



Language Skills: Traditions, Transitions & Ways Forward

International conference

English Department, Maria Curie-Skłodowska University, Lublin, Poland
24th – 25th September 2012

Call for papers

English Department, Maria Skłodowska Curie University in Lublin is happy to announce the first international conference **Language Skills: Traditions, Transitions & Ways Forward**, which is going to take place in Lublin, Poland, from 24th to 25th September 2012. More information about Lublin is available at www.lublin.eu/en.

Theme

The Conference aspires to provide a forum for sharing both theoretical and empirical findings, as well as pedagogical practices related to the broad topic of the development of language skills in second/foreign language instruction. It is hoped that the contributions will cover issues dealing with a number of research traditions and perspectives including the past (Traditions), the present (Transitions) and the future (Ways Forward) of language skills learning and teaching.

Organizers

The Conference is organized by the Methodology of Teaching English as a Foreign Language Unit of the English Institute of Maria Skłodowska Curie University in Lublin, Poland.

The Scientific Committee

Prof. Halina Chodkiewicz – Chair
Prof. Jolanta Szpyra-Kozłowska
Prof. Henryk Kardela
Prof. Przemysław Łozowski

The Organizing Committee

Dr Magdalena Trepczyńska – Chair
Małgorzata Krzemińska-Adamek
Ewa Surdacka
Dr Marcin Smolik

Plenary speakers

The following scholars have kindly agreed to deliver plenary talks during the Conference:

Prof. Pauline Foster (St Mary's University College Twickenham London)
Prof. Keith Johnson (Lancaster University)
Prof. Maria Dakowska (University of Warsaw)
Prof. Anna Niżegorodcew (Jagiellonian University, Kraków)
Prof. Teresa Siek-Piskozub (Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań)

Venue

The Conference will take place in the main Humanities Department building at Maria Skłodowska Curie Square 4a. The venue will host all plenary and other sessions. Meals and refreshments will also be served on the premises.

Registration and conference fee

There are two ways to register for the Conference. You are kindly requested EITHER

- to fill in the registration form attached to this call for papers as an active .pdf file and send it to contact@skillsconference.umcs.lublin.pl, OR
- to visit the conference website: www.skillsconference.umcs.lublin.pl and fill in the online registration form there.

You should register by

- **30th June** 2012 if you are submitting a proposal, OR
- **31st July** 2012 if you wish to participate without submitting a proposal.

The conference fee of **350 PLN (or 90 euros)** must be paid by **31st July** 2012. The fee covers organization costs, conference materials, two lunches, one dinner and coffee breaks.

Please make your payment to the following account:

Name of bank: PKO S.A.
Account holder: Fundacja UMCS, Lublin
Account number: 12 1240 2382 1111 0000 3914 0676
SWIFT Code: PKOPPLPW
IBAN: PL 12 1240 2382 1111 0000 3914 0676

Under reason for payment, make sure you specify the following:

- SKILLSCONF
- <your name>.

Note that payments cannot be refunded and that payments on site cannot be accepted.

Submission of proposals

Proposals should be submitted at the time of registration. The deadline for receipt of proposals is **30th June** 2012. Participants will be notified of acceptance by **15th July** 2012.

We welcome contributions related to the theme of the conference in the form of position / research papers, work-in-progress papers and symposia. Preference will be given to proposals that are related to one of the areas listed below.

1. Conceptualizing language skills

- Defining and redefining language skills. Skills versus strategies.
- Perspectives on the number of skills. Mediation (translation) and interaction as language skills.
- Literacy / literacies.

2. Skill acquisition/learning

- The process of skill acquisition/development.
- Language skills in L1, L2, L3 etc.
- Interface between language skills and language subsystems.
- Role of L1 in L2/FL development.
- Complexity/Accuracy/Fluency and language skills development.
- Reception versus production.

3. Language skills instruction

- Language skills in educational, social and professional contexts.
- Role of practice in skills development.
- Language skills in ESP / EAP.
- Teaching language skills and age, learning difficulties, disabilities, special educational needs etc.
- The use of technology in skills development.
- Instructional materials for skills development: design, use, adaptation and evaluation.

