

In memoriam

Prof. UW, dr hab. Krzysztof Hejwowski (1952–2019)

Professor Krzysztof Hejwowski died prematurely on September 28, 2019, in Warsaw. An internationally renowned translation studies scholar and expert in the field of translation, in particular of literary translation, Professor Hejwowski was an alumnus of English Studies at the University of Warsaw (1976) and tied his professional life to the Institute of Applied Linguistics at the University of Warsaw, where between 1981 and 1983 he studied at the Postgraduate Studies in Translation. From the very beginning, theoretical questions, such as models of the translation process, translation competences, and translation errors were at the center of the Professor's interests. He received his doctorate at the University of Warsaw in 1992 with a dissertation entitled *Psycholingwistyczny model procesu tłumaczenia* [The psycholinguistic model of the translation process] written under the supervision of Professor Barbara Z. Kielar. Further research on the translation process and its psychological aspects enabled him to formulate a unique concept in Polish translation studies – the cognitive-communicative theory of translation presented in his 2004 monograph *Translation: A Cognitive-communicative Approach* (Olecko) (Polish edition: *Kognitywno-komunikacyjna teoria przekładu* [A cognitive-communicative theory of translation], 2004 and later editions). This work became the basis for his postdoctoral procedure (*habilitacja*) at the University of Gdańsk in 2005. From 2010 he was an Associate Professor at the University of Warsaw.

The Professor also held various posts: from 1998 to 2001 he was the Deputy Director for Student Affairs at the Institute of Applied Linguists (UW), and from 2006 he was the Head of the Department of Translation Studies. In 2008 he was elected Director of the Institute of Applied

Linguistics, and from 2012 to 2016 he was the Dean of the Faculty of Applied Linguistics UW.

The Professor had a particular influence on the translation studies community in Poland. He was the originator and an organizer of the *Imago mundi* conference series, which started in 2005. The multi-authored monographs which he coedited and which were published under the same title as the conference (*Językowy obraz świata w oryginale i przekładzie* [Linguistic image of the world in the original and in translation], 2007; *50 lat polskiej translatoryki* [50 years of translation studies in Poland], 2009; *Tłumacz: służa, pośrednik, twórca?* [Translator: the servant, the intermediary, the creator?], 2012; *Z zagadnień tłumaczenia: teoria, kształcenie, praktyka* [Translation issues: theory, education, practice], 2014; *Tłumaczenie wczoraj, dziś i jutro* [Translation: past, present, and future], 2019) are a lasting achievement in the development of our discipline. It is also thanks to the Professor that the tiny town of Olecko transformed for some time into an interesting scientific and educational center (among Krzysztof Hejwowski's works published there are: *Teoria i dydaktyka przekładu* [Theory and didactics of translation], 2003; *Kulturowe i językowe źródła nieprzekładalności* [Culture- and language-specific reasons for untranslatability], 2005). He also participated in periodic translation studies meetings in Kazimierz Dolny (and later in Lublin) organized by Maria Curie-Skłodowska University (the outcome of these meetings were volumes in the series *Przekład. Język. Kultura* [Translation, language, culture] edited by Roman Lewicki). He was active as an editor for numerous journals. From 2012 he was the President of the Scientific Council and coeditor of *Między Oryginałem a Przekładem* [Between Originals and Translations]. Thanks to the initiative of Krzysztof Hejwowski and Jerzy Brzozowski the journal was edited in both Warsaw and Kraków. As an active translator, he cooperated with the periodical *Literatura na Świecie* [World Literature]. He gladly shared his practical experiences and the secrets of his trade (also in his last book, *Nowe wspaniałe światy Aldousa Huxleya i ich recepcja w Polsce* [Aldous Huxley's brave new worlds and their reception in Poland] 2019, coauthored by Grzegorz Moroz). As he wrote in *Iluzja przekładu. Przekładoznawstwo w ujęciu konstruktywnym* [The illusion of translation: a constructive perspective on translation studies], (2015), he pursued a "constructive approach to translation" and deeply believed in the power of the translator's

empathy. This approach undoubtedly stemmed from his ample experience as a practicing translator but also from his character.

Without a doubt, the Professor's achievements and the posts he held would have been much less meaningful if not for the kind of person he was. He was widely respected at the Institute of Applied Linguistics and outside of it for his openness, supportiveness, gentleness, calm and goodness, which he shared with us every day. He was a person of exceptional humbleness and virtue, on numerous occasions bravely defending the academic community, which he believed to be essential and the importance of which is often forgotten nowadays. Each time he paid for it dearly.

His traits and his authenticity made him, to a certain extent, untemperary. The constant hurriedness, the pursuit of success at any cost, the decline of morals, so abundant today, were foreign to him. Krzysztof's untemperariness also extended to his reluctance towards new technologies, to which I can attest personally, having cooperated with him during his years as a dean. This, however, did not impede the connection he had with young people. Thankfully, they still can tell authenticity from a pose. He never denied anyone entry to his lectures or seminars, and he cared deeply about the postgraduates and PhD candidates to whom he was the supervisor. And they adored him and came to his lectures in droves. He never checked the attendance because he disliked administrative rigor and felt it would waste valuable time, and still, students came to his classes, fascinated by his personality. He instilled in them the passion for translation and the drive for knowledge. He worked until the very end and supervised more than 300 bachelor's, master's, and doctoral candidates.

Krzysztof's lectures always took place on Thursdays, and it so happened that we had to say goodbye to him on a Thursday, October 3, 2019, when we accompanied him in his last journey to Bródno cemetery. And although in times like these we often talk about irreparable loss and great sadness, these days we are rather serenely grateful for having met the Professor and for everything that he has left us.

Prof. dr hab. Dorota Urbanek
Translated by Agata M. Balińska