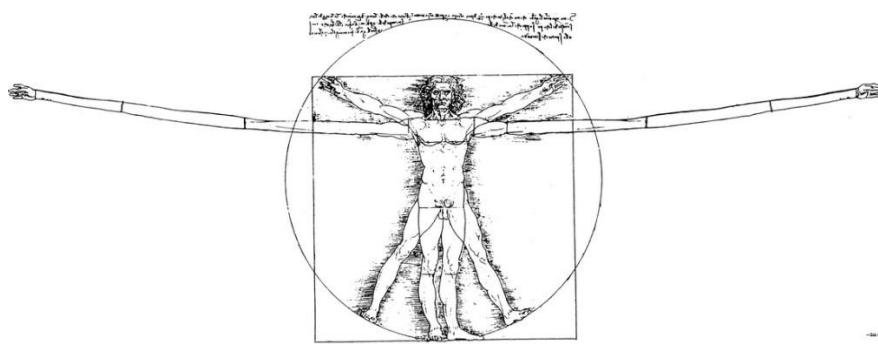


International Humour Symposium

Programme and Abstracts



J. Selye University
Faculty of Education
Komárno, Bratislavská cesta 3322
14th November 2014

International Humour Symposium

A multiple perspective approach to humour

Date of the symposium:

14th November 2014

Place of the symposium:

J. Selye University, Conference Centre
Komárno, Hradná 2 [GPS: 47°45'16.1"N 18°08'00.0"E]

Organizer:

Department of Modern Philology, Faculty of Education, J. Selye University

Co-Organizers:

Department of Translation and Interpreting, Eötvös Loránd University
International Research Group for Folklore and Linguistics
Tinta Publishing House

Patron:

Margit Erdélyi, Dean of the Faculty of Education of J. Selye University

Organizing Committee:

Chair: Andrea Puskás
Secretary: Mária Bartal
Members: Anna T. Litovkina
József Liszka
Peter Zolczer

Programme Committee:

Chair: Anna T. Litovkina
Co-chair: Péter Barta
Secretary: Peter Zolczer
Members: Andrea Puskás

Symposium Website: <http://www.selyeuni.sk/pf/kmf/index.php/konferencia>

Overview of the Symposium Programme

14th November 2014:

09:30 – 10:00	Registration
10:00 – 10:30	Coffee break
10:30 – 10:45	Opening ceremony
10:45 – 11:45	Keynote presentations
11:45 – 13:00	Lunch break
13:00 – 14:30	Panels
14:30 – 15:00	Coffee break
15:00 – 16:30	Panels
16:30 – 16:45	Closing ceremony
16:45 – 17:15	Farewell drink

Detailed Programme of the Symposium

14th November 2014, Friday

09:30 – 10:00	Registration – Entrance hall (for guests attending the IV th Hungarian National Interdisciplinary Humour Conference, registration is on 13 th November)
10:00 – 10:30	Coffee break
10:30 – 10:45	Opening ceremony – Room: K103
10:45 – 11:45	Keynote lectures. Panel moderator: Anna T. Litovkina Władysław Chłopicki: <i>Doctor Jokes: Doctor's Advice to Patients Seen through a Cultural Prism</i> Judit Hidasi: <i>Humor Capsules from Japan</i>
11:45 – 13:00	Lunch break
13:00 – 14:30	Panels
Room: K103	1. Folklore, Culture and Humour. Panel moderator: Judit Boda-Ujlaky 13:00 – 13:30 Hrisztalina Hrisztova-Gotthardt: <i>The Basel Carnival: Where Folklore Meets Humour</i> 13:30 – 14:00 Katalin Vargha - Mariann Domokos: <i>Textual and Visual Humor in the Folklore of Political Elections in Hungary</i> 14:00 – 14:30 Richárd Papp: <i>"My name is Kohn Winnetou". Cultural Identity and Memory in a Budapest Jewish Community</i>
Room: K007	2. Language, Culture and Humour. Panel moderator: Andrea Puskás 13:00 – 13:30 Anna T. Litovkina: <i>The Lawyer as Animal in American Lawyer Jokes</i> 13:30 – 14:00 Peter Zolczer: <i>The Constraints of Translating Humor in Audiovisual Media</i>

