

Foreword

This issue of “Logopedia” No. 42 presents a broad survey of the most interesting studies in speech development and pathology, which were submitted to the Editorial Board over the past year.

The volume opens with the article by Barbara Boniecka, which is devoted to the problems of vocabulary structure of preschool children. It is followed by Kamila Dębińska-Gustaw’s discussion of terminology concerning delayed speech development.

Another block of inspiring articles is concerned with pronunciation: both with the treatment of dyslalia (the article by Danuta Pluta-Wojciechowska), and diagnosis of the pronunciation norm (the study by Anita Lorenc), or with the problems of normal and pathological utterance prosody (papers by Małgorzata Waryszak and Urszula Mirecka). Of interest is also the report by Lilianna Konopska and Jerzy Sawicki about the phonetic-acoustic studies of the VOT parameter in realizations of Polish voiceless and voiced plosive phonemes.

The articles related to language and cognitive processes in persons with impaired hearing have been written by Ewa Muzyka-Furtak and Ewa Niestorowicz. These studies are worth noting because the subject matter in question has been approached in a unique way.

Then follows a series of original studies on the ways of expressing emotions in the normal conditions and in oligophasia (the article by Urszula Jęczeń), on lexical difficulties in Alzheimer’s dementia (the paper by Aneta Domagała), and on treatment methods in functional voice disorders (the paper by Marta Wysocka).

An attempt to devise a diagnostic questionnaire for early logopedic diagnosis is the proposal presented in the article by Izabela Bogudzińska and the author of the Foreword. The authors hope that they will meet, in some way, the needs of logopedic diagnosis of children aged between six and thirty-six months. It should be observed that most of the existing diagnostic speech-therapy tools are for children aged not earlier than four to five years.

The influence of emotional disorders on the treatment of aphasic patients is interestingly described by Barbara Górnik, while the problem of chewing and swallowing disorders in Parkinson's disease is examined by Katarzyna Zaraś. The two articles are important for speech-therapy practice.

One of the most innovative articles from the practical standpoint, however, is the study by Sylwia Kolasa, which discusses the problem of diagnosis and speech-therapy treatment of patients after resection and reconstructive procedures due to the removal of cancer of the oral cavity floor. How to conduct a speech-therapy treatment when other-than-articulatory muscles are used for speaking? The interesting proposals in the study make extensive use of procedures developed in physiotherapy and deserve special attention of specialists.

The paper that closes the scientific block is the study by Zdzisław Marek Kurkowski – a comprehensive description of the application of the A. Tomatis method, which, it turns out, can be used widely and effectively in diagnosing and treating audiogenic (and not only) speech disorders.

Apart from scientific articles, of special significance in this issue of “Logopedia” is the final report of the European-wide NetQuest program realized from 2010 to 2013. The report contains competence requirements relating to the practice of the profession of speech therapist in the European Union countries. You are advised to read this study closely because in the coming years it will influence the ways of training speech therapists all over Europe and the rules of recognizing their professional qualifications.

Finally, changes in “Logopedia's” Scientific Board should be noted.

It is with deep regret that we part with Galina Vasiliievna Chirkina who was a member of our Board from 2008; in 2009 she published an interesting article in “Logopedia” 38 on the early education of children with special needs. She left us prematurely in tragic circumstances. All hail to her memory!

It gives us real pleasure to welcome on our Board one of the world-famous scholars in the field of logopedics, Ms Lilly Cheng Li-Rong of the San Diego State University, a world-renowned expert in training of speech therapists, and the future IALP President. We hope we will be able to publish her studies soon and we look forward to fruitful cooperation.

With compliments to the “Logopedia” readers and with the best wishes for an interesting reading.

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