

Anniversaries: The Ninetieth Birthday of Professor František Daneš and the Conference in his Honour

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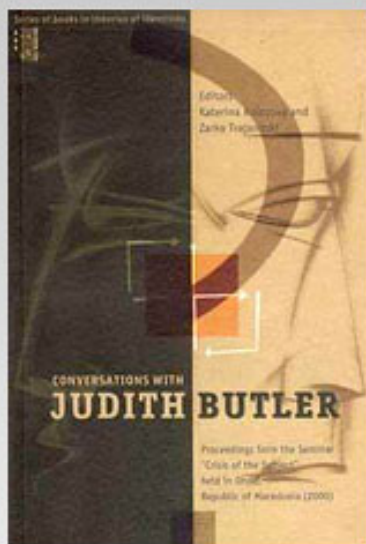
by Světlá Čmejrková; Jana Hoffmannová

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Conversations with Judith Butler.

Proceedings from the Seminar
"Crisis of the Subject" held in Ohrid,
Republic of Macedonia – 2000

By **Katerina Kolozova, Judith Butler,
Zarko Trajanoski**

Euro-Balkan Press, Skopje, 2007
(in English)

The book contains the discussions and three of the papers (by Judith Butler, Katerina Kolozova, and Zarko Trajanoski) that were presented at the Seminar "Crisis of the Subject".

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THE NINETIETH BIRTHDAY OF PROFESSOR FRANTIŠEK DANEŠ
AND THE CONFERENCE IN HIS HONOUR

This year marks the ninetieth birthday of an outstanding representative of Czech linguistics, Prof. PhDr. František Daneš, DrSc., a linguist renowned both at home and abroad. While known abroad as a general linguist, for the local community he is above all a specialist in the Czech language. In reality, both these aspects of his research activities are connected. His lifelong theoretical linguistic topics derive from his sensitive observation of the specific character of Czech, its phonology, word-formation, morphology, and above all, semantics and syntax, text structure and stylistics, as well as the sociological aspects of the national language. It would be impossible to imagine a Czech language scholar who has not studied Daneš's fundamental works – *Intonace a věta ve spisovné češtině* (Intonation and the Sentence in Literary Czech), Prague, ČSAV, 1957, *Malý průvodce po dnešní češtině* (A Short Guide to Contemporary Czech) Prague, Orbis, 1964, *Větné vzorce v češtině* (Sentence Patterns in Czech) Prague, Academia, 1981, main author, together with Z. Hlavsa and J. Kořenský, 2nd ed., 1987, passages in *Mluvnice češtiny 3* (Czech Grammar 3) Prague, Academia, 1987, the collection of essays *Věta a text* (Sentence and Text), Prague, Academia, 1985 and other essays on Czech grammar and text syntax, published since the 1940s continually throughout the entire second half of the 20th century in journals and prestigious volumes at home and abroad. Daneš's linguistic works continue to be published even today. A collection of his works on the Czech language from the period 1949–2009 will be published this year by the Karolinum Press with the title *Kultura a struktura českého jazyka* (The Culture and Structure of the Czech Language), 450 pp.

Looking back at the past twenty years alone, at their beginning is the return of F. Daneš to the function of director of the Czech Language Institute (he held this function for the first time from 1965–1970, for the second time during 1990–1994), then, in addition to the works already named, came the book *O Čapkových Hovorech s T. G. Masarykem* (On Čapek's Talks with T. G. Masaryk), Prague, Academia, 1994, co-author and co-editor, *Čeština, jak ji znáte i neznáte* (Czech as You Know It and Even as You Don't), Prague, Academia, 1996, with S. Čmejrková, J. Kraus, and I. Svobodová, followed by the book *Český jazyk na konci tisíciletí* (The Czech Language at the End of the Millenium), Prague, Academia, 1997, on which Daneš worked as the main editor, and also the book on the norms of specialized academic writing *Jak napsat odborný text* (How to Write an Academic Text), Prague, Leda, 1999, with S. Čmejrková and J. Světlá). At the same time, he co-edited the book *Writing vs*