Room: K009	3. Discourse and Humour. Panel moderator: Judit Hidasi
13:00 – 13:30	Anna Laszlo: <i>A Corpus-based Analysis of Sarcasm</i>
13:30 – 14:00	Anita Schirm: <i>Discourse Markers in Creating Humour: The Case of "hát" ['well'] in Hungarian Stand up Comedians' Speech</i>
14:30 – 15:00	Coffee break
15:00 – 16:30	Panels
Room: K103	4. Psychology, Philosophy and Humour. Panel moderator: Katalin Vargha
15:00 – 15:30	Judit Boda-Ujlaky: <i>Humiliation as a Potential Marker of Gelotophobia</i>
15:30 – 16:00	Eszter Varga - Zsuzsanna Schnell: <i>Humour Processing in Schizophrenia</i>
16:00 – 16:30	Katalin Pál: <i>The Origins of the Homo Ridens</i>
Room: K007	5. Language and Humour. Panel moderator: Władysław Chłopicki
15:00 – 15:30	Draženka Molnar: <i>Toward the Understanding of Humorous Metaphors and Metonymies in the EFL Setting</i>
15:30 – 16:00	Melita Aleksa Varga - Darko Matovac: <i>Humour Production and Humour Appreciation of Croatian Speaking Individuals on the Example of Anti-Proverbs</i>
16:00 – 16:30	Tristan Miller: <i>An Analysis of Ambiguity in English Puns</i>
Room: K009	6. Society, Culture, Literature and Humour. Panel moderator: Peter Zolczer
15:00 – 15:30	Andrea Puskás: <i>Postmodern Humour in Woody Allen's Short Stories</i>
15:30 – 16:00	Erik Dobrovodský: <i>The Comic and the Academic: David Lodge's Campus Novels</i>
16:00 – 16:30	Péter Barta - Györgyi Géró: <i>The Hungarian Joke and Its Environ</i> s
16:30 – 16:45	Closing ceremony
16:45 – 17:15	Farewell drink

Abstracts of the Keynote Lectures

Władysław Chłopicki: *Doctor Jokes: Doctor's Advice to Patients Seen through a Cultural Prism*
(Dr, Senior Lecturer, Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland)

The paper will focus on a small corpus of English and Polish doctor jokes which give patients more or less mock-advice. I will show that audiences enjoy departures from serious doctor-patient interaction in this regard. In particular we laugh at doctors due to their lack of knowledge of medicine and experience, lack of belief in their own advice, lying to the patient, unwillingness to help them, recklessness, or using inappropriate language. Patients are targets of humour because they don't trust their doctors, don't respect them, are unwilling to listen to their advice, are ignorant of medicine and care more about their pleasurable lifestyle than health. The mock-advice itself is not always important for patient health, is often counterproductive, offensive, and sometimes even dangerous. I will also point out the different Anglo-Saxon and Polish cultural models which lay at the bottom of the jokes, such as (lack of) control over events or different assumptions about showing emotions in public.

Judit Hidasi: *Humor Capsules from Japan*

(Professor, Budapest Business School)

The paper aims at presenting a short-list of one-minute Japan related stories that reflect on the culturally specific attitude and mentality of Japanese people - clearly different from that of other people's. This selection of short-story grotesques is part of a longer collection of essay-like stories that might as well be called "humor capsules" from Japan for everyday consumption. The grotesque as a genre of humor is a true resonance to the absurdity and controversial nature of our understanding the essence of Japanese uniqueness.

Abstracts of the Panel Lectures

Melita Alekša Varga (1) – Darko Matovac (2): *Humour Production and Humour Appreciation of Croatian Speaking Individuals on the Example of Anti-Proverbs*

(1. Dr. PhD, assistant professor, University of Osijek, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
2. PhD, University of Zadar)

Starting with the psychoanalytic theories regarding humour to the incongruity and superiority/disparagement theories (Martin 1998), there were a huge number of psychological tests devised to account for the varieties and degrees of the sense of humour of an individual or a society, linking it with the notions of humour production and appreciation. The present paper discusses the results of a research on humour appreciation and production on the example of Croatian anti-proverbs. The goal of the research is to account for the types of humour and topics Croatian speaking individuals prefer, as well the type of humour they use mostly while making up the anti-proverbs. The research is a part of a broader research HumAn (Humour and Anti-proverbs) started by Alekša Varga, Hrisztova-Gothardt and T. Litovkina in 2008.

