

FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING AND APPLIED LINGUISTICS 2014

Azamat A. Akbarov, PhD

Vice-Rector for Scientific Research and International Cooperation, International Burch University
Associate Professor of Applied Linguistics - English Department, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Chairman of FLTAL Conferences <http://ftal.ibu.edu.ba/>

1. INTRODUCTION

On 9th and 10th of May, 2014, International Burch University once again had the privilege to host the now traditional International Conference on Foreign Language Teaching and Applied Linguistics. FLTAL '14 had the goal to bring together researchers, practitioners, and educators interested in language teaching and linguistics under the theme: “Linguistics, Culture, and Identity in Foreign Language Education”.

The conference was opened with a welcoming speech given by the main organizer and Chairman of the 4th FLTAL Conference, who greeted the audience in various languages and expressed his hopes that this year’s conference will be fruitful for all the participants. Addressing the guests the Rector of the University, also welcomed the attendees extending his congratulations to the FLTAL '14 Organizing Committee. A number of other prominent speakers from the world of education and academia spoke at the ceremony as well, opening what was shaping up to be one of the most successful conference years thus far.

Following the succession of prominent keynote speakers that International Burch University hosted up till now, FLTAL '14 brought the greatest names in linguistics to Sarajevo once again. The keynote lineup was opened with a lecture given by the prominent professor Steven Pinker. Using examples from “When Harry met Sally”, professor Pinker explained the psychological complexities behind euphemism and innuendo. The next in line was Prof. Ronald Langacker who explicated the cognitive composition of clauses in English through a series of graphs that captured the complexity of the mental processes involved in clause creation.

The keynote lectures continued the next day, when the participants had the pleasure to attend no less than three lectures. Prof. Alison Mackey presented the most recent developments in the methodology of research, providing newest examples of studies with extraordinary methods. She was followed up by a lecture given by Prof. Nick Ellis who lectured on implicit and explicit SLA and their interface. The keynote lineup was concluded with Prof. Norbert Schmitt who presented instances of formulaic language in terms of collocations and idiomatic expressions. In addition, Prof. George Lakoff prepared a video lecture specifically for the FLTAL conference, entitled “How Brains Think”, which is now also available on YouTube.

Throughout the two days, participants of the conference had the chance to present their own research papers in ninety sessions, divided into thirteen distinct sections. The total of 612 researchers from six continents and sixty countries presented their findings, getting and providing feedback, thus improving their research and building cooperative

networks. The conference covered topics on applied and cognitive linguistics, cognitive and construction grammars, discourse analysis, language acquisition and learning, language curriculum development, language education, and more.

This year's International Conference on Foreign Language Teaching and Applied Linguistics (FLTAL '14) again brought together some of the most important researchers, linguists and professors from all parts of the world. During the closing ceremony the Federal Minister of Education presented the keynote speakers with plaquettes of appreciation, while some of the participants, who were eager to share their thoughts about the conference with the audience, got on the stage and shared their positive impressions. The evening was brought to a closure with a concert, where the musical group "Divanhana" performed traditional regional music in new arrangements. On Sunday, all conference participants had the chance to visit Herzegovina for a touristic trip. The group went sightseeing, visiting some of the natural and historical beauties of the country. The trip concluded the fourth annual FLTAL conference, with the fifth one already looming on the horizon, bringing once again enthusiastic researchers and notable figures in language study to Sarajevo, and to International Burch University.