

The International Congress of Teachers of Foreign Languages

Zagreb, April 5—9, 1968

The Central Committee of the Fédération Internationale des Professeurs de Langues Vivantes has decided that the tenth Congress of FIPLV will take place in Zagreb between April 5th and 9th.

Members of all national associations of modern language teachers and all International Associations of the teachers of English, French, German and Russian will come to Zagreb and participate in the Congress. Their joint work and collaboration at such a congress will show to what extent the unity of all teachers of modern languages can guarantee better professional work in the future. It is our firm belief that knowledge of modern languages is one of the powerful means for better understanding and peaceful coexistence among nations.

The primary aim of the Congress is to improve the teaching of modern languages and that is why the main theme is: "Active Methods and Modern Aids in the Teaching of Foreign Languages."

It was not without special reasons that we have decided to organize a congress with the above theme. The fact is that whatever we do in our attempts to improve the teaching of modern languages there are always two main problems to be solved: What method should we use to achieve better results, and what aids will best serve our method.

The President of the Ninth Congress of FIPLV held in Uppsala in 1965, Dr. F. Warne, summing up the work of the Congress¹ made the important observation that with the present rapid change and development of language teaching even the conclusions then reached (i.e. in the Uppsala Congress) could only be considered as "tomorrow's beginnings". The report of the Uppsala Congress shows that by far the largest group there, 171 participants, considered itself with new methods in teaching the different skills. Topics discussed in the sub-groups covered both methods and aids in the teaching. That is why we decided to choose the theme we did as one reflecting the interests and needs of the majority of participants.

One of the aims of the FIPLV congresses is to establish the necessary contact between linguists interested in linguistic theory and practical teachers of foreign languages through a speedy and comprehensive connection and dissemination of information about research in pedagogics and linguistics, and the development of new methods and techniques affecting the teaching of modern languages. With the wealth of work now being done in these fields it is obviously impossible for the individual teacher to keep himself adequately informed.

The Congress will work through plenary sessions and sections which will split into sub-sections and smaller groups as needed. We plan five lectures in the plenary session and they will deal with the main theme of the Congress and some topical problems of foreign

¹ F. J. Warne: "Conclusions", *Modern Language Teaching: Papers from the 9th F. I. P. L. V. Congress*. Edited by Hans Jalling. London, Oxford University Press, 1968, pp. 106—109.

language teaching. Each of these lectures will last 45 minutes and will be followed by a 45-minute period devoted to discussion papers and discussion from the floor. Summaries of these papers will be translated into four languages (English, French, German and Russian) and distributed to all participants upon arrival. Discussion at plenary sessions and in sections will be in four languages; the participants of sub-sections and groups can decide which of the four languages they will use in their discussion.

When we were planning sections we considered two principles: (a) some sections will continue to discuss various aspects of language teaching that were already dealt with in Uppsala; (b) some sections will cover those aspects that were either neglected or entirely ignored at the Ninth Congress in Uppsala, and whose importance in language teaching has been recognized since the Ninth Congress. We will also try to give enough time and attention to literature and civilization in modern language teaching and to technical language whose importance in modern life is increasing rapidly. The importance of the former has been stressed several times. J. Söderling in his Report of the Ninth Congress² emphasizes that little time and interest was devoted to literature in modern language teaching and that the lecture on "Literatur im Fremdsprachenunterricht", delivered by Dr. Werner Ross, was followed by prolonged applause which testified to the enthusiastic response his lecture called forth in the audience.

There will be six sections:

- (a) Audio-visual aids (including radio and television),
- (b) Programmed foreign language teaching,
- (c) Literature and civilization in foreign language teaching,
- (d) Technical language in secondary and adult education,
- (e) Foreign language teaching in a bilingual community.
- (f) Contrastive studies and foreign language teaching material.