Péter Barta (1) – Györgyi Géró (2): *The Hungarian Joke and Its Environs*

(1. PhD, associate professor at Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest,
2. PhD, senior assistant at Corvinus University of Budapest)

'No description of any people depicts a nation's life, character and prevalent ideas so authentically as it can display itself in its jokes and anecdotes' (Mór Jókai)

Hungarian humour went through significant changes in the 20th century. Though the urban middle-class way of living and culture had developed by the early 20th century, they had to coexist all over the country as well as in ethnic Hungarian territories abroad with the traditions of rural culture and folklore until the middle of the century (and, in ethnic enclaves, till the end of the century). Consequently, Hungarian humour is made up of two important layers of folklore: popular funny stories that have been developing among the peasantry for centuries, and jokes, a genre that emerged from urban oral culture in the last third of the 20th century. The dualism of folk-based and urban culture has been a decisive feature of Hungarian culture during the entire 20th century, thus the question arises: more than a hundred years later, are there still any fundamental differences between the two types of humour in terms of their ways of thinking or their subject matter, or can we see Hungarian humour as a unity? In this paper, we compare the thematic categories of popular and urban humour based on the analysis of two large collections. Next, we examine the popularity of major joke categories in Internet sources. Finally, we offer a brief introduction to the contemporary stock of Hungarian jokes by thematic groups.

Judit Boda-Ujlaky: *Humiliation as a Potential Marker of Gelotophobia*

(Assistant lecturer, University of Physical Education, Department of Psychology)

Gelotophobia (fear of being laughed at) is usually investigated in the social context of bullying and can be characterized by feeling of shame. Shame rarely occurs as a clear, distinct emotion, at least it can be hardly tell whether the given intensity means shame or something else to a person. According to Scheff (2003) there is a shame-spectrum, at one end there is the feeling of embarrassment, on the other we find humiliation. In our study we investigated the relationship between gelotophobia, shame and humiliation. Gelotophobia showed a stronger positive correlation with shame than with humiliation.

Erik Dobrovodský: *The Comic and the Academic: David Lodge's Campus Novels*

(MA student, J. Selye University)

The academic novel, often referred as 'campus novel' can be considered a relatively new genre, which emerged in America in the late 1940's. The main focus of this genre is on the academic staff, living their lives as individuals while being a part of a 'small world', the campus itself. This closed world with its own norms and values offered many intrigues which made a good footing for excellent satirical stories. This presentation intends to show the determinative role of the comical elements as they are depicted in David Lodge's famous Campus Trilogy: "Changing Places: A Tale of Two Campuses" (1975), "Small World: An Academic Romance" (1984), and "Nice Work" (1988), paying special attention to the influence of academic setting on the events.

Hrisztalina Hrisztova-Gotthardt: *The Basel Carnival: Where Folklore Meets Humour*

(PhD, Test Developer/Foreign Language Centre, University of Pécs)

The present paper aims to show that – contrary to the popular belief – the Swiss actually do have a sense of humour. However, it will be not the "general" Swiss humour but rather the local Basel humour discussed here. During the Fasnacht (carnival), the traditional annual festival that takes place in Basel towards the end of winter or at the beginning of spring, numerous Cliques (associations or clubs) present their Sujets (themes). They elaborate in a playful and satirical way on the most important events in local life, sports, culture and politics that took place during the last year. For this reason, each Clique composes a satirical poem, printed on a long strip of paper (Zeedel) which explains and comments the Sujet in the Basel dialect. In order to illustrate the sophisticated and (ever so often) black Basel humour there will be several Zeedel analyzed in the course of the paper.

Anna Laszlo: *A Corpus-based Analysis of Sarcasm*
(PhD student, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University)

Sarcasm in the literature is invariably relegated to the verbal realm. However, when corpus studies are concerned, this statement becomes questionable. Even though once verbal, a corpus displays sarcastic examples in a written form without all the “dead giveaways,” such as intonation or facial gestures. Therefore, what the present study is preoccupied with is those features of sarcasm that manifest themselves beyond that of the prosodic or extralinguistic dimension. The hypothesis is that sarcasm in the corpus under consideration adheres to certain grammatical formulae that serve as indicators of sarcasm’s presence. The methodology involves discourse analysis, whereby notions, such as collocation and colligation are utilized. The overall aim is to contribute to corpus linguistics, discourse analysis, and humor studies at the same time.

