse. The colloquium consists of two parts. In her presentation Prof. Larissa Manerko developed the question of the relation between mental medium and verbal medium. The author addresses the terminological domain of knowledge.

Participants of Colloquium 2: Dianova Galina “Scientific notions as semiotic systems”; Kazyulina Marina “On the experiment with the English term “power”; Kozhanova Elena “On metaphoric representations in English terms of herbs and medical plants”; Tkach Svetlana “Metaphor as a means of meaning construction”; Kupova Julia “The development of conceptual analysis for the description of term semantics in medical and biological sphere”.

In considering the issues of LSP by means of innovative views, a particular feature of modern researches in special language theory and practice has been revealed, that is anthropocentrism. The most important contribution of the Symposium presentations to LSP theory was the emphasis put on the role of man in LSP communication. We notice the significant shift to studying the connection between special languages and the human mind.

At first glance, it is typical for any kind of modern research to be oriented to the man. However, the idea of anthropocentrism becomes a dominant in the researches of special languages and professional communication. From this perspective, special languages are seen as the primary medium thinking about and describing the reality as well as a means of knowledge transfer among people.

Despite the keynotes presented by famous experts in LSP theory and practice, there is a further generation of researchers who took much of their inspiration from the basis laid by the ideas of LSP founders. Special attention is paid to terminological issues. Besides the interest in terminology, the researchers are concerned with questions about cognitive aspect of special languages, linguistic features of special discourse, translation and LSP and innovation in LSP training. The researches in this field revealed their interest in conceptual analysis. The most significant and innovative contri-
bution was done by the researchers of LSP training looking at the actual uses of special language and the pragmatics of LSP. They treat LSP as a real day-to-day activity.

One more important tendency is evident. Modern LSP study is marked by three impulses in the aspect of the future of terminology as a science. They are cognitive view on professional communication, special knowledge transfer and interlanguage professional communication by means of translation. These topics have been central to various debates round the language for special purposes.

Finally, the programme of the Symposium included presentations that embrace a wide range of issues of translation of special texts — scientific, literary, poetic and business. The intention of the researchers in this field is to prove that translation study deserves to be considered on a theoretical level based by means of theories of special communication. Within this work, translation is regarded as an intercognitive process that presupposes a special intellectual activity. An original feature of the papers is their attack on the theories of equivalence in translation studies.

We hope that XVIII Symposium has represented the modern stage in the development of LSP theory. It was significant in shaping the trends and the directions of LSP theory and practice. The Symposium has proved that LSP is a highly applicable field of knowledge.

References


C. LAUREN, H. PICH, L. M. ALEKSEEVA, S. L. MISHLANOVA