

Professional article

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THE HONOUREE'S CURRICULUM VITAE AND BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Boris F. Hlebec

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Boris Hlebec was born in Belgrade on August 4th, 1945. After attending the “Njegoš” elementary school in Belgrade and passing the senior-level secondary school exam in the Third Belgrade Grammar School (which nowadays bears the name “Sveti Sava” [“Saint Sava”]), a difficult decision needed to be made – a choice between the Academy of Fine Arts and the Faculty of Philology. Taking into account his talent for painting (his father’s profession was that of an arranger-decorator) and flair for foreign languages, this was not an easy decision to make. In 1964, he opted for studying English language and literature at the Faculty of Philology in Belgrade, where he graduated in 1968. Shortly before his graduation, having taken note of his success during his undergraduate studies, Professor Ljiljana Mihailović, author of several well-known grammar books and textbooks, asked him whether he would be interested in applying for the position of

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teaching assistant at the Department of English Language and Literature, one that was about to be announced. As for painting, he continued to pursue that as an amateur painter, especially following his retirement.

Wishing to get to know the language and culture of Great Britain on a first-hand basis, in 1968 Hlebec took up a position as a book seller at Foyles, a large bookstore in London, for a period of six months. He also had a short teaching experience at the Philological High School of Belgrade, as a substitute teacher for a period of one month. The following year, he was sent to Sisak for compulsory military service. He spent the last three months of service at the Military Academy in Belgrade, as an English language translator.

In 1970, together with Mladen Mihajlović, Boris Hlebec was accepted for the position of trainee teaching assistant at the English Department of the Faculty of Philology in Belgrade. In 1973 he completed his MA, thus becoming a teaching assistant. The title of his MA thesis was “Uporedna semantička analiza imenica i prideva na Langlandovom tekstu *The Vision of William concerning Piers the Plowman* i njegovim prevodima na moderni engleski jezik” [“Comparative Semantic Analysis of Nouns and Adjectives in Langland’s text *The Vision of William concerning Piers the Plowman* and Its Translations into Modern English”]. He obtained his PhD in 1979 having defended his thesis titled “Kontrastivna analiza prideva sa značenjem jedne dimenzije u savremenom engleskom i srpskohrvatskom jeziku” [“Contrastive Analysis of One-Dimension Adjectives in Contemporary English and Serbo-Croatian”]. He was promoted to the position of assistant professor in 1980, associate professor in 1990, and he became a full professor in 1992. He taught translation theory, translation techniques and procedures, and the history, phonetics and semantics of the English language to students at the English Department in Belgrade, through lectures and practice classes, as well as the morphology of the English language as a substitute teacher for one year. He taught the following courses at undergraduate level: *English Phonetics*, *English Semantics*, *Translation Theory*, *Translation Techniques and Procedures* and *English Morphology*, as well as lectures and practice classes in *History of English* in the following academic years: 1970/71, 1971/72, 1972/73, 1973/74, 1974/75, 1975/76, 1976/77, 1977/78, 1978/79, 1983/84, and 1995/96. He held courses in translation theory at the graduate specialist studies level at the Faculty of Philology in Belgrade in 1991/92 and 1992/93, and in 2011 and 2012 he taught courses at the PhD studies level concerning his novel collocational approach to semantic definitions.

Boris Hlebec taught English part-time at the College of Defectology in 1971/72 and 1972/73, the Institute of Tourism of the Faculty of Sciences in the 1972/73 – 1975/76 period, English phonetics at the Faculty of Philology (the Kragujevac location) in the 1998/99 – 2002/03 period, as well as at the graduate studies level of the Faculty of Philosophy in Novi Sad in 1995/96 and 2001. In 2010, he delivered lectures in English phonetics at a private higher-education institution in Bijeljina for one semester. He held public lectures at Kolarac People's University, the Institute for Foreign Languages in Jovanova Street, the Centre for Teachers' Advanced Training, the Applied Linguistics Association of Serbia, the British Yugoslav Society, the city branch of the Federation of Foreign Language and Literature Societies and the winter school for foreign language teachers. He provided mentoring for a total of 16 MA and PhD theses.