Anna T. Litovkina: *The Lawyer as Animal in American Lawyer Jokes*
(doc., PhD, associate professor, J. Selye University, Faculty of Education, Department of Modern Philology)

In the early 1980s a new joke cycle appeared in the USA, and has continued to flourish ever since. This is a lawyer joke cycle. The greatest anger and irritation in lawyer jokes is directed at the cost of lawsuits, the high income of lawyers, as well as their greed and stinginess, ignorance and skilful manipulation, corruption and dishonesty. In American lawyer jokes there is a long tradition of comparing lawyers to different animals, generally ones which are considered dangerous, poisonous or sly – all animals which have very negative connotations. It is not surprising that, among the parallels, one can find predators of different kinds, scavengers and parasites. The animals most frequently brought up in jokes as parallels to lawyers are sharks, vultures, tigers, snakes, foxes, ticks, leeches, and rats. The goal of this study is to concentrate only on a small segment of American lawyer jokes, namely, jokes in which lawyers are compared to animals.

Tristan Miller: *An Analysis of Ambiguity in English Puns*
(M.Sc. (doctoral researcher), Ubiquitous Knowledge Processing Lab (UKP-TUDA), Department of Computer Science, Technische Universität Darmstadt)

Punning is a common source of verbal humour in which a word is used to evoke two or more distinct meanings simultaneously. The present work describes and analyzes a large corpus of English homographic puns manually annotated with senses from WordNet. We discuss the challenges in developing and applying the annotation scheme, introduce our annotation support tools, and present an analysis of selected morphological, syntactic, and semantic properties of the annotated examples. Particular focus is placed on the implications for computational approaches to detection of puns and identification of their opposing meanings.

Draženka Molnar: *Toward the Understanding of Humorous Metaphors and Metonymies in the EFL Setting*

(PhD, University J.J. Strossmayer Osijek, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Croatia)

Based on the well-known fact that both figurative language and humour should be included in the program of EFL classes as an effective way to create a more comfortable, productive classroom environment, this paper examines the factors that have to be taken into account in order to understand such a language and suggest ways of teaching it within the framework of cognitive linguistics. Furthermore, the goal of this paper is to explore the relationship between metaphor, metonymy and humour in order to attain a better understanding of the cognitive processes that are involved or even contribute to laughter in discourse. Finally, the paper will show that integrating humour can improve students' overall language awareness and encourage them to use English more confidently and imaginatively.

Richárd Papp: *"My name is Kohn Winnetou". Cultural Identity and Memory in a Budapest Jewish Community*

(Associate professor, ELTE University, Budapest, Department of Cultural Anthropology)

The topic of my presentation is cultural identity, memory and humour in a Budapest Synagogue community. I will examine the questions of the Hungarian Jewish identity and culture from a cultural anthropological perspective, primarily, based on a small Jewish community in Budapest- the community of Bethlen Square Synagogue. I have been studying this group since 1997. In my research I have employed cultural anthropological fieldwork methods: participation in everyday life, discussions with people in the synagogue and conducting interviews with the members of the synagogue. For seven years, I have tried to understand the connections between the Jewish humour and identity in this community. My presentation will deal with four points: 1) I will briefly talk about the Bethlen Square Synagogue community, 2) after that, the cultural identity of the community, 3) then the humorous situations and jokes in the Bethlen Square which lace the everyday communication of the synagogue and finally, 4) I will discuss more in detail the jokes which are based on relations with the non-Jewish majority as many of the jokes have an effect and reflect on the interactions with the non-Jewish Hungarians.

Katalin Pál: *The Origins of the Homo Ridens*

(PhD candidate, University of Szeged, Faculty of Arts, Department of Comparative Literature)

Jaak Pankseep and his colleagues analysed rats' emotional and behavioral changes while playing. In one occasion they observed a sound the rats produce that resembled laughter. In a later experiment they found that tickling the animals caused the same reaction. Based on their observations they concluded that rats can feel joy, and they can express it by a sound that is very similar to human laughter. These observations contradict Aristotle's thesis saying that human beings are the only animals who laugh. This lecture examines the changes in ancient

and middle-age sources (by Aristotle, Lucian, Porphyrios, Boethius, Rabelais, Erasmus) in which the capability to laugh became a unique trait, a differentia specifica to human beings.

