



Starting a new set of volumes, *Deeds and Days* is renewed. The monographic part of volume 81 is devoted to the research of doctoral students. Vytautas Magnus University doctoral studies in philology are carried out together with the Institute of Lithuanian Language, Klaipėda University and Šiauliai Academy at Vilnius University (formerly Šiauliai University). The program, started 13 years ago, has proved to be viable. It is performed by a joint doctoral committee, that is responsible for several activities: the selection of topics in linguistics and literary studies, interviewing candidates for doctoral studies, evaluating the progress of students. The members of the committee have worked well together, nicely complementing each other in terms of their different areas of research and academic experience. Doctoral students also have an opportunity to meet and to get to know each other, to present their research and gain insight into the work of their colleagues. That is done during the annual joint first-year doctoral students' seminar. The seminar is meant to help doctoral students to get engaged in academic writing as early as possible, to master the academic genres and language, and to learn how to work in a systematic and focused way. In the seminar, each person works on his/her own topic according to a general plan: searching and analyzing theoretical literature and sources, formulating research problem, choosing and testing various methods in his/her discipline, learning how to argue well. Finally, they summarize the first draft by preparing an exhaustive introduction, overall structure of their dissertation, preliminary conclusions, lists of references and appendices. The seminar starts with a presentation of each topic and ends with a playful imitated defense of dissertations, where colleagues oppose, comment on and evaluate each other's work. The seminar provides a good start for further work.

This introduction to the research work of a linguist or literary scholar has proved to be useful, as can be seen in the dissertations submitted for the real defense. Although students move away from their original versions, they retain many of the choices made during the first year of their doctoral studies. Besides, it is very

important for researchers in their early careers to be exposed to their peers, to compare themselves with others and to understand the diversity of topics and methods. The discussions that take place during the seminars, the most unexpected questions asked by colleagues and the advice given are particularly valuable. Being able to talk about issues not only with their research supervisor speeds up work, not to mention the need to prepare for each seminar.

The monographic part of this volume of *Deeds and Days*, consisting of articles by two linguists and three literary scholars, was planned during their doctoral seminar, and elaborated later. The objects of the doctoral students' research are diverse. Some topics, like liminality or the genre of podcasts, are new in the context of Lithuanian studies, others have been previously studied, but here discussed in a new way, seen from a different angle or explored with the help of different methods. It concerns the experimental research on the language of bilingual children and foreign-speaking adults and reflections on the Holocaust and traumatic experiences. Their methodological approaches, fields of reference, attitudes and evaluations have a contemporary spirit. This monographic part is only a small fragment of the VMU doctoral studies in philology, and certainly does not reveal its entirety, nevertheless, it is a testimony to the coming new generation.

The part of thematically unrelated articles of *Deeds and Days* is dominated by the middle generation of scholars in humanities and social sciences. Papers in social philosophy (on the ethics of retelling the narrative of life), history of emigration (on the mobilization of Lithuanian nationalists in the USA 1941–1943), history of literature (on literature in wartime), and sociology (on the Kavolian dilemma of intellectuals) provide deep insights into specific topics. This part also contains papers of young researchers discussing unique objects from interdisciplinary approaches, specifically, the functioning of the Ukrainian war refugee center in Dresden revenge relations in the taiga between Yakutia's hunters and reindeer herders and predators.

The third part, meant for more popular genres, presents two texts by senior researchers. The section of *Discoveries* discusses new documents recently found in the archives. Previously unknown memoirs of the composer and musicologist Juozas Žilevičius testify about his connections with the legendary thinker of Lithuania Minor Vydūnas. It gives a deeper insight into Vydūnas's musical activities. Another paper is a conversation with the author of the three-volume history of the Institute of the Lithuanian Language that gives additional information about the background of the trilogy. Both texts are essentially historical.

In sum, this volume of *Deeds and Days* is composed of representatives of different generations of researchers, leaving more space for the young. Generational

change is welcome, as long as it takes place through evolution instead of revolution with the help of transferability.

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