

A Brief Report on the Highlights of the PEN-International Activities in the Czech Republic in 2004/2005

- In June 2004 Dr. Janáková et al. published an English version of the *Methodology Guide to Learning and Teaching English for Deaf, Hard-of-Hearing and Blind Students*. This Guide was distributed to all participants of the second week-long International Teacher-Training Seminar on Teaching English to the Deaf in August 2004. Its publishing was kindly co-sponsored by the Nippon Foundation.
- In winter term of the academic year 2004/2005 two Czech Deaf graduates of the Faculty of Arts Bachelor Study Program took part in the Pre-Master Study Program at the University of Bristol focusing on BSL, Deaf Culture and History, special education and psychology. Their study stay was generously sponsored by the Nippon Foundation.
- In the academic year 2004/2005 two young teachers of English, Mgr. Veronika Novotná and Kateřina Černá, willing to help deaf and blind Charles University students with their studying English, became members of Czech PEN-International team. Veronika tries to make accessible for the Blind some English CD-ROM programs, Kate co-works with Dr. Janáková as a notetaker during her English lessons.
- For the purpose of self-study in LRC blind students can take advantage of the two especially equipped computers with scanners and Braille readers Window-Eyes and Jaws, and of a wide range of audio recordings accompanying American and British textbooks for practicing listening and speaking skills.
- Another important part of the special LRC stock is created by the recordings of classical English and American literature in original which are available also for take-away loans. These are all divided according to the level of student progress in English. The collection of audio books is continuously expanded. A part of LRC audio – recording stock was purchased from the Nippon Foundation grant.
- In August 2004 the Faculty of Arts Language Resource Centre in cooperation with the NTID at RIT, USA, organized in Prague the second international week-long teacher-training seminar on teaching English to the Deaf. This seminar could not be held without generous support of the Nippon Foundation through NTID project PEN-International aimed at improving the tertiary level of Deaf education worldwide.
- The seminar was attended by 66 participants from 5 countries. Out of this, there were 18 university teachers, 10 teachers of primary and secondary

special schools for the Deaf, 16 teachers of the Deaf from abroad; 13 seminar participants were deaf or hard-of-hearing. The rising interest in the seminar among the university teachers as compared with year 2000, when the first seminar took place in Prague, is a very positive sign.

- As well as in the year 2000, LRC enabled both deaf and hearing Faculty of Arts students of *Czech in the Communication of the Deaf* to take part in this seminar. This was highly appreciated by the students who were very active in the seminar discussions. Out of 11 students taking part in the seminar in 2004, several are Charles University graduates by now and they participated in the previous Seminar 2000 as well.
- 8 seminar lectures and 9 workshops were led by 12 presenters, 3 presenters were Czech university teachers, 1 was Russian and 2 were British colleagues. NTID provided the Prague seminar with 7 highly professional presenters whose interesting lectures and workshops on different topics connected with deaf education, were supported by power-point presentations. Prof. Alan Hurwitz, Ed.D. and his wife, Ms. Vicki Hurwitz gave a truly wonderful presentation, based on personal experience with raising their two deaf children.
- The Prague seminar, whose most significant feature was the willingness to share all knowledge and experience, received a very positive feedback from all participants. It was closed by a vivid and fruitful panel discussion and final evaluation which covered all the main seminar topics and the graduation ceremony.
- In February 2005 Dr. Janáková et al. prepared for publishing a book of **Seminar Proceedings 2004** and DVD recording of the whole seminar program which were sent to all seminar participants. Also these activities, connected with the dissemination of the results of cooperation with the NTID, were sponsored by the Nippon Foundation.
- As many participants of the Prague Seminar asked us for re-publishing the Seminar Proceedings 2000, in May 2005 it was published and the copies were donated to everyone in need.
- Dr. Janáková shares her experience in this field also by giving lectures to Charles University colleagues who wish to start helping the students with special needs at other Charles University colleges, faculties and institutes. These seminars are organized for them several times in a year by Charles University Information and Advisory Center directed by PhDr. Hana Urychova. Dr. Janakova analyzed also the main goals connected with educating the Deaf in the Czech Republic for the nearest future.

- The Faculty of Arts Language Resource Centre has created several subtitled VHS and DVD programs of its activities connected with teaching English to deaf and hard-of-hearing students. These programs are available for reference study in the LRC study room to all those who are interested.

For more reference look at:

http://jc.ff.cuni.cz/mmp/deaf/E_deaf.htm

<http://jc.ff.cuni.cz/mmp/deaf/deaf.htm>