



ENGLISH JOURNAL FOR YOU

Letter From The Editor

Dear readers,

There are various ways our students can show their mastery of the English language. Whether it is being a guide and showing their beautiful town to honoured guests or experiencing a unique opportunity of being an Erasmus student.

This can be enriching for us as teachers because there is no better way to learn about other cultures than stepping foot inside the life of local people, so we can show respect, honour and gratitude to others.

These values were also reflected in several events organized by our department, such as Thanksgiving Day or a Club of novice teachers, where they could share their thoughts about their current and future careers.

Moreover, we are proud of our students, who shared their talent through beautiful poems, song lyrics, reviews, lesson plans and their innovative works of art. That gave us a great opportunity to discover the creative spirit they have.

The beauty of language is revealed by proficient language users, who can show the magic of their art by passing it to their learners, while teaching them what they have already mastered themselves.



Best regards,

Katarina Chválková

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CULTURAL EXPERIENCES

1



ENGLISH JOURNAL FOR YOU

Unveiling the Secrets of the Tour Guide

In the realm of foreign languages, we often hear the timeless refrain: "*Languages open doors to a world of opportunities.*"

Here, at the Department of English Language and Culture, each of us holds the metaphorical key to those doors, ready to explore and seize the treasures beyond.

The English language, like a vast universe, offers infinite avenues for exploration. I grasped this opportunity, weaving English into the tapestry of my life as a tour guide, a choice I've yet to regret.

Now, allow me to illuminate the role of an English-speaking tour guide. It's a job filled with diversity and wonder.

Through this path, we encounter individuals from every corner of the globe, immersing ourselves in a symphony of cultures and languages, forging new connections along the way.



Nitra Castle, Nitra, Slovakia



The initial weeks proved to be quite a challenge, as I delved into a sea of guidebooks, familiarised myself with every nook and cranny of the exhibition, and learned to navigate the myriad of questions posed by curious travellers. Yet, growing experience allowed me to perceive my work responsibilities as a source of genuine fulfilment.

Through three enriching years, I gathered a treasury of unforgettable moments and invaluable experiences. I had the privilege of accompanying Margit Bruck-Friedrich, the Austrian diplomat and Ambassador of Austria

to the Slovak Republic, as well as numerous luminaries from the academic sphere, such as Prof. Hazem Halim and Dr. May Fahmy, esteemed experts in marketing communication and branding, who represented Egypt at the Department of Mass Communication and Advertising at UKF.

I also had the honour of accompanying Prof. PhDr. Michal Kozubík, PhD., the head of the Department of Social Work and Social Sciences, during a meeting of the SocNet98 association, an alliance of social work departments from universities spanning Europe.



With anticipation, I look forward to meeting you all at the Nitra Castle!

The summer's highlight was guiding a delegation from the Maldives parliament and the members of the Supreme Audit Office of the Slovak Republic. Another particularly enlightening experience was accompanying Monsignor Larry James Kulick, the Bishop of the Greensburg Diocese in Pennsylvania.

As a future teacher, I cherish the opportunity to connect with individuals of all age groups

during my guiding adventures, nurturing my pedagogical skills along the way.

I must confess, there were many challenging moments, particularly with some lively groups of pupils that left me sweating profusely, haha. Nevertheless, I wish to share this message with my fellow classmates and students: seize every opportunity to nurture your talents and skills,

Renáta Kunová

SAMUEL'S

ERASMUS+

Hi everyone, my name is Samuel Ďuriš, and I'm in the second year of my bachelor's degree studies. I am studying to become the teacher of English language literature, but in my leisure time I'm really into special pedagogy and exploring how things go for people with specific needs abroad.

So, that's why I took my mobility experience last year and, in this article, I am going to tell you about it. So, without further ado, let's go to my story and enjoy reading!

WHAT AND WHY?

Last September I visited Brno in the Czech Republic. I went to Masaryk University. It was a short-term mobility experience. It was traineeship.