Speaking: Language, Text, Discourse, Communication (Tübingen, Narr, 1994), he himself contributing to it with *Feedback dynamics between written and spoken*. The book contains papers from the conference of the same name which took place at the Czech Language Institute in 1992, i.e. during the time when, due to Daneš's efforts, contacts between Czech linguists and linguists abroad were renewed and augmented. Daneš had also been developing these contacts following his departure from the director's function, continuing to participate in congresses abroad, for example the congresses of *Societas Linguistica Europaea* (in 1995, as the chair, he gave the presidential address *Languages and the science of language in the flux of our epoch*, in *Folia Linguistica* 29) and the *International Association for Dialogue Analysis*. For many years he represented Czech linguistics in the Permanent International Committee of Linguists CIPL (*Comité International Permanent des Linguistes*). He chaired the World Linguistics Congress of this organization, which took place in Prague in 2003. There have been many more local conferences at which F. Daneš gave papers; most recently in Ústí nad Labem in September 2008 at which he gave the paper *Já a ty jako deiktické výrazy* (I and You as deictic expressions), published in *Já, ty, oni v jazyce a literatuře* (*I, You and They in Language and Literature*, Ústí nad Labem, 2009).

It is evident from his bibliography from the past twenty years that in his research he has devoted himself to the development of Czech language studies and the description of the Czech language situation: *Jazyk malého národa* (The language of a small nation), in *Slovo a slovesnost* 1993; *Situace češtiny: perspektiva i retrospektiva* (The Czech language situation: perspective and retrospective), in *Spisovná čeština a jazyková kultura* (Literary Czech and Language Cultivation), Prague, 1995, *Perspektivy češtiny* (Perspectives of Czech), in *K diferenciaci současného mluveného jazyka* (On the Differentiation of Contemporary Spoken Language), Ostrava, 1995; *Univerzália a specifika v období globalizačních proměn* (Universals and specifics in the time of globalization transformations), in *Čeština – Univerzália a specifika* (Czech – Universals and Specifics) 3, Brno, 2001; *Jazyková terapie a verbální hygiena* (Language therapy and verbal hygiene), in *Oratio et ratio*, Prague, 2005, etc.

At the same time, he has also contributed intensively to international linguistic collaboration. He has been invited to forums abroad on the development of the theory of dialogue (*A retrospect and prospect of dialogue studies*, in *Dialogue Analysis 2000*, Tübingen, Niemeyer, 2003; *Intonation and related vocal phenomena in mass-media debates*, in *Dialogue Analysis and Mass Media*, Tübingen, Niemeyer, 1999, etc.), in which he was interested above all in the topic of emotions (*Extra-logical factors in argumentation*, in *Rhetoric and Argumentation*, Tübingen, Niemeyer, 1999; *Universality vs. culture-specificity of emotion*, in *Emotion in dialogic interaction*, Amsterdam, Benjamins, 2004). He had, in fact, already begun work on the topic of emotions in 1987 in his plenary *Cognition and emotion in discourse interaction* at the World Congress of Linguists in Berlin (published in the conference volume in 1990).

He has contributed even more extensively to the analysis of an entirely different genre – the scientific text (*Academic writing and cultural identity*, in *Culture and Styles of Acade-*

mic Discourse, Berlin, 1997; *Territoriale und kooperative Prinzipien in der Wissenschaftssprache*, in *Sprache, Wirtschaft, Kultur: Deutsche und Tschechen in Interaktion*, Mnichov, 1997 and others). He has dealt with the lexical, morphological and syntactic aspects of the language of science and noticed text categories such as topic structure and coherence (e.g. *The paragraph – a central unit of the thematic and compositional build up of texture*, in *Organization of Discourse*, Turku, 1995), or for example the precision and comprehensiveness of expression. He has focused on the sociolinguistic aspects of the language of science, on the way in which scientists communicate, and the manner they choose for their intervention into scientific discourse. Ten years ago, he devoted his anniversary lecture in the Czech Linguistics Association to this very topic: *Jakou řečí mluví věda: modalizace vědeckého diskurzu* (What language is spoken by science: the modalization of scientific discourse) (*Slovo a slovesnost* 2000).

