



# 1st INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON LINGUISTICS & POLYGLOT STUDIES

Grigory Kazakov

Moscow State Institute of International Relations (University)  
76, Prospekt Vernadskogo, Moscow, 119454, Russia

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On November 30, 2021, the 1st International Seminar on Linguistics & Polyglot Studies was held online. The event was organized by the editorial board of the journal *Linguistics & Polyglot Studies* based at Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO).

The topic of the seminar was the presentation and discussion of the recently published special issue of the journal devoted to different aspects of language teaching and language study in the light of polyglottery (consciously attained individual multilingualism) [1]. The meeting was attended by researchers from Russia, Japan and Ireland. The program of the session included introductory presentations by the editors of the issue, an expert round table and a general discussion.

Dr Tatiana Ivushkina, Academic Editor of *Linguistics & Polyglot Studies* and Chair of Department of English No.3 at MGIMO, gave a talk on “The Making of the MGIMO Linguistics Journal: from Philology to Polyglot Studies”, in which she recounted the history of the language-studies journal at Moscow State Institute of International Relations and highlighted the significance of the transformations that had taken place in it in 2021.

The presentation of the special issue was continued by Dr Grigory Kazakov, who, in his talk “*Linguistics & Polyglot Studies* Special Issue 2021: Background and Contents”, spoke about the background and distinctive features of the materials published in it.

Thus, the issue includes introductory articles, papers of the International Symposium on Language Education, Polyglottery and Geolinguistics (Moscow, 2018), and the transcript of the round table discussion “Polyglottery and Education” – the first of this kind in the world – held as part of the International Conference on Multilingual Proficiency: Language, Polyglossia and Polyglottery (New York, 2013). The volume features research by contributors from Russia, Japan, Poland and Ireland, and was reviewed by Dr Svetlana Ter-Minasova, Founding President of the Faculty of Foreign Languages and Area Studies, Moscow State University.

The special issue has the structure of a monograph and, if considered as a complete text in its own right, is the fifth separate research book in the world devoted to polyglottery. The combination of the first (the polyglot) and the third (the researcher) person perspectives allows one to look at this phenomenon more holistically and, thus, makes a certain contribution to overcoming the fragmentariness in the study of language, in particular to bridging the gap between academic linguistics and practical language expertise, which can be regarded as the ultimate goal of the new journal and polyglottery as a discipline.

Within the framework of the expert discussion, Dr Dina Nikulicheva, Chief Researcher at the Institute of Linguistics, Russian Academy of Sciences, and Professor at Moscow State Linguistic University,

emphasized the connection between research on polyglottery and modern psycholinguistics, and presented the recently published collective monograph *Russian Psycholinguistics: Results and Prospects (1966–2021)*, which recognizes polyglottery modelling as one of the modern branches of applied psycholinguistics [2, p. 104–105].

Dr Minoru Ohtsuki, Professor of the Faculty of Foreign Languages at Daito Bunka University (Tokyo) and Board member of the Japanese Cognitive Linguistics Association, spoke about the directions of his research, drawing attention to the fact that physical and behavioural aspects of language acquisition and language use are still poorly covered in linguistic works.

Dr Seán Ó Riain, Multilingualism Officer at the Department of Foreign Affairs of Ireland and President of the European Union Esperanto, commented on the latest trends in language policy and language education in Ireland and Europe in general, where Brexit increases the need to learn the languages of continental European countries.

In the course of the ensuing general discussion, the participants exchanged ideas on the non-verbal, cultural and psychological aspects of knowing different languages, as well as on possible forms of further collaboration. Michio Tajima, Associate Professor at Nihon University (Tokyo), noted that when speaking a foreign language, he feels like a different person, which includes changes in the habits of non-verbal communication. His future graduate student Shun Imai explained his interest in polyglottery by the striking contrast between young Western polyglots and the average Japanese, who can hardly speak a single foreign language. Nastasia Britsyna, Lecturer at MGIMO, commented on the connections between polyglottery, the concepts of diversity and inclusion, and the study of cognitive metaphors.

In conclusion, the organizers invited colleagues to actively cooperate with the journal and expressed the hope that this International Seminar on Linguistics & Polyglot Studies will be the first of many more to come.

### References

1. *Linguistics & Polyglot Studies*, 2021, vol. 7, no. 4 (special issue). DOI: 10.24833/2410-2423-2021-4-28
2. *Rossiiskaia Psikholingvistika: Itogi i Perspektivy (1966–2021)* [Russian Psycholinguistics: Results and Prospects (1966–2021)] (I. Sternin et al. eds.). Moscow: Institute of Linguistics – Moscow International Academy, 2021. 626 p. DOI: 10.30982/978-5-6045633-7-3

**Grigory Kazakov**, PhD, is Executive Secretary of Linguistics & Polyglot Studies and Senior Lecturer at Department of English No.3, Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO). Research interests: language education, polyglottery, psycholinguistics, language and religion, translation of sacred texts, Scouting pedagogy. E-mail: g.kazakov@my.mgimo.ru

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