

Keleti Károly Faculty of Economics**Language Institute****Address:** Tavaszmező u. 17, H-1084 Budapest, Hungary**Tel.:** +36-1-666-5240**Fax:** +36-1-666-5235**E-mail:** langanke.ulrich@kgk.bmf.hu**Website:** <http://www.bmf.hu/kgk>**Head of Institute:** Dr. Ulrich H. Langanke**1 Introduction**

The Language Institute of Budapest Tech is one of the five institutes of the Keleti Károly Faculty of Economics. The Language Institute in its present form is the result of the integration of the formerly independent language institutes of Bánki Donát Polytechnic, Kandó Kálmán Polytechnic and the Polytechnic of Light Industry, which all ceased to exist in 2000 when the Budapest Tech was formed. The Language Institute, although integrated, has continued operating in the respective buildings of the former polytechnics, now divided among the five newly formed faculties. Language teaching therefore takes place at Tavaszmező street, Népszínház street and Kiscelli street.

Although attached to the Faculty of Economics, the Language Institute provides services to students of all faculties wishing to improve on their language abilities. However, its scientific profile within the Keleti Károly Faculty of Economics has yet to be sharpened. Since the integration of 2000, the specific role of the Language Institute within the educational programme of the Budapest Tech has significantly changed. Today, although ahead with the general reorganisation of the whole Faculty of Economics, the role of the Language Institute still faces significant structural changes. This will lead to paradigm shifts in the educational and scientific profile with immediate consequences for the human resource capital. The Budapest Tech attributes an enhanced value to language skills, cross-cultural competences, and market-oriented soft skills of its students, thus leading to new challenges. The current Language Institute can be considered as being only partially prepared to its new function, the institute's educational and scientific profile described here therefore does not yet reflect the results of the restructuring work already carried out.

2 Educational Profile

From the year 2000 on, the BMF Language Institute has been entitled to teach English, German, French and Russian on different levels, conceded, in the beginning, to offer a wide range of special courses on technical language as well, inherited from the individual profile of language education at the former polytechnics.

The educational profile comprises of two different systems running parallel to each other: firstly, the so called credit schedule which started for the last time in the academic year 2005/2006, secondly, the new BSc/MSc schedule following the European educational regulations of the so called 'Bologna-system' which is valid from September 2006 on together with new paradigms for language teaching, set by the Budapest Tech language conception.

Depending on the faculties, the BSc system has already been introduced by 2005 in a trial phase, teaching language to students now in their 3rd term. This follows the newly introduced BSc language conception started at the Language Institute for the first time at the beginning of the academic year 2006/2007.

Language teaching for students still registered for the credit schedule offers 150 hours divided into two terms of 75 lessons. These language classes, although obligatory for all students who do not yet possess the required language exam, have no credit points. After successfully having absolved these two terms, students pass an interior language exam adapted to the standards and requirements of the generally accepted national and international language exams.

The first 75 hours deal with general language focusing on basic communication skills, referring to the exam topics of the most important national and international language certificates. The second term provides students with the basics of technical language, with a focus on general economic topics and specific technical and engineering subjects of the five faculties.

In addition, the students can choose from a broad range of special language courses specifically dealing with aspects of technical language such as economy, informatics, the auto industry, mechanics and environmental protection, etc. In general, these courses are provided with two credit points. Those students having already passed the required language exam or have otherwise proved to be capable of speaking at least one foreign language on an intermediate level can start learning a second at our institute, a choice by which they can also earn two credit points.

However, the above mentioned system is not valid for students matriculated as economic informaticians, whose language skills are improved over four terms, comprising of 240 lessons. In addition, these students are subject to special language requirements before graduating. These include an intermediate language

exam combined with technical language or an advanced language certificate for general language.

Now in the academic year 2006/2007 the above mentioned system has been replaced by the BSc language conception, that is to say that no new students are accepted within this system. However, the Language Institute is still obligated to run language courses (150 lessons/240 lessons) according to the former system. The possibility to pass the obligatory interior language exam must be provided until the very last student of the former credit system has left the college.

Together with the EU-wide introduction of the so called 'Bologna process', the Budapest Tech has essentially changed its language teaching programme. The new language conception was finally accepted in autumn 2005, to be applied for the first time in the academic year 2006/2007. The Budapest Tech, following its general language strategy, provides state financed language courses for English only. For all students registered for BSc courses, a one-term module of 75 lessons offers language classes on lower intermediate (module B1) and pre-intermediate/intermediate level (module B2). Admittance and enrollment takes place after a combined entrance exam, consisting of an exhaustive written part and a subsequent oral test. Students who scored low and do therefore not match the standard required should prepare for their next entrance exam on the free market, e.g. with the Budapest Tech run KHT, a company providing language courses at a considerable price and adapted to the specific foreign language demands of the Budapest Tech.