In the summer of 1986, Hlebec spent time at London University through a British Council grant with the aim of using the library there. After this trip, he also visited London several more times as a tourist. As a member of The Linguistic Society of Europe he presented papers at conferences in Ohrid in 1986 and Freiburg in 1988. He held a lecture on the formation of binominal compounds and phrases in Serbo-Croatian in Subotica in 1995.

Boris Hlebec held some very important functions during his career. He was vice-dean of the Faculty of Philology in Belgrade in the summer of 1998, a participant in the design of the Draft Curricula of educational-pedagogical activities in the cultural-linguistic professional field for the English language and translation technique in 1985, a member of the Organisational Board of the 12th congress of the FIT (Fédération Internationale des Traducteurs/International Federation of Translators) held in Belgrade in 1988, vice-president of the Federation of Foreign Language and Literature Societies in 1994/95, a member of the editorial team of the *Živi jezici* [Живи језици] journal in 1994/95 and 1995/96, president of the Professional Council for Philological Sciences of the University of Belgrade in 1998 and a member of the editorial team of the *Prevodilac* [Преводилац] journal in 2005/06 and 2006/07.

In 1977, Boris Hlebec was awarded the "BIGZ" prize for his translation of Tennyson's poem *Ulysses* (published in issue 30 of the *Mostovi* [Мостови] journal), and in 1984 the "Miloš N. Đurić" award for his rhymed translation of *The Canterbury Tales*. In 1987 and 2007 he received an award plaque from Zavod za udžbenike (Publishing House for Textbooks) for his long-term

contribution to the creation of textbooks. He received a scroll of honour for his active contribution in the advancement of the translation activities and work of the Association of Scientific and Technical Translators of Serbia, as well as a scroll of honour for his contribution to the founding of the Faculty of Philology and Arts in Kragujevac. At the 17th international book salon at the Novi Sad Fair in 2011, a special prize was awarded to the Publishing House for Textbooks for innovation, high standard and precision with regards to *Enciklopedijski srpsko-engleski rečnik* [Енциклопедијски српско-енглески речник/ *A Comprehensive Serbian-English Dictionary*] and Hlebec, as the author, received special recognition from the publisher on May 30th, 2011.

In the course of forty years of active work at the Faculty of Philology and ten years spent in retirement, Boris Hlebec has published over 70 scientific articles in his home country and abroad, 22 books and 23 book reviews and has written a total of 56 critical reviews. The articles and book reviews encompass the translation studies, semantics, grammar, contrastive analysis, as well as history, lexicology and phonetics of English and Serbian. In addition to the former Yugoslavia, Hlebec's work has also been published in Poland (*Studia Anglica Posnaniensia* in 1986, 2003, 2008, 2012 and 2015, *Papers and Studies in Contrastive Linguistics* in 1983, *Przegląd Wschodnioeuropejski* in 2017), the USA (*Folia Slavica* in 1986, *Language* in 1988), Austria (*Grazer Linguistische Studien* in 1987, *Grazer Linguistische Monographien* in 1995), the Republic of Srpska (*Filolog* [Филолог] in 2011, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2018), Belgium (*Babel* in 1989 and 2020), the Netherlands (*Lingua* in 1984 and 1985), Italy (*Ponto-Baltica* in 1997) and Georgia (*Bulletin of the Georgian National Academy of Sciences* in 2014).

The textbooks Boris Hlebec has authored include: *Opšta načela prevođenja* [Општа начела превођења/ *General Principles of Translation*] (currently the textbook for the Translation Theory course for students at the English Department of the Faculty of Philology in Belgrade, two editions in print and one electronic), *Prevodilačke tehnike i postupci* [Преводачке технике и поступци/ *Translation Techniques and Procedures*] (currently the textbook for the Translation Techniques and Procedures course for students at the English Department of the Faculty of Philology in Belgrade, two editions), *A Textbook of English Phonology* (four editions), *English Accent and Intonation* (currently the textbook for the English Phonetics course for students at the English Department of the Faculty of Philology

in Belgrade, two editions), *English Semantics* and *English Semantics for University Students* (currently the textbook for the English Semantics course for students at the English Department of the Faculty of Philology in Belgrade, two editions in print and one electronic). He prepared the grammar sections in the elementary-school level English-learning textbook titled *Enjoying English. Engleski jezik 7* [*Enjoying English. Енглески језик 7/ Enjoying English. English Language 7*].