The point of departure of Daneš's opinions is empirical language data and it thus happens that his current linguistic experience continually provides new stimuli for his work. It would not be far from the truth to claim that the range of Daneš's linguistic interests has been expanding from the phonological level to textual topics, and from the question of linguistic structure to topics in the relationship between language and other semiotic codes, even pictorial or musical ones. The relationship between text and pictures was the subject of the lecture given by Daneš at the Czech Linguistics Association on the occasion of his birthday in 1994, *Text a jeho ilustrace* (Text and its illustration), *Slovo a slovesnost* 1995, and he analyzed the relationship between text and music in his further honorary lecture in 2004, *Řeč hudby a řeč o hudbě* (The speech of music and speech about music) *Slovo a slovesnost* 2004. But on the other hand, this is not very surprising – as from the beginning of his scientific career he has been interested in intonation and devoted not only his first monograph to it, but also the study *Intonace a verš* (Intonation and verse), *Slovo a slovesnost* 1958, which has not lost the attractiveness it had at that time; it was published for a second time in the book *Mluvená próza i verš* (Spoken Prose and Verse), Prague, 2008. At the same time, Daneš did not cease to work on classic Czech language topics, e.g. the status of the letter C in the system of Czech consonants, questions of gender in nouns, pronouns and adjectives, the relationship between parataxis and hypotaxis, the use of conjunctions and particles, e.g. "Naopak" z hlediska lexikálního, syntaktického a textového ("On the contrary", from the lexical, syntactic and textual perspectives), *Naše řeč* 2002; *O spojce "nebo"* (On the conjunction "or"), *Naše řeč* 1994; *Věříš tomu? Vůbec (ne)* (Do you believe it? (Not) at all), *Naše řeč* 2005. He has been interested above all in contemporary language, written and spoken, and seeks out the roots of their symbiosis: *František Langer o jazyce Haškova Švejka i o jazyce svém* (František Langer on the language of Hašek's Švejk and his own language), *Naše řeč* 2004; *Haškův Švejk a Vachkovo Bidýlko – dva milníky ve vývoji jazyka české prózy* (Hašek's "Švejk" and Vachek's "The Pigeon-Hole" – two milestones in the development of the language of Czech prose), *Naše řeč* 2004; *Nespisovné prvky v dílech J. Haška, F. Langra a E. Vachka* (Non-standard elements in the work of J. Hašek, F. Langer and E. Vachek), in the peer-reviewed volume *Spisovnost a nespisovnost: Zdroje, proměny*

a perspektivy (Standard and Non-Standard: Sources, Transformations and Perspectives), Brno, 2004.

In addition to partial probes into language and its use, Daneš has also written compilations on the history of Czech linguistic theory, dealing mainly with the legacy of the Prague School: *Prague School Functionalism as a precursor of text linguistics*, in *Cahiers de l'ILSL*, Lausanne, 1994; *A static view and a dynamic view on text and discourse*, in *TCLP*, 1995; *Vilém Mathesius v kontextu dnešní lingvistiky* (Vilém Mathesius in the context of contemporary linguistics), in *Přednášky z 34. a 35. běhu LŠSS 1995*; *Teorie spisovného jazyka Pražského lingvistického kroužku: pro i proti* (The Prague Linguistic Circle's theory of literary language: pros and cons), in the peer-reviewed volume *Spisovnost a nespisovnost dnes* (Standard and Non-Standard Today), Brno, 1996; *Vilém Mathesius' Konzeption der funktionalen Linguistik*, in *Prager Strukturalismus*, Heidelberg, 2003; *The double basis of the Prague functional approach*, in *Language and Function*, Amsterdam, Benjamins, 2003; *Pražská škola: názorová univerzália a specifika* (The Prague School: universals and specifics of opinion), *Slovo a slovesnost* 2008.

Why is Daneš's work so successful? There are several reasons for it. The first of these is the fact that the classical ideas of Prague functional structuralism are continued in his work. The second is that from the beginning of his research career (at the Faculty of Philosophy and Arts, Charles University, he studied English philology in addition to Czech philology), František Daneš has been open to new trends in world linguistics, and, without letting himself be easily carried away by them, he has contemplated them in the context of the very realistic and rationally viewed qualities of a specific language and the specific linguistic or communicative situation. He is meticulous and thorough in his analysis of language and intelligible in his description. At the same time, the poignancy and fitting nature of his opinions are coloured by imaginative observations based on his experiences (as can be observed in the title *Language is neither all chaos nor all order*, in the peer-reviewed volume *Proceedings of LP'94*, Prague, 1995).