In close cooperation with the Language Institute and based on the Budapest Tech language conception, the KHT offers different language modules, module A1 as a preparation course for absolute beginners of English, module A2 as a preparation class to enable students to pass the entrance exam, module C as a communication-orientated course on an intermediate level, module D as a computer-based training programme within a blended teaching course. Last but not least, module E prepares students to attend technical lectures in English or German, as it is obligatory for each student to pass at least one technical unit (lecture or seminar) in a foreign language (English or German). The content and form of these technical lessons in a foreign language depend on the respective faculty and does not belong to the immediate competences of the Language Institute.

3 Research and Scientific Activity

The scientific profile of the Language Institute, to the present state, does not quite match international standards and criteria as for the publication activity and research work of the majority of the teaching staff. Ahead with the restructuring of the whole Institute, this situation will be changing.

Currently, the scientific and research projects represented by the Language Institute focus on intercultural and cross-cultural communication, Fuzzy Logic and its applicability to the simulation of natural language/language processing and the conception of hypermedia language data banks for online-applications such as dictionaries and language learning programmes, etc. The specific aspect of human sciences is dealt within publications and conference presentations on language philosophy, radical constructivism, general methodological and philological questions on linguistics as well as on literature, mainly based upon Russian authors and their reception in Central Europe.

Since January 2006, the project 'Multimedia Semantic Trainer', a hypermedia monolingual online-language learning programme for English and its equivalent for German, 'Deutsch Multimedial', has been under construction. Participating teachers of the Language Institute are at present working out the linguistic data set for the headwords. The first part will cover the required vocabulary for the pre-intermediate level.

International publications since 2000:

Ulrich H. Langanke (2006): *Neuro-Fuzzy-Systems and Linguistically Authorized Data Sets. Virtual Reality for Language Diversity*. In: Papers on the MultiMeDiaLecTrans, Kouvola, Finland, August 25-27, 2005, London [in print]

Ulrich H. Langanke (2006): 'Sopron: Total War' – *Der Sprachatlas als Computerspiel. Sprachdatenbanken und Autoadaptivität*. In: Koletnik, M. & Smole, V. (eds.) (2006): *Diachronija in sinhronija v dialektoloskih raziskavah*. Maribor: 267-276

György Z. Józsa (2006): *Mot'ivy Ewig-Weibliche v kont'ekste Nabokova*. In: Mat'erialy konferencii Zheschina kak drugoe 2006-go goda. [in print], Lublin

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Ulrich H. Langanke (2006): *Multidisziplinarität. Sprache, Mensch, Technik. Konfiguration intelligenter Wortdatenbanken* (Budapester Beiträge zur Germanistik, Bd. 51) Budapest [in print]

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Langanke, Ulrich H. (2005): *Fuzzy Logic als Grundlage für das hypermediale Online-Wörterbuch - Unschärfe als Programmierungs- und Gestaltungsprinzip*. In: Brenner, K. & Rada, R. (Hrsg.): *Praktische Aspekte der Lexikographie*. Beiträge des Lexikographischen Workshops am 16.-17.-Oktober 2003 an der Eötvös-Loránd-Universität Budapest. (Budapester Beiträge zur Germanistik, Bd. 48). Budapest: 146-157

György Z. Józsa (2005): *Nabokov i Duglas. Tch'ast' I.-aja*. In: Rosa, Sub (ed.): *Studia Litteraria in Honorem Lenae Szilárd*. Budapest: 334-244

György Z. Józsa (2004): *Transformacia motivapauka. Vizual'noje kak transmitter: Dostoevskij-Dobuzhinskij-Nabokov*. In: *Studia Russica Budapestiensi*a Universitate Lorand Eötvös (XXI) Budapest: 276-292

György Z. Józsa (2004): *Nabokovskaja germen'evtika pushkinskogo mira*. In: *Studia Slavica Hungarica* (49) Budapest: 381-406

György Z. Józsa (2004): *Vladimir Nabokov szofiológiája*. In: *Nyelv-Tudás*. Budapest: 26-29

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Ulrich H. Langanke (2001): *Sprache und Kognition - Modellierung des zweisprachigen semantischen Gedächtnisses*. In: Szigeti, Imre (ed.) (2001): *Germanistische Linguistik aus dem Ambrosianum. Festschrift für György Hell*. Piliscsaba: 111-138

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Text Books:

Győriné Kontor, Éva (2005): Foundation Tier. English Grammar. Alapozó Angol. Nyelvtan

Kovács Bernadette, Bálintné Zuba, Mariann (2001): Deutsch im Unternehmensbereich. Budapest

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