At first, I received proper training about how to make materials accessible to people with various specific needs. For instance, for people with hearing

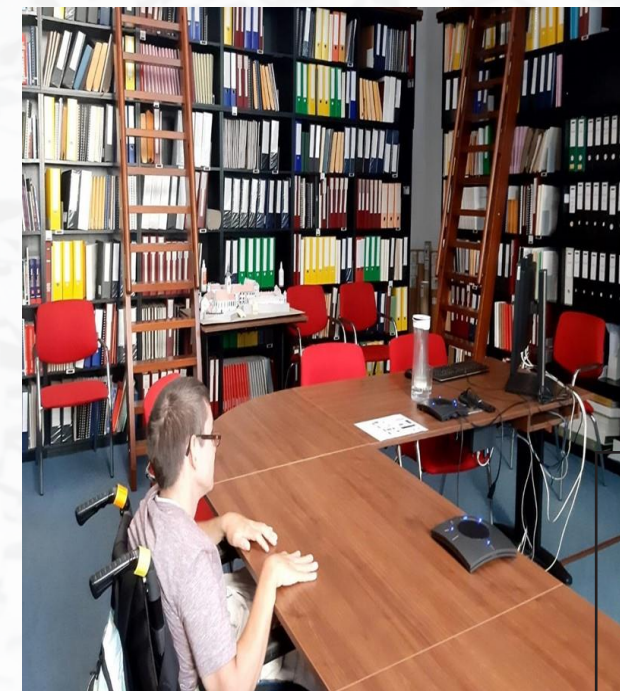
Department of Special and Inclusive Pedagogy, Faculty of Education, Masaryk



impairment, for people with visual impairment, for people with learning difficulties and so on.

After that, I helped various teachers and lecturers with the creation of accessible study materials and translations of documents from Czech to English.

So, I improved my soft skills like teamwork, emotional intelligence, and I also learnt something from special pedagogy with aspects of people with various specific needs and what the creation of these materials entail.



DIFFERENCES IN EDUCATION

It was a traineeship - for this reason, it was more practically oriented and there wasn't much memorising. My activities were more practical. I helped with preparing materials and assisting teachers at the lesson - so, I was learning by doing.

I learnt many useful things from syntax just by translating text to their website and translating lessons from Czech to English. It was even a little bit of an experience because my mentor was polite, patient, open-minded, creative, and open to my feedback, and we were a great team with my mentor and with other colleagues. So, the organisation of the learning process was totally different than in UKF.

So, there wasn't much of memorising, but a lot of gamification and learning by doing, learning by experience, and this improved my long-term memory.

"I felt like a real teacher at least for one moment and it was a fabulous experience to be a part of teaching group and to see the working situation from the other side of the aisle also - not from the student's point of view but also from the teacher's point of view."



Employment benefits at my workplace - brand new computer with the newest software and hardware + a spacious office fit for Kings.

LIKED & DISLIKED LESSONS

Honestly, I really liked assisting in lessons of the Czech sign language and special informatics. The Czech sign language teacher had a good sense of humour, and he was very effective at using motivational methods and fixation methods, and he was also fabulous when it came to the exposition methods of explaining new things from the Czech sign language.

He used a lot of practical examples from real life, so it makes me enjoy both sign language

and the informatics lesson with a teacher of a similar approach.

Secondly, there was no lesson that I disliked because all the teachers were fabulous, and we were an amazing collective that shared the same interest in helping children with specific needs. So, all the tutors were well-trained, empathetic, honest, polite, and open-minded.

When my mobility ended, I was sad that I had to leave, but I took many valuable experiences with myself...

EXPERIENCES BROUGHT HOME

The main experience I brought with me to Slovakia is that it's important to pay attention to the small but important details.

When we were doing monitoring of the accessibility of public buildings together with my colleagues - we were mapping the accessibility of buildings regarding the accessibility of toilets, classes, elevators, and we were assessing whether the room is accessible or not. And there were so many parameters to look for that it made me feel sensitive to other needs.

So, the main thing I brought from my mobility is empathy and sensitivity to other people's needs, tolerance and trying to see other people's needs and points of view.

And I can also advise a little bit when it comes to the accessibility of the premises of the pedagogical faculty at our university - maybe sometimes in the future I will offer my helping hand, and I am ready to give some advice to make our pedagogical faculty even more accessible than it is nowadays.

I ADORED...

I really adored the hospitality of the South Moravian people. South Moravian people and the citizens of Brno in general are very kind-hearted and very hospitable towards people with disabilities, and they are also

tolerant. Everyone was very tolerant, and they sometimes offered me discounted bus tickets.

Residents advised me where to eat out at a reasonable price and sometimes even my colleagues from work invited me to coffee or non-alcoholic beer - so everything was very relaxed and casual.



