

pation de l'Allemagne hitlérienne: les Universités tchèques avaient été fermées par l'occupant dès le 17 Novembre 1939.

La jeune bachelière, après bien des avatars et tribulations, a pu entrer, enfin, dans l'enseignement supérieur (universités d'Olomouc en Moravie, et de Bucarest, en Roumanie), seulement dès 1949.

S'intéressant à la philologie moderne, elle a jeté son dévolu sur les études linguistiques et littéraires dans les domaines de la philologie tchèque et française d'abord, roumaine par la suite. En effet, c'est l'académicien Alexandru Rosetti, à Bucarest, qui a poussé l'étudiante douée vers la carrière de chercheur. Elle s'adonne à la science, travaille à la recherche et à l'examen des relations slavo-roumaines et se voue à l'analyse des anciennes traductions roumaines des textes slaves, surtout des Evangiles vieux slaves et roumains.

C'est avec application, avec ardeur et avec zèle soutenus qu'elle poursuit son travail, en 1956, aux Départements roman et slave de l'Université Charles, à Prague. Elle s'intéresse à l'analyse de la langue roumaine, surtout ancienne, à la littérature roumaine ancienne, à la dialectologie roumaine, aux problèmes du folklore dans une conception large, elle publie de très nombreux comptes rendus concernant les interférences entre langues typologiquement divergeantes, ou la linguistique balkanique... A mainte occasion, elle donne des conférences très travaillées dans son pays et ailleurs.

Malgré les conditions peu favorables dans les années 70, elle contribue avec initiative à l'activité de la section balkanique près de l'Association des linguistes à Prague, elle rédige plusieurs volumes (I–V) de la revue *Etudes balkaniques tchécoslovaques*, elle rédige le recueil *Z tradic slovanské kultury v Čechách* ("Traditions de la culture slave en Bohême"), elle organise les *Mélanges* en l'honneur du professeur Pavel Trost en 1977.

Elle a publié plus de 160 contributions (articles, comptes rendus, analyses) dans les revues *Philologica Pragensia*, *Acta Universitatis Carolinae*, *Časopis pro moderní filologii*, *Etudes balkaniques Tchécoslovaques*, *Slovo a Slovesnost*, *Slovanský přehled*, *Makedonski folklor*, dans certains Actes (publiés à l'étranger), dans des recueils; elle a contribué à trois éditions successives du cours universitaire *Úvod do srovnávacího studia románských jazyků* publié à Prague (1962, 1980) et à l'Université d'Ostrava (1994).

Ses nombreuses conférences, prononcées à différentes occasions devant le public linguistique et philologique, étaient toujours basées sur une érudition exceptionnelle.

Les romanistes tchèques expriment à Mme Smrčková leur gratitude, leur sentiment d'affectueuse reconnaissance.

Jan Šabršula (Prague)

ALENA ŠIMEČKOVÁ'S BIRTHDAY

On 25th April, 2002, the Linguistic Association of the Czech Academy of Sciences met on the occasion of an invited anniversary lecture, given by its outstanding member, Pro-

fessor PhDr. Alena Šimečková, CSc. The lecture was entitled Contrastive Comparison of Languages: What has been achieved and what remains to be done: Achievements and desiderata, and thus representative of one the major fields of Professor Šimečková's professional interests.

The date of the lecture was actually the lecturer's birthday. Professor Šimečková was born on 25th April 1932 in Prague. Her grammar school education commenced in Český Brod and continued in Tábor, where she took her school-leaving examination in 1951. For her university studies she enrolled at the Faculty of Arts, Charles University, Prague. At that time, as the older generation of university graduates know only too well, admittance to the Arts Faculty (or to any faculty, for that matter) for applicants without a supportive political background was far from easy. Professor Šimečková herself ascribes the fact that she was accepted partly to chance, and partly to her country origin. There was a price to be paid, however. Instead of Scandinavian languages which she had intended and ardently wished to study in combination with German, she was assigned the study of Czech. Consequently, she graduated in German, Czech and Swedish as a third subject.

Her professional career started at secondary school where she taught for three years before being accepted as a lecturer at several technological institutions of higher education. During this period she extended her qualifications by extramural studies of yet another language, English. In 1967 she applied for postgraduate studies in the Department of English, German and Scandinavian Languages at her alma mater, where she soon became a member of the German staff. Here she has worked all her professional life, and her work still continues.