In saying that Daneš views linguistic contexts in a rational manner, we include the fact that he also aims to rationally name phenomena, the treating of which requires a significant dose of intuition. Linguistic intuition undoubtedly belongs to his opinions, as is demonstrated in the essay from the 1990s mentioned above, *Involvement in language and with language*, in which he returns to Trnka's term, *living through* or *experiencing* language. When we were searching for a name for the conference we had decided to organize for František Daneš in honour of his 90th birthday and eventually chose the name *Užívání a prožívání jazyka* (Living With and Through Language), we thus emphasized the inspiration of Daneš's work by the Prague School and its well-known as well as its lesser known ideas; by the term *užívání* (using, living with) language, we signal that Daneš talks about the use of language in its various forms and genres.

Thus on the occasion of Daneš's upcoming anniversary, the Institute of the Czech Language and the Czech Linguistics Association organized a conference which took place on April 15–17, 2009, on the premises of the Czech Academy of Sciences on Národní Street

in Prague. The conference garnered great interest from both Czech linguists and those from abroad who continue in the tradition of Daneš's ideas and methodological approaches. More than one hundred linguists participated, among them guests from Great Britain, Finland, Sweden, Japan, Germany, Austria, Russia, Poland and Slovakia.

The plenary talks delivered at the beginning of the conference were devoted to topics that Daneš had developed in his fundamental syntactic works, which are the result of the study of the Czech sentence and extensive knowledge of both the local tradition and world trends in research on syntax. The talk by Jarmila Panevová (Prague) was entitled "Functional onomatology and functional syntax", with the subtitle "How F. Daneš has developed V. Mathesius". Petr Karlík from Brno spoke about the Moravian continuation of the syntactic concept of F. Daneš. Wolfgang Gladrow from Berlin associated himself with Daneš's approach to syntax in his talk entitled "The paradigms of the sentence and utterance". In this context, Alexandr Bondarko from St. Petersburg presented his theory of functional-semantic fields, which are an important part of the system of grammatical categorization. All plenary speakers thus reconstructed Daneš's continuation of the Prague School ideas, above all the pioneering work of Vilém Mathesius on the Functional Sentence Perspective of the Czech sentence and its intonational flux, which first led Daneš to the study of the structural core of the sentence, and then to the whole of the text in which the sentence, as an utterance, functions as its component. At the same time, the plenary speakers described their own development of functional linguistics.

In addition to the plenary talks, further participants developed F. Daneš's inspiration by the Prague School, speaking about, e.g., empirical functionalism or the terminological pair center-periphery. Syntacticians devoted themselves to rhematizers, topic development in academic and narrative text, the relationship between topic development and the division of the text into paragraphs. Aided by the apparatus of interpretive semantics, two types of Functional Sentence Perspective were presented, sentential and isotopic, which mainly intervene in the interpretation of discourse. Corpus linguistics approaches were also utilized in the syntax section.

At the beginning of Daneš's research on syntax was his work on intonation, through which he influenced the further development of Czech research on the sound aspect of language. For this reason, the phonetics section was concerned with various topics of prosody (sentence melody, cadence, pauses), viewed with both a phonetic and phonological orientation. In one of the papers, a significant and perhaps somewhat neglected representative of Czech phonetics, Stanislav Petřík was remembered. In the morphological section, topics such as variation in Czech declension, the relationship between natural and grammatical gender and some current word-formation problems (which are coming into existence e.g. in modern sociolects) were discussed.

The sociolinguistic section was oriented towards stimuli from Daneš's work on the Czech language situation, the relationship between standard language and non-standard varieties (including the so-called Common Czech as well as territorial dialects), and from his work on the speakers' attitudes to the use of language varieties in spoken and written communi-

cation. Changing norms of Standard Czech were discussed in the context of comparative research on closely-related languages. The section on linguistic pragmatics focused on the theory and use of speech acts, forms of address and politeness. The interest of the participants was piqued by an onomastics contribution on how we "live with and through" (use and experience) the personal names of ourselves and others. Several speakers concentrated on the specifics of religious communication: the use and functions of language during worship services, informal contact with children during mass, and the language of prayers sent by e-mail were discussed. A special section was devoted to current topics in media communication: the forms of language spoken by the classic media, such as radio and television, as well as the most recent forms, which we find in various genres of computer-mediated communication. Several papers focused on political discourse, e.g., how politicians violate Grice's conversational maxims in interviews, how metaphors are utilized as a means of persuasion in political discourse, demonstrating the lexicalization and conventionalization of metaphors, their stereotypical use, and the transitions between them and "catch words".

