



*ON THE USE OF  
“LINGUA FRANCA”  
AND LOCAL  
LANGUAGES IN  
THE  
PUBLICATIONS ON  
THE HUMANITIES*

*Svetlina Nikolova*

# Two viewpoints on the matter:

---

- ❑ Only one language should be used in order to ensure that people understand each other completely.
- ❑ Many languages existing anyhow should also be used in order to ensure a better understanding of what is said.

# The Book of Genesis

---

- The whole world spoke the same language, using the same words (Gen. 1:1)
- If now, while they are one people, all speaking the same language, they have started to do this, nothing will later stop them from doing whatever they presume to do. Let us then go down and there confuse their language, that one will not understand what another says (Gen. 1: 6-8)

## The First Epistle to the Corinthians (14: 5-11)

---

Now, I want you all to speak in tongues, but even more to prophesy. He who prophesies is greater than he who speaks in tongues, unless some one interprets, so that the church may be edified.

Now, brethren, if I come to you speaking in tongues, how shall I benefit you unless I bring you some revelation or knowledge or prophecy or teaching?

If even lifeless instruments, such as the flute or the harp, do not give distinct notes, how will any one know what is played ... ?;

So with yourselves; if you in a tongue utter speech that is not intelligible, how will any one know what is said? For you will be speaking into the air.

There are doubtless many different languages in the world, and none is without meaning;

But if I do not know the meaning of the languages, I shall be a foreigner to the speaker and the speaker a foreigner to me.

# The First Epistle to the Corinthians (14: 37-39)

---

If any one thinks that he is a prophet, or spiritual, he should acknowledge that what I am writing to you is a command of the Lord.

If any one does not recognize this, he is not recognized.

So, my brethren, earnestly desire to prophecy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues.

## The Vita of Constantine-Cyril

---

“When he was in Venice bishops, priests and monks rallied against him like crows before a falcon and voiced the three-language heresy saying: tell us, o man, how do you write now books for the Slavs and how do you teach them? So far nobody has created such books – neither the apostles, nor the pope of Rome, nor Gregory the Theologian, nor Jerome, nor Augustin. We know only three languages in which it is proper to glory God by means of books: Hebrew, Greek and Latin.”

## The Vita of Constantine-Cyril

---

“Does not rain fall from God equally for the benefit of all? Also does not the sun shine on all? Do we not all breathe air? Are you not ashamed when you choose only three languages leaving all other tribes and nations to be blind and deaf? Tell me: Do you think that God is powerless and cannot give that or you consider Him to be envious and not to want to do that? But then we know many nations that have books and glorify God each nation in its own language”.

---

There are 23 official languages in the EU and three official alphabets - Latin, Greek and Cyrillic. They are considered by the European institutions to be an impulse for dialogue and integration.



# CARTER OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

---

## *Article 21*

### **Non-discrimination**

1. Any discrimination based on any ground such as sex, race, colour, ethnic or social origin, genetic features, language, religion or belief, political or any other opinion, membership of a national minority, property, birth, disability, age or sexual orientation shall be prohibited.

## *Article 22*

### **Cultural, religious and linguistic diversity**

The Union shall respect cultural, religious and linguistic diversity.

# THE LISBON TREATY

---

## *Article 2*

It shall respect its rich cultural and linguistic diversity, and shall ensure that Europe's cultural heritage is safeguarded and enhanced.

These perceptions are expressed not only in theory but also find practical application.

---

In the 7th Framework Programme of the European Commission, in the working program for 2009 r. , in the program Cooperation, Theme 8. Socio-economic sciences and Humanities (SSH-2009)) (ECC (2008) XXXXX), Activity 8.5 The Citizen in the European Union, Area 8.5.2 Diversity and commonalities in Europe, topic 8.5.2.1. Vehicular languages in Europe in an era of globalization: history, policy, practice we read:

---

“The aim of the research topic is to determine the effects the use of a vehicular language has had on social, economic, cultural diversity and cultural life, and to examine the potential and limitations as well as the advantages and disadvantages of the use of a *lingua franca* for communication in Europe in an era of globalization.”

- 
- The publications in the field of humanities in Europe should be printed in the lingua franca, which should not necessarily be the English language.
  - They should also be printed in the local languages, which are the official languages in the European countries.

## It is necessary to publish in the international languages, because:

---

- ❑ This makes our research better visible to scholars working in the Humanities in Europe and the world.
- ❑ It would be a positive development for experts from related disciplines in Europe to receive timely information with the sources from the respective regions on the results achieved by scholars in that respect not only in their own country but also in other countries and in other languages.
- ❑ The English language as a lingua franca should be used in the publication of theoretical research in the humanities.
- ❑ As far as all other types of studies on lingua franca are concerned, all European languages considered to be international may be used with regard to research on Slavistics, such as English, French, German and Russian languages.

It is necessary to publish in the local official languages of the member states of the EU, because:

---

- ❑ The subject of our research is closely linked with the millennium-old history of the respective European nations in all its dimensions and with its national identity.
- ❑ Because of the specific character of our research, our works use a terminology that has been created and developed in the course of almost a century in every European country.
- ❑ The termination of publications in local languages, regardless of how little they are used, will inevitably lead to disruption of these traditions and to delays in the research process.

- 
- ❑ Scholars from around the world who carry out comparative studies or are engaged in research on humanities, concerning foreign countries, are fluent in the language of the respective countries.
  - ❑ The research on humanities written in an official European language, albeit little used, are published abroad in that specific language rather than any international language.
  - ❑ It is a matter of honor and dignity for every nation in the European Union to develop a scientific tradition in the area of humanities in its own language.



# Dialects and micro-languages

---

- The use of the numerous dialects spoken in the EU member states, although in some cases many efforts are made today to protect the so called micro-languages, in many cases attempts are also made to normalize these dialects, so that they can be used as literary languages. At this stage, they not only do not have any scientific traditions, but the endless multiplication of languages, in which the research on humanities is published, will inevitably lead them to the state of the Tower of Babel, where the mutual understanding will be very difficult, perhaps often impossible.

Thank you for  
your attention!