In 1970 Alena Šimečková obtained her PhDr. degree in philosophy and continued with her postgraduate studies under the supervision of Professor Pavel Trost, at that time the most prominent Prague German scholar. Her CSc. dissertation was submitted in 1974, but was not allowed to be defended, Dr. Šimečková's professional advancement being politically undesirable. The defence, earning her the CSc. degree, at last took place in 1986, twelve years after the dissertation had been completed. Further professional advancement had to wait until the postcommunist era: in 1990 Dr. Šimečková became Associate Professor, and in 1996 Full Professor of the German language. These distinctions brought her another office, that of the Head of the Department, in which capacity she acted for two office terms.

Professor Šimečková's scholarly interests are amply displayed in her publications, of which there are well over a hundred. The leitmotif of her research work has always been German word formation, in particular with respect to the German verb. Her two monographs *Untersuchungen zum trennbaren Verb im Deutschen I* (1994) and *Untersuchungen zum trennbaren Verb im Deutschen II* (2002), published in *Acta Universitatis Carolinae*, present a synthesis of her lifelong work in this field. German word formation is dealt with in more than twenty other studies and articles which have appeared in journals and miscellaneous volumes both at home and abroad.

A second major sphere of Professor Šimečková's scholarly pursuits draws on one of the notable traditions of the Prague School of Linguistics, Mathesius' synchronic comparison of languages. Her contrastive German-Czech works cover a wide range of subjects from general questions to particular points of German grammar and lexis. Moreover, she has enriched Czech German studies by an enviable bibliographical survey of German-Czech contrastive writings, *Bibliographie zum deutsch-tschechischen Sprachvergleich* (Charles University 1997). No less important is another work of hers from this field, *On German for Czechs (O němčině pro Čechy)*, H+H 1992, 1996). Although conceived as an introduction to German studies, it addresses a wider public by a contemporary view of German, outlined both in its present stage and in the past. The reader will also appreciate the parts dealing with the situation in the German-speaking countries. The final chapter describing the sound level, word formation and the grammatical structure of German exemplifies Mathesius' concept of linguistic characterology.

Professor Šimečková's numerous contrastive articles and studies broadly cover three subjects: general questions of the contrastive approach to theoretical and practical language description; word formation, semantic and lexicographic problems (e.g. German-Czech dictionaries are considered from the viewpoint of the user and of what he is offered from the informative aspect); general and particular questions of grammar (contrastive treatment of the classification of word classes, apposition, reflexive constructions and others). Much from this field is inspiring for contrastive linguists concerned with other languages, especially the bibliographical survey of contrastive studies.

Apart from these two major spheres, Professor Šimečková's publications are concerned with such topics as spoken language, language means employed in telephone conversations, the relations between written and spoken German, innovational tendencies in German, variability in Standard German, tendencies in the development of the German word stock, Czech-German bilingualism in the 16th and 17th centuries, reform of German orthography, and others. Some of these are recurrent problems, addressed more than once.

As a university teacher, Professor Šimečková has always seen her foremost duty in providing her students with university texts required by their study programmes. Consequently, university texts and textbooks are well represented among her publications, the earliest dating from the period of her teaching at technical colleges, while the last two decades have been productive of texts for students of German.

However brief a survey of Professor Šimečková's publications, it cannot omit her extensive list of reviews and reports, and her specialized translations. The latter helped to tide her over the difficult years after 1968, when her position at the Faculty was very insecure.

As regards her international cooperation, it is of long standing. Professor Šimečková has long participated in major international projects carried out at German universities: Wortbildung der deutschen Gegenwartssprache (Leipzig – Augsburg – Prague), Deutsche Entlehnungen im Tschechischen (Leipzig), Deutsch als Fremdsprache (Bamberg – Saarbrücken), Prager Professoren 1939–1945 (Freiburg/Br.). She is a member of the Linguist-

tic Association of the Czech Academy of Sciences, the Czech Modern Language Association, Societas Linguistica Europaea, Internationaler Germanistenverband, deputy chair of the Union of Czech Germanists, and chief editor of the Journal for Modern Philology (*Časopis pro moderní filologii*). Much more could be said, but this will be found in the forthcoming Festschrift in Professor Šimečková's honour.¹

Let us wish her many more years of fruitful work and professional achievements.

Libuše Dušková (Prague)

Notes

¹ For a more detailed account of Professor Šimečková's professional career, including her bibliography, see the forthcoming volume of *AUC Philologica, Germanistica Pragensia* XVII, *Festschrift Alena Šimečková*, Karolinum, Prague 2002.