Andrea Puskás: *Postmodern Humour in Woody Allen's Short Stories*

(PaedDr, PhD, head of department, J. Selye University, Faculty of Education, Department of Modern Philology)

The paper examines the relationship of postmodernism and humour with special attention to their appearance in the short stories of the American director and writer Woody Allen. The research has selected several short stories from Woody Allen's short story collection *Side Effects* to illustrate the connection between postmodernism and humour in an American cultural and literary context. It examines parody, parodic humour, mocking, self-reflection, the linkage of public and private selves and irony in the short stories as well as the special way they ridicule convention and tradition. The paper investigates how Woody Allen's stories exploit the opportunities of postmodern irony and points out how they mock cultural phenomena and contemporary American lifestyle.

Anita Schirm: *Discourse Markers in Creating Humour: The Case of hát "well" in Hungarian Stand Up Comedians' Speech*

(Ph.D., assistant professor, University of Szeged, Department of Hungarian Linguistics)

Following Yuniar (2013), this paper aims to show how the textual and attitude marking discourse markers in Hungarian stand up comedians' speech can participate in creating humour. Investigating hát "well", the analysis demonstrates that besides continuing or starting joke telling and topic shifting, it marks the punch line well in advance. It can also function as an element of politeness, specifically, by mitigating crude jokes. Beyond the genre-specific functions, hát "well" has several identical functions in stand up comedy as in everyday communication.

Eszter Varga (1) – Zsuzsanna Schnell (2): *Humour Processing in Schizophrenia*

(1. M.D., PhD student, Department of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy, University of Pécs

2. Assistant research fellow, Department of Linguistics and Institute of Psychology, University of Pécs)

Humour is an important component of social cognition. The last few years of cognitive research of schizophrenia provided empirical evidences about social cognitive impairments in this serious neurodevelopmental disorder. The aim of this study is to investigate verbal humour comprehension and its cognitive background in a group of schizophrenic patients with normal intelligence. Our results showed that patients were practically unable to understand verbal jokes, Gricean implicatures and second-order Theory of Mind (ToM) tasks, when compared to healthy subjects. As the statistical analysis shows, in schizophrenia verbal joke comprehension significantly correlated with the comprehension of the linguistic

incongruity of the Gricean implicatures and with verbal intelligence. On the other hand, it was independent of second-order ToM and the comprehension of the intended speaker's meaning in the Gricean implicatures tasks.

Katalin Vargha (1) – Mariann Domokos (2): *Textual and Visual Humor in the Folklore of Political Elections in Hungary*

(1, 2. PhD, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Research Centre for the Humanities, Institute of Ethnology, research fellow)

In the 21st century, digital media (including e-mails, blogs and social networks) plays an important role in political communication. This stands not only for the official communication of political campaigns, but for the unconventional political humor of the elections as well. This paper focuses on digital folklore in connection with the political elections in Hungary, 2014. According to our opinion humor was the main character of the folklore of the examined Hungarian elections. Besides interpreting certain phenomena of the electronic campaign as folklore, we would like to highlight the importance of the context of the jokes, catchwords, memes, etc. that appeared in the Internet. Our aim is to present how this material reflects to the actual political situation based on traditional patterns of folklore and how textual and visual humor is employed.

Peter Zolczer: *The Constraints of Translating Humor in Audiovisual Media*

(Assistant lecturer, J. Selye University, Faculty of Education, Department of Modern Philology, PhD student, Eötvös Loránd University, Faculty of Humanities, Department of Translation and Interpreting)

The paper deals with the analysis of humorous scenes collected from the popular American television series Friends. The humorous load in all the selected scenes is generated by a particular feature of the source language and/or culture. The analysis focuses on (1) the differences between the scenes' humorous load in the original English and the dubbed Hungarian versions, and (2) the constraints caused by such features of dubbing as e. g. the synchronization of the Hungarian dubbing with the lip and body movement of the actors on screen and the timing of their utterances. The methodology of the research is based on Juan José Martínez-Sierra's case study "Translating Audiovisual Humour" (2009). The results show that the most dominant constraint of translating humor for dubbing is caused by lip movement synchronization.

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