In the section devoted to the questions of text linguistics, of which Daneš is considered to be the pioneer in the Czech setting, above all due to the theory of thematic progression, there were papers on the argumentation as the omnipresent procedure of construction of textual meaning, or on the functioning of "verbal gestures". This section was followed up by the stylistics section, in which the individual genres of artistic style were discussed. This included a paper on Vachek's "Bidýlko" (The Pigeon-Hole) which recalled Daneš's analysis of this text, papers on the literary work of students of creative writing, on pupils' interpretation of a classic Neruda text from "Malostranské povídky" (Prague Tales), on translation and intertextuality.

The topic range of the papers was considerable, as is the range of Daneš's linguistic interests. The participants reacted to Daneš's stimuli from the semiotic sphere (his work on the relationship between language and music, word and picture, etc.). There were papers on the semantics of visual argumentation, a paper on sung Czech (the Czech of singers from abroad appearing in opera productions of Smetana, Dvořák and Janáček around the world), papers on Daneš's interest in music or on the verbal expression of the musical experience (how to write/speak about music in popular texts). Among the papers with a personal tone was one about Daneš's hometown of Písek, its cultural atmosphere and literary depiction (above all in the texts of Fráňa Šrámek).

However, in order not to abandon purely linguistic topics, it is necessary to recall the papers devoted to classic topics in general linguistics. A paper on the relationship between the concepts meaning – content – reference was related to the often-cited study by F. Daneš from 1958, written together with M. Dokulil. Another paper contained a clear depiction of the way in which F. Daneš understands *living through* or *experiencing language* (e.g. in an essay on intuition in language and linguistics), referring to the classic conception of B. Trnka and how he himself differs from it. In the relationship between the concepts of analogy and anomaly, there was a paper on the creative processes leading to the formation of neologisms. In another paper, the latest results of neurolinguistic research on aphasia

were presented. Some of the papers in the diachronically-oriented section were inspired by Daneš's works on Czech grammar (e.g. a paper about Old Czech verbs of saying, from which the verbs *hovořiti* and *osloviti* were selected). New and methodologically progressive views on the development of language (e.g. the combination of the syntactic and phonological approaches to the Old Czech *supine*) appeared here as well as considerations of the place of historical grammar in secondary school teaching. Daneš is known as a theoretician of language and as an analyst of many of its aspects, who contributed as well to the Czech language textbooks. For this reason, the conference could not take place without a section on the teaching of Czech. In it were the topics of the early period of development of child language, the preparation of future teachers of Czech, the level of the written work of Czech pupils, and current methods for teaching Czech as a second/foreign language. The section papers of the conference were complemented by a poster section, the participants of which presented topics from contemporary linguistics, ranging from typology to modern approaches of corpus linguistics and mathematical modelling of language.

The honoree enjoyed the conference. This was multiplied by the fact that he was also honoured for his work at the Czech Language Institute and the Academy of Sciences with the Medal of Merit (*De scientia et humanitate optime meritis*). Prof. PhDr. František Daneš, DrSc., accepted this medal from the vice-chair of the Academy of Sciences, Prof. PhDr. Jaroslav Pánek, DrSc. We wholeheartedly congratulate Professor Daneš both on his birthday and on this award. We thank him for everything and look forward to his further interesting and inspiring ideas.

Světlá Čmejrková – Jana Hoffmannová, Prague

DAGMAR KNITTLOVÁ'S ANNIVERSARY

The poet of Sir Gawain aptly states that the yere yirnes in yisterdayes mony. Quite a number of yesterdays have passed and Assistant Professor Dagmar Knittlová is ten years older.

Her profile appeared on the pages of this journal ten years ago. As stated, she finished her secondary school in Přerov in 1948. Such schools, with their highly qualified teachers, could at that time still offer a very good education, and hers was by no means an exception. At least one name should be mentioned: the later and late Palacký University Professor Jan Jahn, an outstanding figure among Slavic linguists, recognized for his modern linguistic thinking. She then was admitted to the FF UP Olomouc, and graduated in 1952 in English and Spanish Philology. Having spent the years 1952 till 1959 as a translator at the Institute for Research in Optics and Fine Mechanics in Přerov, she turned free-lance and translated fiction. In 1964 she joined the Department of Romance Philology as a senior lecturer in Spanish. In 1974 she changed departments and specialization, having been appointed senior