

СЕКЦІЯ 4. Філологія крізь призму діалогу культур

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PHILOLOGY AS A BRIDGE FOR CULTURAL DIALOGUE AND GLOBAL UNDERSTANDING

Philology, the study of language and textual heritage, is fundamental to understanding cultural exchange and dialogue. In our interconnected world, it uncovers the deep interdependence of societies, highlighting shared values, historical interactions, and mechanisms of intercultural communication. By analyzing linguistic and literary legacies, philology enhances our comprehension of human connections and offers tools to address contemporary challenges. Language serves not only as a means of communication but also as a vessel for preserving and promoting cultural identity.

Philology offers profound insights into cultural interactions and influences. Analyzing literary works that reflect cross-cultural exchanges is one method to explore these dynamics. For instance, the novels of Franz Kafka blend Western and Jewish cultural elements, while Chinua Achebe's works highlight tensions between African and European values. The concept that a philologist seeks to understand the cultural world of another nation through language is echoed in the works of American linguist and anthropologist Edward Sapir: "Language is a guide to 'social reality.' Though language is not ordinarily thought of as of essential interest to the student of social science, it powerfully conditions all our thinking about social problems and processes" [3]. This underscores the strong connection between language and culture, with language shaping identity and perspectives.

Beyond literature, philology reveals shared human experiences embedded in language. Classical studies, such as those of Greek and Latin, illustrate how these languages facilitated intellectual exchanges between civilizations, influencing modern discourse. The Center for Hellenic Studies emphasizes that studying the classics fosters an understanding of universal human values, aligning with initiatives like the United Nations' "Year of Dialogue Among Civilizations" [4]. Rather than viewing cultural diversity as a challenge, historical linguistic studies allow us to find connections among cultures while respecting their uniqueness.

Comparative philological studies provide fresh perspectives on how societies have adapted to foreign influences over time. Comparative analysis has long been a fundamental approach in cultural and social anthropology, encompassing both historical and synchronic perspectives. Through such studies, scholars can examine how linguistic and literary traditions evolve across different cultural contexts, shedding light on the ways in which societies influence and reshape one another over time. This approach enhances our understanding of cultural interactions and remains highly relevant for addressing contemporary global challenges [1].

Language serves as a bridge for intercultural communication. Multilingual education plays a key role in preparing individuals for global citizenship. Studies show that bilingual or multilingual individuals are better equipped to navigate cultural differences and engage in meaningful dialogue. Similarly, translation studies demonstrate the dynamic exchange of ideas across languages, ensuring that cultural nuances are maintained while fostering mutual comprehension. Furthermore, multilingualism enhances cognitive abilities and problem-solving skills, which help bridge cultural divides. It enables individuals to form connections across different backgrounds, promoting adaptability and inclusivity. Effective cross-cultural communication is essential not only for international relations but also for fostering understanding between individuals from different socio-economic and historical backgrounds.

Historical texts offer valuable insights into past cultural interactions. Ancient Roman and Greek literature, for example, documents exchanges with Persian and Egyptian cultures. Analyzing metaphors and narratives in classical texts can reveal both cultural tensions and collaborations, demonstrating that dialogue has always been a fundamental part of human development. Through studying such texts, we can trace the influence of foreign civilizations and their contributions to shaping modern political, philosophical, and social frameworks. The intellectual exchanges between the Greek and Roman worlds played a significant role in shaping Western civilization. These interactions influenced various cultural contexts, highlighting how classical texts have facilitated cross-cultural exchanges over time. Studying the transmission of philosophical and literary ideas across civilizations provides deeper insight into the shared intellectual traditions that have shaped modern thought.

Despite its importance, philology faces challenges in contemporary academia, such as declining interest in classical studies and the increasing focus on more pragmatic disciplines. However, the field continues to evolve by integrating digital tools like linguistic databases and AI-driven text analysis. These innovations modernize philological research, making it more accessible and applicable to contemporary global issues such as migration and identity conflicts. The rise of digital humanities has played a key role in democratizing philological research. Online archives and resources now allow scholars and students worldwide to access linguistic and literary works that were once limited to a select few. These technological advancements help preserve cultural heritage and expand engagement with philology.

Philological insights inform educational policies and strategies for intercultural dialogue. By integrating philological analysis with modern concerns –such as sustainability and global ethics – academic programs cultivate critical thinking and cultural awareness. This interdisciplinary approach strengthens education by fostering inclusivity and mutual respect. Additionally, philological research contributes to the development of policies that promote

cultural diversity and heritage preservation. By analyzing linguistic and literary traditions, scholars help guide governments and institutions in safeguarding languages and traditions, ensuring their continued relevance.

In conclusion, through its study of language and culture, philology provides a framework for fostering global dialogue. By examining historical texts, embracing linguistic diversity, and addressing modern challenges, it remains an essential tool for understanding and uniting civilizations. Resources like the Journal of Philology and Intercultural Communication [2] continue to support this mission by offering insights into cultural exchange. As globalization and cultural interdependence deepen, philology offers a crucial means of connecting past and present. Its study can guide future interactions toward greater harmony and understanding, reinforcing the idea that language and literature are powerful instruments for building bridges between cultures.

REFERENCES

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