

Dr. Karolina

Krawczak

Faculty of English graduate from Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań (UAM) – M.A. degree in 2004 and PhD in 2008. Assistant Professor at the Department of Cognitive Linguistics, Faculty of English, UAM. Secretary of the Polish Cognitive Linguistics Association. Member of such organisations as the Association Française de Linguistique Cognitive and the Societas Linguistica Europaea. Research interests: cognitive semantics, corpus research, intersubjectivity, social emotions. As part of her SCIEX project she conducted research into the anthropological profiles of shame in language and culture.



DURATION OF THE SCIEX PROJECT:
1.07.2013–30.06.2014

PROJECT:
EMOCOMP – Comparing self-evaluative emotions across languages and language varieties

Adam Mickiewicz
University

PL

CH

Université de
Neuchâtel

What was the objective of your project implemented as part of the SCIEX programme?

The project focussed on the corpus and quantitative analysis of the notion of shame and embarrassment in the context of three different cultures: British, American and Polish. It was a comparative study based on corpus data and using statistical methods – one of my objectives consisted in the identification of socially and culturally preconditioned trends in the use of language within the scope of the study. Shame is a social emotion deeply rooted in the system of norms characteristic of a community. Therefore, it is to be expected that the way shame is understood, experienced and described will vary in different languages.

What were the outcomes of the project?

First of all, I managed to achieve my intended objectives. Using advanced multivariate methods, I determined three profiles of shame characteristic of the language groups I researched. A few presentations at international conferences, a number of articles in

highly rated journals and publications, a thematic session organised in cooperation with the Swiss mentor, Prof. Martin Hilpert, and the Polish mentor, Prof. Małgorzata Fabiszak, at an international conference held by the Societas Linguistica Europea and – last but not least – a jointly written article and jointly edited volume in one of the best journals in my domain are concrete results of my work. Moreover, when in Switzerland, I was invited to Geneva, to the Swiss National Centre for Affective Sciences, where I had the opportunity to present my research.

What impact did the fellowship have on your professional and private life?

Switzerland provides excellent working conditions. Actually, I had an office at my disposal, which facilitated my research. The funds to finance my participation in conferences were also significant. I had the great opportunity to cooperate with Prof. Martin Hilpert, a highly regarded specialist in corpus linguistics. Being in contact with a different working environment, mentality and culture contributed to my professional development. The linguistic aspect is worth mentioning as well: the Swiss mobility significantly raised the level of my French. The added value of my fellowship is that I gained new methodological skills and found new scope for research.

As regards my private life – Switzerland is a country of outstanding beauty and its small towns situated on picturesque lakes surrounded by mountains are etched in my memory. I discovered those places thanks to my fellowship. Moreover, I met a lot of wonderful people. My Swiss mentor and his family were extremely helpful and kind, so were my colleagues with whom I worked in the same HEI. The farewell party that they organised for me is a good example of that friendly atmosphere.

If not for the fellowship...

...I would have had no opportunity to meet so many wonderful people, discover so many breath-taking places, organise the thematic session with my mentors and – consequently – I would not have edited the volume with them and there would have been no jointly written article.