Inter-University Scientific-Practical Conference “The Scientist on the Verge”: Philosophical and Pedagogical Dimension of Stefan Baley’s Creativity

The scientific meeting, which took place on May 13, 2015 in Khmelnytskyi, gathered researchers from Odessa, Kharkiv, Lviv, Kamyanets-Podilskyi, Ternopil, Warsaw, Krakow, and Szczecin around the name of Stefan Baley – a famous Ukrainian-Polish psychologist, philosopher, literary critic and a teacher, who had more than forty years of experience.

The conference was organized by Khmelnytskyi Humanitarian-Pedagogical Academy and the National Academy of State Border Guard Service of Ukraine named after Bohdan Khmelnytskyi.

The scientific meeting acquired the status of an international conference. This was possible due to the participation of Jacek Moroz, PhD, adjunct of the Institute of Pedagogy, Szczecin University (“Stefan Baley’s Pedagogical View in the Context of the Chosen Educational Concepts”); Stefan Ivanyk, PhD, lecturer in logical semiotics at the Institute of Philosophy of the University of Warsaw (“Mental Act of Thoughts as a Subject of Stepan Baley’s Scientific Research”); Hubert Bożek, postgraduate student at the Department of Logic and Methodology of Science at the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the Pedagogical University of Krakow (“Stefan Baley and the Problem of Psychologism in Logic”).

The higher education institutions were represented by the following scholars: Lenina Bondarenko, PhD, Associate Professor of Practical Psychology Department of H. S. Skovoroda Kharkiv National Pedagogical University (“Introspectionism and Baley’s Psychoanalysis; Problem of Sources”); Svitlana Hanaba, PhD, Associate Professor of Philosophy Department of Kamyanets-Podilsky Ivan Ohienko National University (“Stefan Baley’s Under-
standing of the Person’s Integrity”); Viktor Maletskyi, postgraduate student of the Cultural Studies Department of the Faculty of Philosophy of Odessa I. I. Mechnikov National University (“Psychology of a Crowd in Stefan Baley’s Interpretation”); Svitlana Povtoreva, PhD., Associate Professor of the Philosophy Department of Lviv Polytechnic National University (“Stefan Baley’s Shevchenko Studies in the Context of Poststructuralism”); Iryna Starovoytova, PhD, Associate Professor of the Philosophy Department of the Faculty of Natural Sciences of Odessa I. I. Mechnikov National University (“Personalistic-Existential Orientation of Baley’s Output: Socio-Philosophical Aspect”); Oksana Yatyshchuk, PhD, Associate Professor at the Department of Ancient and Medieval History of Ternopil Volodymyr Hnatyuk National Pedagogical University (“A Genius from Velyki Birky”).

The greeting speech was made by professor O. Halus, Doctor of Pedagogy, Pro-rector for research of Khmelnytskyi Humanitarian-Pedagogical Academy, who underlined the importance of the meeting and invited everyone to creative and constructive work.

Professor O. Halus emphasized the relevance of the conference topic, which is determined by the need of replenishing the Ukrainian education treasure trove with new as well as unfairly ignored names. This is an important part of Ukraine’s educational system integration into the European educational space. S. Baley is a representative of two cultures: the Ukrainian and Polish, and he made his significant contribution in each of them. Through the publication of the scientist’s works that contribution becomes a shared heritage.

A significant paper titled “The Ratio of Subject and the Truth in S. Baley’s Philosophy” was presented by O. Honcharenko, PhD, Associate Professor of the Social and Economic Disciplines Department of the National Academy of State Border Service of Ukraine named after Bohdan Khmelnytskyi. She carried out a theoretical reconstruction of S. Baley’s creative heritage, identified ideological and methodological potential of his philosophical and pedagogical concept and its significance for the Ukrainian educational system modernization. In her paper O. Honcharenko emphasized that S. Baley’s philosophy of education is based on the following understanding of the concept of man: in ontological aspect it is associated with the representation of variety integrity and dynamism of personality; in epistemological one it is oriented on knowledge anthropologization that involves participation and responsibility of man for the produced knowledge; in anthropological aspect it considers their irrational nature; in axiological aspect it raises the question about freedom and spirituality of human as their basic essence and outlook.
S. Ivanyk, PhD, lecturer of logical semiotics at the Institute of Philosophy of the University of Warsaw began the discussion on O. Honcharenko’s paper. In his own paper titled “Stefan Baley and Analytical Philosophy” he focused on the analysis of Baley’s scientific achievements as a psychologist. S. Ivanyk defined four trends which were developed by the scientist in the field of psychology. While in general psychology, psychology of music and in psychoanalysis S. Baley followed his renowned teachers – K. Twardowski, K. Stumpf and Z. Freud, in the field of educational psychology, according to S. Ivanyk, S. Baley himself trained the thinking of his students.

The paper titled “Psychological Basis of Educational Contact in Stefan Baley's Pedagogical Studies” was presented by N. Fanenshtel, postgraduate student of Pedagogy and Psychology Department of Khmelnytskyi Humanitarian-Pedagogical Academy. The speaker noted that the central problem of S. Baley's pedagogical psychology is the problem of an objective study of the child, which included acquiring true knowledge about the child by observing their behavior without orientation to the common ideal.

Psychological basis of testing have become the subject of attention in the paper “Psychological and Pedagogical Heritage of S. Baley”, presented by V. Vovk, PhD, Associate Professor, Head of Pedagogy and Psychology Department of Khmelnytskyi Humanitarian-Pedagogical Academy.

The opinion about the relevance of some S.Baley’s ideas in the face of modern challenges in Ukraine was expressed in the speech of H. Hamretska, PhD, Associate Professor, Head of Social Sciences Department of Khmelnytskyi Humanitarian-Pedagogical Academy. The speaker paid attention to the fact that military conflict in Donbass associates S. Baley’s research with the psychological effects of the Second World War. S. Baley’s reflections on the techniques of propaganda cannot stay out of sight also in case of hybrid war.

Summing up the conference, O. Halus noted that a genuine desire of participants to study the scientific heritage of the outstanding researcher, unfairly ignored in Ukraine, became the basis for a constructive conversation. The participants acknowledged that further research of S. Baley’s scientific works has a powerful theoretical-methodological potential for Ukrainian humanities.

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