



*ELT and Linguistics - 2013:*  
*New Strategies for Better Solutions*  
XIth International Conference

*with the participation of the British Council, the American Embassy, IATEFL and FIPLV*

**THEME:** LATEUM has always sought to bridge the gap between the academia and EFL practitioners by bringing together leading theorists in linguistics and teachers with hands-on experience. These days one can't help but recognize an urgent need for innovation and cutting-edge solutions to meet the demands of the digital age. LATEUM's 11th International Conference will offer many opportunities for professional contact and development, for blending time-honoured traditions with technology-enhanced language education. Better solutions come from insightful questions, shared practices and creative ideas that are generated in panel discussions and workshops led by true enthusiasts. Join us in this celebration of EFL teaching and learning!

**WORKING LANGUAGES:** English, Russian (except Plenaries)

Participants are encouraged to participate in plenaries, round-table discussions, interest groups and workshops on the following topics:

**Cognitive and Corpus-Based Discourse Studies in ELT (Chair: Olga Aleksandrova, Natalia Gvishiani)**

The programme of the round-table discussion is designed to broaden the ELT perspective so as to encompass a range of issues from the relevant theoretical fields of cognitive and corpus-based discourse studies. Nowadays language corpora are seen as an indispensable tool of the linguist's trade in dealing with language phenomena at all levels, including the functional-stylistic, the communicative-pragmatic, and the cognitive ones. In a provisional way we invite the speakers to focus on cognitive methods providing for better understanding of verbal communication in multicultural discourse and address the questions of computer corpora 'support strategies' in the study of language variation and change.

### **Teaching and Researching Business English (Chair: Tamara Nazarova)**

Participants of this Special Interest Group are invited and encouraged to share their experience in either teaching or researching the English used in business settings across geographical borders and national cultures. The format is as follows: the session will open with a 20-min. presentation by Professor Tamara Nazarova who is going to review the main trends in TBE (Teaching Business English) and also comment on some of the more interesting research projects currently under way at the English Department (Faculty of Philology, Moscow State University). All the practitioners and theorists from different departments and universities who plan to attend the SIG will be given an opportunity to take the floor and add something of interest and use in both the day-to-day teaching of priority skills in ELT classrooms and the painstaking organized scientific research of this exciting field of study.

### **Literature and Translation (Chair: Aschen Mikoyan, Velta Zadornova)**

Translation has been the chief means of communication between languages and cultures since the times metaphorically referred to by George Steiner as “After Babel”, i.e. from the time when human communities inhabiting the prehistoric world began to use distinctive means of verbal communication. Any contact, at least any peaceful contact that members of a speech community had with members of another speech community created a need for a means of overcoming the language barrier, and it was translation, first in its oral and eventually also in its written form that satisfied that need. With the emergence of national literatures, translation assumed another, a more creative and a loftier role, providing for mutual interpenetration of national literary cultures. It has still retained this role today, just as its other, more mundane roles; and even with the worldwide use of English as an almost universal lingua franca, and despite the continual growth of speakers of English as a second language, the role of translation in today’s world remains indisputably important. The participants of the round table on Literature and Translation will be invited to discuss a broad range of issues pertaining to the study of literature and its ‘re-incarnations’ in translation, to various kinds of translation *per se*, both in terms of theory and practice, and to the challenges of translation training.

### **Media Discourse (Chair: Elena Mendzheritskaya)**

Media discourse informs, influences, and introduces us to the world of news and opinions. It implies various linguistic and extralinguistic strategies of passing on both information and impact. Treating mass media in terms of discourse presupposes inviting scholars from diverse spheres including general theory of communication, discourse analysis, cognitive and media studies, mass media language teaching. Being linguists we are also interested in practical implementation of all the theoretical assumptions to mass media language acquisition. Such a multifaceted approach prompts the format of the round-table discussion with the participation of different representatives of these interdisciplinary studies.

### **Phonetics in ELT in Global English Context (Chair: Svetlana Decheva, Irina Maguidova)**

The main focus of this round-table discussion is on supporting phonetic studies in modern English environment, when English has become “lingua franca” and is welcome in politics, economics, business, technology etc. The final goal of ELT in this sphere is to raise and develop the learners’ awareness of Global English phonation, as well as their perceptive and productive skills. The emphasis is laid on cultured English speech and phonetic variability to maintain communication in a way which will meet the demands of the English-speaking community the world over. We invite all the participants to share their views on how the scope of English phonetics can be extended still further, since we can no longer confine ourselves to the one-sided exclusively British-oriented pronunciation teaching.

### **Culture-Specific Component in Language Teaching and Research (Chair: Ludmila Baranova, Tatiana Komova)**

The integration of linguistic and cultural studies is essential at present, when the increasing diversity of World Englishes has reached unprecedented heights. The suggested subject for the round-table discussion may be approached from various perspectives, therefore ELT professionals and scholars are cordially invited to contribute to the discussion of a wide range of cultural issues which are vital for understanding the language now and which are going to be in the focus of the future studies of English. It is of the essence to keep up with the cultural changes taking place not only in the English-speaking countries, but also wherever English is used as a foreign tongue, or has a significant presence. Moving towards understanding these changes is the ultimate goal of this round-table discussion.

#### **Technology Assisted Linguistic Research and Instruction (Chair: Marklen Konurbaev)**

This panel will discuss global trends in computer-assisted linguistic analysis and ways to improve language awareness in students based on the new methods of semantic analysis of texts including data mining, knowledge extraction and information discovery. The outburst of information has created a totally new environment where language learners are literally drowned in terabytes of texts, e-mails, video and audio material. It is a great challenge for modern linguistics to find and suggest new effective means to assist modern learner in structuring and systematizing this information for individual or professional purposes and desirably help the students to preserve the cultural edge in this process that is growing more and more spontaneous and intuitive. This poses a new task before educational institutions to overcome a simplistic and purely pragmatic foreign language acquisition and keep up with the ever increasing pace of the information era.

#### **Language Testing and Assessment (Chair: Ludmila Gorodetskaya)**

The panel will discuss the latest developments in language assessment as a theory. Then it will focus on the research held by Cambridge University and its partner universities, based on the Learner Corpus – a unique database of past papers produced by candidates with various L1 backgrounds and at various levels of L2 proficiency. The panel speakers will share their experiences of participation in international projects such as English Profile, PROSET (current European Union project on language assessment in which 11 Russian and 4 European universities are taking part) and other major and minor research initiatives in the area. Practical outcomes of language assessment for teacher training in Russia and language education as a whole will also be looked at in the context of Russian State Exam development and various language contests that determine young people's educational and career opportunities.