Boris Hlebec is the author of an English grammar for high schools (five editions), another one for elementary schools (three editions) and the following dictionaries: *Osnovni srpsko-engleski i englesko-srpski rečnik* [*Основни српско-енглески и енглеско-српски речник/ Basic Serbian-English and English-Serbian Dictionary*] (two editions), *Englesko-srpski i srpsko-engleski rečnik slenga* [*Енглеско-српски и српско-енглески речник сленга/ An English-Serbian and Serbian-English Dictionary of Slang*] (three editions), *Enciklopedijski srpsko-engleski rečnik* [*Енциклопедијски српско-енглески речник/ A Comprehensive Serbian-English Dictionary*], *Standardni srpsko-engleski rečnik* [*Стандардни српско-енглески речник/ Standard Serbian-English Dictionary*], *Srpsko-engleski rečnik lažnih parova* [*Српско-енглески речник лажних парова/ A Serbian-English Dictionary of False Friends*] and a collocations dictionary titled *Connect Your Words*. Hlebec also published the handbooks titled *Engleski za perfekcioniste* [*Енглески за перфекционисте/ English for Perfectionists*] and *Turski za dembele. Turcizam za turizam* [*Турски за дембеле. Турцизам за туризам/ Turkish for Lazybones. Loanwords for Long Vacations*]. This last booklet comprises a collection of current Turkish loanwords in Serbian. For the needs of students tackling the history of English he put together a glossary to accompany *Selections from the Fourteenth Century* by Ksenija Anastasijević. He was also a collaborator in the production of Morton Benson's *Englesko-srpskohrvatski rečnik* [*English-Serbo-Croatian Dictionary*].

In 1990, the Institut für Sprachwissenschaft der Universität Graz in Graz published Hlebec's monography on the aspect of verbs and grammatical tenses in Serbian and English titled *Aspects, Phases and Tenses in English and Serbo-Croatian*.

In the last fifteen years Boris Hlebec has been devoting more time to Indo-European comparative studies, etymology and deciphering ancient inscriptions. The result of this work are the following books: *O starini južnih Slovena. Poreklo imenica jabuka i kruška* [*О старини јужних Словена. Порекло именица јабука и крушка/ On the Ancient Origin of the South Slavs*].

Origins of the Nouns Apple and Pear], *Srpsko-engleski rečnik etimoloških parova* [Српско-енглески речник етимолошких парова/ *Serbian-English Dictionary of Etymological Pairs*] and *Vinčanski kod* [Винчански код/ *The Vinča Code*]. He has recently finished work on *Vinčanski koreni pisama* [Винчански корени писама/ *The Vinča Roots of Scripts*].

Hlebec's versatility, associativity, and originality have produced an impressively diverse list of bibliographical references. His original ideas stem from his early days as an award-winning poetry translator and lexicographer to the development of new linguistic ideas in the realm of modern language studies. His innovative collocational method based on Firth's ideas helps uncover meaning on the basis of word sequences and may be applied to different languages. English phonetics and the illusive intonational meanings have been enriched by Hlebec's association of the attitude of the speaker with varying degrees of temperature – a welcome and fresh addition to the phonetic ideas of renowned British phoneticians O'Connor and Arnold and Gimson. His more recent meticulous work on deciphering the old Vinča inscriptions as an inspiration to phonetic alphabets will undoubtedly get more traction in the years to come.

Professor Hlebec is always remembered by generations of his students as a knowledgeable, approachable and helpful professor, and by his colleagues as an unassuming, but highly original and prolific linguist.

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