

SVENKA SAVIĆ: BETWEEN BALLET AND LINGUISTIC DANCE

SUMMARY

The book, "Svenka Savić: Between Ballet and Linguistic Dance" has been prepared on the occasion of 80 years of age and 60 years of professional career of Dr. Svenka Savić, professor emeritus at the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Novi Sad. Her former students also made contributions, and later on other colleagues she worked with on various projects during a period in her career: prof. Dr. Ivana Antonić – The Institute for Southern Slavic Languages/Department for the Serbian Language and Linguistics at the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Novi Sad (1982-1992), on the project Psycholinguistic Research (1987-1991), Dr. Margareta Bašaragin (from 2012) – Center for Gender Studies ACISMI at the University of Novi Sad and the Association "Gender Studies and Research", prof. dr. Zilka Spahić Šiljak (from 2002) - Center for Gender Studies ACISMI at the University of Novi Sad, Religious Studies and Gender Studies in Sarajevo, international and ecumenical projects, prof. dr. Vera Obradović Ljubinković (from 2009), Center for Gender Studies ACISMI at the University of Novi Sad and the Association "Gender Studies and Research", dr. Miloš Pankov (from 1996) -all three levels of studies at the Department of the Serbian Language and Linguistics at the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Novi Sad, and Nataša Belić, MA (from 1995) – Library of the Department for the Serbian Language and Linguistics and the Library of the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Novi Sad.

The book comprises seven chapters.

The first, "Psycholinguistics of Svenka Savić" by Ivana Antonic presents a synthesis of the main research interests of professor Svenka Savić in the domain of language, speech and communication, that spans the period of two thirds of her career. In fact, a complete professional activity of professor Savić in the research and academic work can be divided into three main stages: mono-disciplinary (linguistics), interdisciplinary (psycholinguistics – developmental and applied, and the discourse analysis) and multidisciplinary (critical discourse analysis – feminist linguistics, feminist theology and Romanology). The subject of this chapter refers to the first two stages: monodisciplinary and interdisciplinary, that includes three timeframes: linguistic (the second part of 60s), psycholinguistic (1971-1990) and discourse analysis (1985-2000), however, with interruptions in later years up until today. Since her overall professional and public activity during the last decades has been very diverse with great variety, so have been her research topics which she addressed during her interdisciplinary stage of her work. Nevertheless, psycholinguistics, as one of the interdisciplinary approaches to language, speech and communication, has remained her signature item, as it has been specifically addressed in the title of this chapter.

In the second chapter, "Feminist Linguistics", Margareta Bašaragin presents Svenka Savić's main journey in her professional research in the area of inter(multi)disciplinary study of the language and gender from her early work until today (1968-2020), realized as a result of her feminist viewpoint of the linguistic material. The author shows that the journey of professor Savić in the field which will later on gain the status of a special linguistic inter-discipline - feminist linguistics, has developed gradually: from the first empirical data which question certain number of rules for the use of the standard language, to the mature stage in theory and the ultimate creation of the cadre that will further promote this discipline, to the practical "Guidebook" which can be referenced in the official and public use of the language today. She, foremost, introduced this issue to the audience, then she conducted numerous studies of the individual use of the Serbian Language (mainly standard), and pointed to many cases of discrimination (**juvenizam**, ageism, **konfesizm**, racism, sexism, linguisticism). At the same time she conducted many educational seminars for the various groups of users, primarily in institutions (for journalists, professors teachers, politicians, administrative staff in state institutions); she also educated many students in the gender sensitive Serbian language within the existing undergraduate, master, graduate and doctoral studies; she has written several significant works for this new area which she teaches in the doctoral program at the Center for Gender Studies ACISMI UNS. She indeed embarked on a long journey from activism to academia.

The third chapter, "On the Wings of Feminism and Ecumenism", by Zilka Spahić Šiljak, is a combination of interviews, personal reflections and the analysis of the published books and articles of the professor emeritus Svenka Savić on the topics of feminist theology, ecumenical and interreligious dialogue. The goal was to show her contribution to the feminist theology, which she initiated and developed in her inter(multi)disciplinary approach with other scientific disciplines, and to show her contribution to the development of ecumenism and interreligious dialogue from the perspective of gender. In the first part the author talks about Svenka Savić's engagement in the field of feminist theology through the discourse analysis of sacred texts and the analysis of preaching. In the second part the author elaborated on her academic and religious involvement in the field of ecumenism and interreligious dialogue from the perspective of gender, accompanied by her personal reflections on the feminist ethics of caring which is an integral part of everything that Svenka Savić has done. The third part of this chapter is dedicated to her interest in the analysis of the content of the textbooks for religious education and in general for the religious confessional education which is tightly connected with the topics of ecumenical and interreligious understanding and gender equality.

