

Foreword

The double volume of *Logopedia* no. 43–44 presented to members of the Polish Logopedic Society (PTL), and I hope, also to non-associated logopedists, is the outcome of at least two scientific events: the conference on the research areas of logopedics (“Logopedia – New Horizons”) organized in June 2014 by the Polish Logopedic Society and the conference of the UMCS Department of Logopedics and Applied Linguistics with the collaboration of the PTL, titled “Language, Man, Society”.

The latter conference signaled the end of a certain stage of the discipline’s development, which can be expressed by the formula: “Stabilization of the research object of logopedics and its research methodology.” It is finally the time for logopedics to also become a formally independent discipline, which it has actually been for over forty years. Logopedics deserves it both on account of its research achievements that cannot be matched by the past results and because many university centers now offer full degree programs in logopedics.

The conference was at the same time an opportunity to assess the results of organizational and research activities of the author of this introduction, for whom life now determines other prospects (cf. the volume “Language, Man, Society”, eds. J. Panasiuk, T. Woźniak, Lublin 2013).

The present volume contains studies by expert scholars recognized in the landscape of Polish science and also by young people on the threshold of their research career. The studies cover four areas of the discipline: methodology of logopedic and linguistic research – seven studies presenting entirely new problems; the picture of the substantial realization of language – four papers on speech prosody, writing and pronunciation; the role of language in interpreting the world – six studies on the development of cognitive abilities and their collapse; finally, distinctive biological dysfunctions-related speech disorders – five significant studies.

We would like to thank all the authors of the studies and we hope we have taken one more step towards the independence of logopedics as a scientific discipline, the more so because the studies are published in Polish (paper version) and in English (electronic version).

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