

Overview of the Charles University Faculty of Arts Language Resource Centre Project On Helping Deaf, Hard-of-Hearing and Blind Students in the Study of English

- Since 1998 PhDr. Daniela Janáková, CSc. has been teaching English to deaf and hard-of-hearing students studying *Czech in the Communication of the Deaf* at the Faculty of Arts, Charles University. This Bachelor Degree Program was launched at the Faculty of Arts by Prof. PhDr. Alena Macurová, CSc. in the same year. In 2002 hard-of-hearing students of the Faculty of Education and the Faculty of Medicine, Charles University began attending English classes also.
- Since 1999 Dr. Janáková has been cooperating with American and British universities specialized in teaching the Deaf (The University of Wolverhampton in Great Britain, Gallaudet University in Washington, D. C., the National Technical Institute for the Deaf at Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, New York, USA), and with several American foundations which support similar projects.
- In 2000 Dr. Janáková became the Coordinator of teaching English to the Deaf at Czech universities and organized the First International Teacher-Training Seminar on Teaching English to the Deaf. In the same year Mgr. Helena Tvrdíková and Mgr. Dita Golková became involved in teaching the Deaf at the Faculty of Arts, Charles University.
- In 2001 an English version of the Seminar Proceedings was published.
- In the same year, Dr. Janáková arranged a three-semester study stay at Gallaudet University for a gifted Faculty of Arts, Charles University deaf student Radka Nováková. Her study stay, was sponsored by the Czech Ministry of Education and the foundation American Friends for the Czech Republic, Inc.
- In 2001 there was established a team of Czech Faculty of Arts teachers who take part in the PEN-International NTID Project aimed at improving postsecondary deaf education by means of using the Internet and the latest technology. The members of the Czech team are Mgr. Helena Fikarová, Mgr. Helena Tvrdíková, Mgr. Dita Golková and Dr. Janáková, being the team leader.
- In 2001 a special library was opened in the study room of the Language Resource Centre (LRC). Its library is equipped with textbooks, computer programs and videos on the history and culture of the Deaf Community and on teaching British and American sign language. There is a special section of subtitled videos as well. The collection is being expanded every year.
- In 2002 the Czech PEN International Project Team took part in the International Methodological Seminar on Teaching English to the Deaf organized by colleagues from the NTID in Rochester, USA.
- In 2002 Dr. Janáková extended the cooperation in the field of Deaf Studies to other American and British institutions, including Johnson County Community College in Kansas – Institute for Higher Education of the Deaf, CSUN University in Northridge, California and the University of Bristol, Great Britain.
- In 2002 Dr. Janáková and Mgr. Tvrdíková completed the curriculum of teaching English to the Deaf at Czech universities within the GAUK project.
- In 2001, 2002 and 2003 Dr. Janáková organized, in cooperation with the English Language Institute, the English Summer Schools for Czech Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing

University Students at Gallaudet University in the USA. The Summer School Programs have been generously sponsored through the Czech Ministry of Education Student Mobility Grant Projects.

- In 2002 a group of 10 Czech deaf university students together with Dr. Janáková took part in the international congress Deaf Way II in Washington, D. C., where a deaf student, Petr Vysuček, now a teacher of Czech Sign Language at the Faculty of Arts, Charles University, delivered his paper informing the international audience about the ways of education of Czech deaf students and about the newly-established organization of Czech Deaf called *Pevnost*.
- In 2003 Dr. Janáková et al. published a Czech version of the Methodology Guide to Learning and Teaching English for Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Blind Students. Apart from the methodological part, the Guide also contains a practical part which introduces users to all language teaching materials including video, audio and computer programs which are at the disposal of the students with special needs in the study room of the Faculty of Arts LRC.
- In 2003 Dr. Janáková took part in the International Symposium at NTID in Rochester, where she presented a poster session informing colleagues from abroad about various activities of the Faculty of Arts Language Resource Centre and about the activities of the Charles University Information and Advisory Centre, with which Dr. Janáková has been successfully cooperating on development projects aimed at helping the students with special needs.
- In 2003 two deaf and one hard-of-hearing third-year Bachelor Studies Faculty of Arts students, accompanied by Dr. Janáková, undertook a study journey to two British universities. The purpose of the journey was to discuss possibilities of Bachelor, Master and PhD studies of Czech deaf students at the University of Bristol and the University of Wolverhampton. The negotiations were successful at both universities and during the visit extended contracts on cooperation were signed.
- In autumn 2003 two festive meetings took place at the Faculty of Arts, Charles University: a meeting with the representatives of the Nippon Foundation and a meeting with NTID colleagues in reference to organization of the second International Teacher-Training Prague Seminar on Teaching English to Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Students.
- The first English Summer School at the University of Bristol in Great Britain took place in June 2004. The reason for a change of venue of the English Summer School Programs was to have a chance to compare the American and British models of Teaching English to the Deaf.
- In June 2004 the LRC published an English version of the Methodology Guide to Learning and Teaching English for Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Blind Students. This Guide will be distributed to all participants of the second week-long International Teacher-Training Seminar on Teaching English to the Deaf. This seminar will take place in Prague in August, 22 to 27, 2004.
- In the winter term of the academic year 2004/2005 two Czech Deaf graduates of the Faculty of Arts Bachelor Study Program are going to take part in the Pre-Master Study Program at the University of Bristol, focusing on special education and psychology. Their study stay has been generously sponsored by the Nippon Foundation.
- The results of cooperation with American and British Universities in Deaf Studies are so far very positive. In a five year time frame about 30 Czech deaf and hard-of-hearing

students were given a unique chance to take part in study stays abroad being taught by deaf teachers, who served also as their role models.

- For blind students of the Faculty of Arts, who must pass an English exam at the Faculty of Arts Language Centre, Dr. Janáková, in cooperation with the Centre for the Blind *Tereza*, helped to create a version of the English exams in Braille. A practice version with an answer key is at the disposal of blind students in the LRC Study Room.
- Blind students can for the purpose of self-study take advantage of a wide range of audio recordings of American and British language textbooks as well as recordings of classical English and American literature in original which are available in the LRC. These are all divided according to the level of student competence. The collection of audio books is also being continuously expanded.
- The Language Resource Centre has created several subtitled VHS and DVD programs of its activities on helping teaching the English language to deaf and hard-of-hearing students. These programs are available for reference study in the LRC study room to all who are interested.

Note: For more information look visit:

http://jc.ff.cuni.cz/mmp/daniela_janakova_homepage.htm