In the fourth chapter titled, "Svenka Savić: Let's Start a Dialogue and/or How Contacts with the Unconnected are Established", the author Vera Obradović Ljubinković conducts research of the contributions of Svenka Savić to the art of dance using written, critical and polemic words which she articulated from the position of someone who acquired higher education in the field of ballet art and where she was actively involved, as she has been in the domain of the study of language, and gender studies. The author investigates possible dialogues and the connections which she has inevitably realized among various disciplines, that is, what her movements have been like on parallel tracks: artistic and scientific. She also presents a personal overview of Svenka Savić's personality, by listing chronology of their encounters and impressions, in addition, some of their correspondence over the years. She adds to this some parts of their conversations they had in the beginning of 2020. The chapter is an interplay of the professional and personal insight of Svenka Savić, the woman who showcased one of the possibilities: connections between arts and science. The goal has been to provide as precise an insight as possible of this extraordinary artist, a critic of artistic dance and an accomplished scientist.

In the fifth chapter, "Svenka Savić in Media", Miloš Pankov states that scientists rarely write for media as public personas that promote their profession. It is especially rare in a longer period of time during continuous activities in a certain scientific discipline. Svenka Savić has been writing for media, and people have been writing about her for decades now, because it is part of her educational approach out of her conviction that those who are part of the educational system should influence students with various activities, as well as with their lectures, in her case, from the interdisciplinary approach to language. The texts she writes or she talks about are directly linked to what she teaches, always from an interdisciplinary perspective which she is dedicated to, in linguistics as well as in specific feminist linguistics, discourse analysis, Romology, and feminist theology. Here the author analyses media presence of Svenka Savić from 1963 till 2020 using the following: 1. Texts in printed media (146), 2. Radio shows (445), 3. TV program (32), 4. Films (15). The methodology used is a combination of discourse analysis of media and life stories. The unit of analysis is text for the print, and a show for electronic media. The results show that Svenka Savić has been present in the printed media in her original texts, and in those texts written about her, in the period of almost six decades. Her original texts (72 total) are for the most part polemics, articles, columns and book reviews. Texts are accompanied by only 26 photos which are a convincing means of communication. In the printed material about Svenka Savić the majority are interviews (34), reports (28) and her books and other works reviews (22), associated with the topics which are her professional achievements in the field of language science, and dance. Wider audience is familiar with her various teaching engagements and extracurricular activities (research, seminars, educational programs, and other initiatives), as well as with her position related to the questions about standardization of the language and women equality in various domains of public life. Given the number of contributions, she has been more present in media with her voice than texts. The conclusion is that Svenka Savić's appearance in media is always a function of the affirmation of interdisciplinary approach to the language material of late 70s when this approach was quite innovative in the science of language on this territory, and today it is widely accepted. Quantitative data show a great number of contributions (638 total) and a more significant

presence in media in comparison with the common practice of presenting people in academia. Her original texts informed and educated broad audience about important social topics and, as a result, they have developed the culture of dialogue, argumentative exchange of opinions and the respect of differences. Overall media image influenced citizens to be better informed about its contributions to science and education, as well as to the improvement of media visibility of women in these domains of human activities. For Svenka Savić media serve as educational means, apart from being informative, for both expert and broad audience.

The sixth chapter is “Bibliography”, which, in chronological order lists the most important events in the professional and private life of professor Svenka Savić, and is illustrated with personal and family photos.

The seventh chapter, “Bibliography of dr. Svenka Savić, professor emeritus’ Works (1963-2020)” by her long standing bibliographer, Nataša Belić, is also a bibliography, and in her introductory remarks she says that the bibliography of professor Svenka Savić’s works is impossible to place within a bibliographic expert syntagma – ‘complete bibliography’ – because the bibliography which is published here is still not complete, since professor Savić is still doing extensive research, she writes, reads, thinks, engages herself and others in various tasks, she encourages many of her collaborators to do research, her energy (life and professional) she generously offers (that she also replenishes) working with them. It has been equally challenging to organize and categorize all areas of her research and activities into defined units. Her rich bibliographic material is categorized into the areas of interest, and the chronological order will show the variety and richness of professor Svenka Savić’s scientific and popular work. This bibliography includes works in linguistics, psycholinguistics, discourse analysis, gender studies – feminist linguistics, feminist theology, Romology, ballet, her contributions on internet portals, and video and audio recordings published in Serbian and other languages. Collected bibliographic material belongs to the period from 1963 till 2020. The material is divided into eleven units: 1. Special editions; 2. Contributions in magazines, monographies, and collected works; 3. Interviews; 4. Translations; 5. Reactions to Svenka Savić’s work; 6. Video recordings; 7. Audio recordings; 8. Entries in encyclopedias and lexicons; 9. Doctoral dissertations (her mentorship); 10. Contributions on the portals; 11. Roles of Svenka Savić in the performances at the Serbian National Theatre in Novi Sad. The categorization of bibliographical entries uses the International bibliographic standards for the description of monographic publications (ISBD-M) and the analytical processing of contributions in magazines and academic journals and special editions (ISBD-CP), which are also used in bibliographic practice in Serbia. The distribution of entries of the above- mentioned units is chronological, and within the same year an alphabet order of the titles has been applied. In the process of creating this bibliography the following resources have been used: Electronic base COBIB.SR; [Lisni](#) catalog and electronic database of the library at the Department of the Serbian Language and Linguistics at the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Novi Sad; personal archive of prof.dr. Svenka Savić. The majority of units were described as ‘de visu’. For a smaller number of bibliographic entries data were taken from the above-mentioned databases with an understanding that they have been entered and processed ‘de visu’.