Me - excited for all the fun lessons!

MY TIPS IF YOU ARE CONSIDERING ERASMUS

One piece of advice that I will certainly give to any student who wants to try Erasmus Plus Mobility is to be courageous and not to give up so easily. The Erasmus Plus Mobility application process may appear difficult at first, but you can always approach our departmental coordinator – Mgr. Sándorová PhD., who will be happy to help you with choosing the suitable institution for your studies or working experience.

Electronic applications on portal may seem demanding as well, but our international

relations office at Konstantin the Philosopher's University with Ing. Vakoš is also happy to help you with the administration of the application form.

You just need to upload an appropriate document and all the other things you will be helped by people at Constantine the Philosopher's University. So, the mobility application process and going to a mobility program is not as difficult as it first appeared.



FINAL THOUGHTS

To conclude, there is no reason to hesitate. I strongly encourage you to do it as soon as possible. Don't be afraid to apply. This way I also would also like to thank Vladka Poláčková PhD., who is a coordinator for people with specific needs at our university and, thanks to her, I got in touch with Masaryk University, and she also helped me with the placement at Masaryk University. So, I really appreciate her effort, time and energy.

"Dear readers, I hope you enjoyed reading my article. If you have any questions or comments, I will be pleased to answer them. Please contact me anytime via Facebook or WhatsApp. I will welcome any suggestions or questions you will ask me!"



SAMUEL ĎURIŠ



TEO'S

ERASMUS+

Hi Teo! Tell us something about yourself!

Dear readers,

My name is Teo. I am a second-year student. Double major – Informatics, English Language and Literature. And in my leisure time, I usually listen to loads of atmospheric and classical music. I'm also a musician. I play the piano, guitar, and almost every instrument.

In this article, I will walk you through my journey, Erasmus+ mobility, which took place in Gdansk, Poland at the University of Gdansk.

So, without further ado, let's continue onward!
We made it easier for you - it's in bullet points
so you don't need to read a lot!

What differences were there in classes compared to our university?

Classes in Poland had a more interactive and discussion-based approach compared to our university. The emphasis on practical application was refreshing.

What was your best and the most difficult class?

The best class was Descriptive grammar class, where we delved into unique perspectives of

phonetics, phonology, and morphology. The worst was Polish language class; it was challenging, but the struggle helped me to grow.

Were there some likes and dislikes outside of the school?

I loved exploring the vibrant culture and historical sites. However, I struggled with the colder climate and language barrier initially.

What class did broaden your perspectives the most?

Literary studies class broadened my perspectives because it was engaging. I've had opportunities to learn more about the cultural impact of literature and fine arts on society and the way of using it as a medium to express your personal freedom.



understanding of cultural nuances,
influencing my future goals in education.

Some tips to future Erasmus students and for language immersion?

Embrace the local language, be open-minded, and actively engage in cultural activities. Don't hesitate to ask for help and make the most of every opportunity. Speak with locals, join language exchange programs, and watch local TV shows for practical language exposure. Dine in traditional Polish restaurants for the feeling of immersion.

Have you witnessed something unique outside of school? Favourite phrase?

I witnessed a traditional Polish wedding, which was unexpected and beautiful or exploring Gdansk's old town with newfound friends. My favourite phrase was "Nie ma problemu" (No problem) - a common Polish expression that reflects their positive and easy-going attitude.

What was transportation like? Some experiences, discoveries?

I explored the city by walking and using efficient public transportation + there is one ticket for entire public transport (buses, trams, trains).

What was Polish cuisine like?
(delicates, weird food, missed food)

Polish cuisine was hearty and diverse, with pierogi and kielbasa being my favourites. Then bigos, and oscypek (smoked cheese). Snails were the weirdest but surprisingly delicious. Missed the familiarity of home: cooked meals.

How did you involve yourself with the community? What about internship impact?

I engaged through local language classes while participating in student-driven events for foreign students. It enhanced my

Liked visiting Krakow and its rich historical sites. Hel and its majestic lighthouse are stationed near Gdynia. I discovered hidden gems in the city centre during weekend trips. Archaic bookstores and ember markets were throughout the old town too...

Where did you live?

I stayed in a dormitory, which provided me with a balance of independence and social interaction.

What are some housing options there?

I explored shared apartments for a communal living experience. Huge number of Dormitories in Gdansk, Sopot, and Gdynia...

How did you decide where to stay?

