

Call for abstracts

For a special issue of *Slovo a slovesnost*

Czech Structuralism Revisited

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The history of Czech structuralism is inseparably connected with the Prague Linguistic Circle (1926–1952; renewed 1990), which served as a base for formulating fundamental methodological premises, theoretical concepts, and theses concerning structural and functional approaches to the study of language, literature, and art in general. The importance of Prague as a key link between Russian formalism and French structuralism, as well as the impact of the Prague Linguistic Circle on the formation and development of modern linguistics, literary studies, and aesthetics, are generally known facts.

Much has been written about the Prague School and Czech structuralism in general. There are dozens of studies that interpret this scholarly approach in different contexts. However, many associated Czech structuralism exclusively with the classical period of the Prague School, i.e., the years 1926–1948. But one can hardly forget the 1960s, when structuralism developed into extraordinary forms in Czech and Slovak linguistics, literary studies, and aesthetics. Although structuralism fell into disgrace in the official science policy of Czechoslovakia during the 1950s and 1970s, some of its analytical methods and concepts were still being employed. Moreover, the specific combination of structural and functional approaches that characterizes the Prague School structuralism was further developed in the second half of the 20th century in mutual contacts between both European and non-European scholars, including exiles from Czechoslovakia.

The forthcoming centenary of the Prague Linguistic Circle provides an opportunity to reflect on the role Czech structuralism played in the history of linguistic and literary studies, both domestically and internationally. Given the many historical, societal and discipline-specific contexts, we could ask, for example: To what extent have the main theses of the Prague School been accepted, developed or challenged in different scholarly fields over time? How has the use of some key terms changed? What assumptions, postulates or axioms are now considered obsolete? And what is still influential and stimulating?

Research Topics

We welcome papers based on both historical and methodological approaches, and preferably a combination of the two. We are particularly interested in:

- Historical and contemporary forms of Czech structuralism in linguistics and literary studies.
- Discussion of the original theoretical and methodological concepts of Czech structuralism (e.g., structure, function, value, semantic gesture, etc.).
- Application possibilities for Czech structuralism's concepts in contemporary linguistics and literary studies as well as other disciplines (semiotics, sociology, anthropology, art history and theory, etc.).
- Czech structuralism's relationships with other structuralisms and schools of thought such as formalism, phenomenology, hermeneutics, etc.

Timeline and procedure: Please send abstracts of proposed articles (up to one standard page in length, i.e., 1800 characters, including spaces) to the addresses listed below by **May 31, 2023**. The abstracts will be reviewed by the special issue's editors and the editorial staff of *Slovo a slovesnost*. Selected authors will be contacted by e-mail by **June 30, 2023**. The submission date for articles is **December 31, 2023**. The accepted language for abstracts and publication is English. All articles will be submitted for peer review. The special issue will be published in 2024.

Abstracts should be sent to the following e-mail addresses:

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