

*Obszary fennistyki. Język – kultura – naród*, ed. K. Wojan,  
 Series: *Studia Północnoeuropejskie*,  
 Gdańsk: Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Gdańskiego, 2019, 346 pp.

Recent years have brought Finnish studies in Poland many reasons to celebrate. The centenary of Finland's independence was commemorated in 2017, and Warsaw marked the tenth anniversary of Finno-Ugric studies with a specialization in Finnish at the University of Warsaw. Since 2019, the Gdańsk Institute of Scandinavian Studies has been operating as the Institute of Scandinavian and Finnish Studies. This date—important for the development of Fennistic research and the centenary of Finland's independence—was celebrated with the publication of *Obszary fennistyki. Język – kultura – naród* (Areas of Fennistics. Language – Culture – Nation), edited by prof. dr hab. Katarzyna Wojan. Published by the University of Gdańsk Press in the series *Studia Północnoeuropejskie* (Northern European Studies), the volume is a collection of articles summarizing an academic conference held at the University of Gdańsk on May 15–16, 2017. The authors of the articles are scholars of literature, culture, and the Finnish language from five Polish academic centres (University of Gdańsk, University of Warsaw, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, Jagiellonian University, and University of Szczecin). Independent researchers also took part in the project.

The volume *Obszary fennistyki. Język – kultura – naród* is divided into five thematic blocks: Language, Literature, Culture, Education, and Society. The last part of the publication also includes recollections about Professor Hieronim Chojnacki, to whom the volume is dedicated, occasional speeches by Wojan and Jukka Soisalon-Soininen, and a bibliography of works by Polish scholars in the field of Fennistics selected by Wojan, which is of great value for the history and development of research on Finnish culture.

The section devoted to linguistic research consists of five articles on various topics. Wojan introduces the Finno-Ugric world reflected in Polish lexicography, which is followed an interesting article by Iwona Piechnik, supported by many examples, on the subject of Finnish biblical terminology. Another topic is Finnish affectonyms described by Anna Bunlcer in the contrastive Polish-Hungarian-Estonian approach, which offers a unique study of this issue. The legal language in the Finnish-language article *Lakikielen velvoittavat ilmaukset kyselytutkimuksen kohteena* is explored by Joanna Rydzewska-Siemiątkowska. This study, based on the results of research conducted as part of her doctoral dissertation, also provides a unique and comprehensive look at the deontic modality of Finnish legal language. Finnish prepositions and pronouns comprise another topic presented in the linguistics section. The issue is presented accessibly and is supported by well-chosen examples by Danuta Stanulewicz. The chapter ends with an article written in English by Maciej Rataj, in which he describes the image of the Finnish

language created by English-language websites. The linguistic section is also interesting reading for people who do not deal with the intricacies of Finnish grammar or word formation on a daily basis.

A less extensive literary section begins with Arnold Kłonczyński's biography of Cecylia Lewandowska, translator of Finnish literature. Lewandowska is known to readers of the Polish versions of the classics of Finnish literature, but the study reveals a behind-the-scenes look at the translations, providing a unique opportunity to discuss the history of Finnish literature in Poland from a different perspective. The other two articles in the literary studies section are comprehensive analyses of phenomena using examples from Finnish literature: transtextuality in Timo Parvela's *Sammon vartijat* trilogy (Hanna Dymel-Trzebiatowska) and the image of the father in Miika Nousiainen's novel *Juurinhoito* (Kinga Ciaś). Unfortunately, from the perspective of a literary scholar, I can say that this thematic section leaves the reader a bit unsatisfied – one would like to read much more about Finnish literature.

The cultural studies section includes articles in Polish and English. Katarzyna Piękoś describes the image of Finland presented by the world-famous Finnish director Aki Kaurismäki in his *Finland trilogy*. Małgorzata Gdók-Kłaflkowska presents in a very interesting way the figure of the Russian thinker Nikolai K. Rerich and the Finnish episodes in his life and work. An unconventional topic in this type of publication is the theme of music. Piotr Kłaflkowski offers a passionate description of Finnish viola music, which undoubtedly adds value to this publication. The articles are full of new insights on Finnish culture and also make enjoyable reading for the non-specialist.

Education and society are other issues discussed in the publication. As the Finnish education system is often regarded as a model for educators around the world, no publication marking the centenary anniversary of Finland's independence could fail to address this topic. In her contribution, Marta Noińska compares the roles of teachers and equal opportunities in the Polish and Finnish education systems. The article by Sabina Lech is devoted to foreign students studying in Finland. The social topics covered in these contributions include issues of the women's press in the interwar period (Magdalena Bagińska), right-wing populism in the Nordic area and its influence on the activities of the True Finns party (Tomasz Archutowski), and the opportunities and challenges of human capital, social capital, and research and development potential in Finland (Leszek Leśniewski).

The subject of the volume *Obszary fennistyki. Język – kultura – naród* is very rich, which provides a broad view of the issues of Finnish studies that are traditionally most often focused on linguistic topics and literature. Thanks to articles on education and the political scene in Finland, the reader has a unique opportunity to learn about these phenomena in contemporary Finnish society. References to the biographies of famous authors make it possible for researchers of fields other than Fennistics to benefit from the information provided in the book. Particularly

noteworthy is the detailed study by Wojan, a selected bibliography of the works of Polish scholars, which is a great summary of research in the field of Fennistics in recent decades. However, considering how often literature is the subject of Fennistic research, ranging from bachelor's, master's or other diploma theses to research conducted at Finnish universities and by literary studies societies, the section devoted to Finnish literature is insufficient.

On the technical side, the publication deserves all praise. The volume is logically divided into thematic sections, the articles are refined in every detail, and uniform fonts and an annotation system are used. Also, articles written in Finnish and English retain all the rules of academic texts written in these languages and do not differ in any way from similar publications offered by internationally recognized universities. Finally, the volume *Obszary fennistyki. Język – kultura – naród* is a valuable summary of previous research and thanks to the number and thematic diversity of the articles, it is an introduction to further, broader research on the language, culture, and literature of Finland.

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