

***Irena Vaňková: Stereotype as a Key to the Worldview of the Czech Deaf***

Irena Vaňková is currently working at the Faculty of Arts at the Charles University in Prague, specifically at the Institute of Czech Language and Theory of Communication and the Institute of Deaf Studies. She is mainly focused on Cognitive Linguistics and Philosophy of Language.

Born in the Czech Republic, she studied at the Charles University in Prague. There she got her PhDr. in 1987 (Faculty of Arts), CSc. in 1994 (Faculty of Arts - Contemporary Czech Language), Ph.D. in 2005 (Faculty of Education - Philosophy) and she became an Associate Professor (doc.) in 2007 (Faculty of Arts - Czech Language).

She is a member of scientific counsel of the publication *Česká knižnice*, editorial counsel of the journal *Czech literature* and journal *Word and Sense*, collegium of *Kruh přátel českého jazyka*, the Ethnolinguistic Committee of the International Congress of Slavists and she is also a member of Slavic Cognitive Linguistic Association.

**Research interests:** Cognitively and Culturally Orientated Linguistics, Czech studies, Interpretation of Artistic Text, Metaphor and Metonymy in Czech Sign Language, Philosophy of Language and Communication

Abstract

The basis for our research is the European approach towards cognitive linguistics (represented by Jerzy Bartmiński and the Polish school of cognitive ethnolinguistics) reflecting especially the cultural aspects of a language. The principal concept of this approach is the linguistic worldview, i.e. a cognitive-culturally determined conceptualization of the world as affixed in language and texts. A component of this conceptualization of the world is the stereotype which has (as opposed to the prototype as described by E. Rosch) not only a cognitive, but also a sociocultural aspect (very often it also carries the aspect of self-determination relevant for the given cultural community). This theory and its associated methodology will be presented focusing on its possible applications in sign-language studies. First, we will demonstrate the methods of determining and verifying any stereotypical properties of a researched phenomenon in spoken languages (on the example of Czech); next we will discuss what indicators of stereotypes are available to researchers in the field of sign languages which differ profoundly from spoken languages (e.g. they do not have any written form which is, in terms of fixation, very important for spoken languages). Our research focuses on the following principal questions: How to research the worldview adopted by speakers of the (Czech) sign language; specifically how to research the stereotype as a part of this worldview? And of course: what is this worldview like and what

Monday 25th August 2014  
Topic of the day: Cognitive Linguistics

foundations does it rest upon? (Most certainly, when realizing the worldview in sign languages, icono-metaphoric and more commonly icono-metonymic mapping is used.) However we are still looking for any answers to the questions above, or rather, we are starting to look. The lecture and the following workshop will discuss our preliminary experience, esp. concerning examples of ethnical (but also others) stereotypes in the Czech sign language.