4. Language skills assessment

5. Applications of theories, innovations and practices in other disciplines (e.g. corpus linguistics, psychology, psycholinguistics, neurolinguistics) to understanding skills development

6. Other issues

The Conference presentation categories

Proposals for the Conference are solicited for presentations in the categories below.

Position/Research papers

You may choose to submit a position/research paper proposal if your work is theoretically oriented or you wish to present the results of completed research. Paper presentations are 20 minutes and are followed by 10 minutes for questions and comments from the audience. In the case of position papers, your proposal should provide an overview of a critical issue or an approach, or provide a discussion of alternative approaches or issues, and provide new insights into the matter being discussed. In the case of research papers, your proposal should include a brief introduction to the topic, general objectives of the study, study design and methodology, major findings, conclusions and implications. Position/research paper proposal should not exceed **250** words.

Work-in-progress

You may choose to submit a work-in-progress proposal if the research you wish to report on is still in progress or is currently being planned. These sessions offer an excellent opportunity for both young and experienced researchers to discuss their unfinished research or research plans with the research community in order to receive feedback on what has already been done and on how best to proceed. Work-in-progress paper proposal should not exceed **250** words.

Symposium

You may choose to submit a symposium proposal if you work in a team or have collaborated with other researchers, and you would like to offer a series of related presentations focusing on a single theme which would be discussed from a number of perspectives (theoretical, empirical, practical). A symposium may last up to two hours and may include between two and four individual papers which present complementary or differing perspectives on a related topic likely to stimulate discussion. In addition to the presenters, each symposium must have a moderator and an independent discussant. Symposium proposal should not exceed **1 000** words and should include a summary of the topic, abstracts of individual papers, and a short description covering the practicalities of the event, e.g. goals, timing.

Accommodation

Participants are requested to book their own accommodation. All the hotels listed below are within walking distance from the conference venue.

HOTEL "HUZAR"

www.hotelewam.pl

Address: ul. Spadochroniarzy 9, 20-043 Lublin

Tel/Fax: (+48) 81 533 05 36

E-mail: huzar@hotelewam.pl

Rates (breakfast included):

- single room – 140 PLN (ca. €35) / day
- double room – 180 PLN (ca. €45) / day.

Reservations at Hotel "Huzar" should be made by August 31st. 48 rooms have been pre-booked for September 23rd to September 26th. Be sure to quote "*SkillsConf*" at the time of booking to receive the special conference rate.

HOTEL "MŁYN"

www.hotel-mlyn.com.pl

Address: Al. Ractawickie 23a, 20-034 Lublin

Tel: (+48) 81 536 70 20

Fax: (+48) 81 536 70 21

E-mail: repcja@hotel-mlyn.com.pl

Rates (breakfast not included):

- single room – 130 PLN (ca. €35) / day
- double room – 180 PLN (ca. €45) / day
- breakfast – 15 PLN (ca. €4) / person.

HOTEL "DOM NAUCZYCIELA"

www.lublin.oupis.pl

Address: ul. Akademicka 4, 20-033 Lublin

Tel: (+48) 81 533 82 85 to 88

Fax: (+48) 81 533 03 66

E-mail: oupislublin@op.pl

Rates (breakfast not included):

- single room – 138 PLN (ca. €35) / day
- double room – 168 PLN (ca. €40) / day
- breakfast – 10 PLN (ca. €2.50) / person.

HOTEL "MERCURE UNIA LUBLIN"

www.mercure.com

www.accorhotels.com

Address: Al. Racławickie 12, 20-037 Lublin

Tel: (+48) 81 533 20 67

Fax: (+48) 81 533 20 68

E-mail: H3404-SM@accor.com

Rates (breakfast included):

- single room (standard) - 346 PLN (ca. €90) / day
- single room (superior)- 384 PLN (ca. €96) / day
- double room (standard) – 422 PLN (ca. €105) / day
- double room (superior) – 490 PLN (ca. €123) / day.