Each section will open with a 30- to 35-minute paper followed by discussion papers (10 to 15 minutes), discussion from the floor and questions. After this the section may divide into sub-sections, so that discussion can continue in smaller groups of specialists interested in more specific problems. However, discussions in such groups should also proceed along the lines laid down in the opening paper.

All opening papers for different sections will have summaries in four languages which will be distributed to participants upon arrival, so that they will know which problems will be discussed in which section, and thus be able to choose the section closest to their own interests.

Sub-sections and groups will be organized in several ways: by languages taught by participants, by educational level and the type of schools the participants teach in, etc. Section chairmen and sub-section leaders will be responsible for the organisation of work in these groups.

As all schools and foreign language learning centres in Zagreb will be open at the time of the Congress (with the exception of the Faculty of Philosophy), visits by smaller groups will be organized to foreign language classes. We hope that these visits will offer enough interesting material for further discussions in groups or sub-sections.

The audio-visual method demonstration in Serbo-Croatian will be provided for all those Congress participants who would like to get first-hand experience of how this method works.

A Serbo-Croatian phrase-book with a gramophone record has been published, containing all the more important phrases and words likely to be needed by foreign visitors to Yugoslavia. The text is given in the four Congress languages (English, French, German, Russian).

(R. F.)

² Appendix I, *ib.*, pp. 95-105.

Il Circolo linguistico fiorentino in visita a Zagabria

Il 7 ottobre 1966 rimarrà a lungo nel vivo ricordo degli amici zagabresi del Circolo linguistico fiorentino. Quel giorno infatti, con la tradizionale semplicità e assenza di cerimonie che caratterizza l'attività di questa feconda istituzione, si tenne alla Facoltà di Lettere di Zagabria la prima Seduta internazionale del Circolo stesso, che era nel contempo l'834ª seduta regolare.

Guidati dal loro fondatore e capo intellettuale, l'illustre Professor Giacomo Devoto, una quindicina di soci del Circolo erano convenuti già la sera prima nella capitale croata, amichevolmente accolti dai loro colleghi di Zagabria. Nella mattinata del giorno successivo, venerdì 7 ottobre, Fiorentini e Zagabresi si adunarono alla Facoltà di Lettere per una prima seduta lavorativa in cui, dopo un cordiale benvenuto rivolto agli studiosi intervenuti dal professor Ivo Frangeš e dopo un eletto discorso di saluto del professor Devoto, il titolare della Cattedra di linguistica generale, prof. Radoslav Katičić, tenne un'applaudita conferenza dal titolo «La notion de correspondance dans la phonétique et la morphologie comparées».

La seduta regolare del Circolo e prima seduta internazionale si tenne in una cordiale atmosfera nella stessa giornata di venerdì, sempre alla Facoltà, all'ora tradizionalmente fissata, le 4 del pomeriggio, con una nutrita conferenza del prof. Carlo Alberto Mastrelli su «I costrutti impersonali del verbo», cui seguì un'interessante discussione.

Il sabato successivo fu dedicato a una visita della città e di alcune istituzioni culturali, tra cui il Museo archeologico dov'è custodita la famosa mummia etrusca. Con una gita al parco di Maksimir si concluse questo cordiale incontro fra studiosi delle due nazione vicine, incontro pienamente riuscito, sia dal lato scientifico, come scambio di esperienze fra compagni del mestiere, sia dal lato puramente umano, perché ha porto occasione a un rafforzamento dei legami personali esistenti. Da una visuale più alta, poi, questo simpatico convegno assume anche un valore simbolico. Infatti, come disse il professor Devoto, in questa fase di sviluppo della società umana tutti devono collaborare. Gli uomini sono fatti per intendersi. Con questi sentimenti si è conclusa molto felicemente anche la bella manifestazione fiorentino-zagabrese che noi contiamo di poter ripetere a non troppo lunga distanza.

(J. J.)

*La rédaction du présent
fascicule a été achevée
le 31 décembre 1967.*