



The AASE President's Word

The Armenian Association for the Study of English (AASE) was admitted as one of the 33 member associations of ESSE (the European Society for the Study of English) by a vote of the ESSE Board in September 2003 at Oxford, and officially registered in the Ministry of Justice of Armenia as a non-governmental higher educational organization in June, 2004. The aim of AASE is contributing to the advancement of education in our country by promoting the study and understanding of the English language, literature and culture and stimulating professional contacts and cooperation in the sphere of anglistics both in Armenia and Europe.

Many well-known specialists in Linguistics, Translation Studies, Methodology, Literature and Culture Studies represent the Executive Board of AASE.

The membership of the association is open to specialists from higher educational and academic institutions all over Armenia.

One of the notable events initiated by the Armenian Association for the Study of English was the AASE-1 International Conference, held in Yerevan – the capital city of Armenia, from 27 to 30 October, 2004. The conference under the general heading of “English Studies: Theory and Practice” attracted nearly 200 participants and offered over 80 presentations in various fields of English Studies. This rather general and large scope of AASE - 1 Conference, was intentionally chosen, first of all, to probe and analyse the professional resources of the field in Armenia, to stir the professional ambitions of our colleagues working in many different spheres, to stimulate their research activities, as well as their desire to meet and discuss. The topics ranged from linguistics (over 50% of the presentations) to literature (about 20%), methodology (about 15%), culture studies (10%), and translation studies (5%). However, many papers in the mentioned fields of knowledge offered interdisciplinary perspectives. The participants were offered the possibility of choosing between 10 sub-plenary presentations and 8 panel sessions which were all followed by lively discussions.

The opening session, which also included the launch of AASE, was very ceremonial with so many VIPs present. We enjoyed the presence of the Ambassadors

of UK and USA, the Rector and the Vice-rector of Yerevan State University, the Rector of Yerevan State Linguistic University, the Director and the English Language Support Manager of British Council Armenia, the Deputee Minister and other representatives of the Ministry of Education and Science of Armenia, etc.

It was a pity we couldn't have the personal presence of the ESSE President Prof. Adolphe Haberer. However we are thankful to him for his kind address to the AASE members and the participants of the Conference.

The Conference Programme also included two Round Tables which focused on vitally important questions: English in Science and Perspectives of Tertiary Education in Armenia. Both round-table discussions were contributed to by prominent specialists in different fields of science and education, confirmed academics, officials of the Ministry of Education and Science of Armenia, people who are not indifferent towards the perspectives of English in Armenia.

The AASE-1 International Conference had guest-specialists from Russia, United Kingdom, United States of America, Belarus, Spain.

The main programme of the Conference was accomplished by social events, the participants took an active interest in. Visiting places of interest of Armenia, different entertaining programmes, private invitations, etc. were a good chance for the visiting-guests to explore Armenian culture, to learn more about Armenian customs and traditions.

The official inquiry of British Council Armenia into the results of the Conference revealed a high evaluation of the event as a whole.

The present journal, which is intended to be the official publication of AASE, is meant to contribute to the scientific investigation of the English language, literature and culture, thus doing its bit in the development of education and science in Armenia and elsewhere. We hope it will be a good possibility for the professionals functioning in a variety of spheres in Armenia to get a better insight in different aspects of anglistics. The other mission of this publication is to spread light on the 'state of the art' in anglistics in Armenia.

The international scale of the journal will give the Armenian specialists a good chance not only to be read beyond the boundaries of our country, but also to acquaint themselves with the ideas, approaches and methodology, put forward and elaborated by our colleagues abroad. The journal will surely stimulate our professional contacts and benefit cooperative work in English Studies.

The present issue includes a selection of some of the best presentations at AASE-1 Conference.

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