I chose housing close to the university for convenience.

What about your housemates?

I lived with diverse housemates, fostering a global perspective.

How did you keep in touch with your relatives?

I used social media and video calls to stay connected.



Some important information for cell phones?

I acquired a local SIM card for affordable communication (It's a must!).

Were the locals welcoming?

Locals were welcoming, and program participants shared a sense of adventure.

What questions did people ask you?

They frequently asked me about cultural differences and life in my home country.

What about financing and budgeting?

I created a detailed budget, but unexpected expenses did arise regarding healthcare and unplanned travel costs. Try applying for local scholarships and university grants.

Did expectations meet reality?

I expected more language proficiency, but the journey was rewarding.

Language barrier? Embarrassing moments?

Overcoming the initial language barrier was the hardest. Language mix-ups and cultural misunderstandings happened but were valuable learning experiences.

How did Erasmus change you?

Gained resilience and adaptability, I am more open-minded and globally aware.

Thank you Teo! How would you describe your Erasmus in 5 words?

You are welcome, Adam!
Transformative, eye-opening, enriching, challenging, unforgettable.

ADAM BILÍK & TEO BURCL



A GRATEFUL JOURNEY

IN NITRA THROUGH THE NATIONAL
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

ENGLISH JOURNAL FOR YOU

I was honoured to have the chance to explore
beautiful Slovakia via the National Scholarship,

while discovering a cultural heaven transcending borders. Nitra, the oldest town in Slovakia, revealed its rich history, vibrant culture, and natural wonders. Moreover, I shared these experiences with a diverse community of people from my country.

while discovering a cultural heaven transcending borders. Nitra, the oldest town in Slovakia, revealed its rich history, vibrant culture, and natural wonders. Moreover, I shared these experiences with a diverse community of people from my country.

The National Scholarship Program allowed me to delve into the historical and cultural nuances of Nitra, and exploring the city's charming squares and cobblestone streets became a joyous endeavour, especially when shared with newfound friends from variety of countries.

The program not only allowed me to immerse myself in the cultural tapestry of Nitra but also extended the opportunity to explore Slovakia's natural wonders and historical landmarks, such as the High Tatras. Venturing into this mountainous region, I found myself surrounded not only by breathtaking landscapes but also by a diverse group of Uzbek companions. Together, we hiked through scenic trails, marvelled at pristine lakes, and revealed in the invigorating air of the High Tatras, creating bonds that transcend cultural differences.

Bratislava, the capital, offered a dynamic blend of history and modernity. The Old Town's charm, the majestic Bratislava Castle, and the scenic Danube River were even more enjoyable in the company of friends from Uzbekistan. The National Scholarship Program not only broadened my academic horizons but also facilitated an exploration of Slovakia's identity alongside a diverse and multicultural community.

Participating in extra-curricular activities took on a special significance as I shared these experiences with a lively group of Uzbek people. The 'Thanksgiving Workshop' became an occasion to exchange traditions and stories, creating a fusion of cultures. The ESN ERASMUS party, with its lively and inclusive atmosphere, provided the perfect backdrop for forging friendships that transcended borders and language barriers. As I reflect on my time in Nitra and beyond, my gratitude deepens for the National Scholarship Program.

The chance to study in Nitra, explore the High Tatras, and engage in extra-curricular activities has not only expanded my academic horizons but has allowed me to build connections with a global community. The warm hospitality of the locals, the historical significance of Nitra Castle, the natural wonders of the High Tatras, and the lively atmosphere of Bratislava – each experience has been enriched by the company of Uzbek friends. The extra-curricular activities, including the 'Thanksgiving Workshop' and ESN ERASMUS party, have become cherished memories, celebrating the joy of shared cultural experiences.

The journey took a wonderful turn when I had the pleasure of visiting my teacher, doc. Diana Židová, at her home. I experienced true Slovak hospitality as they kindly welcomed me in their house. I was glad that I could see a typical Christmas party that was a mix of tradition, festivity, which made me feel like I have always belonged here.

Sharing in the celebration with my teacher's family, infused the atmosphere with joy and shared cultural experiences. The exchange of gifts, each carrying special meaning, served as tangible tokens of the lasting connections formed during my time in Slovakia. I cannot adequately express the depth of my gratitude and thanksgiving for the extraordinary experiences I've had during my time in Slovakia through the National Scholarship Program.

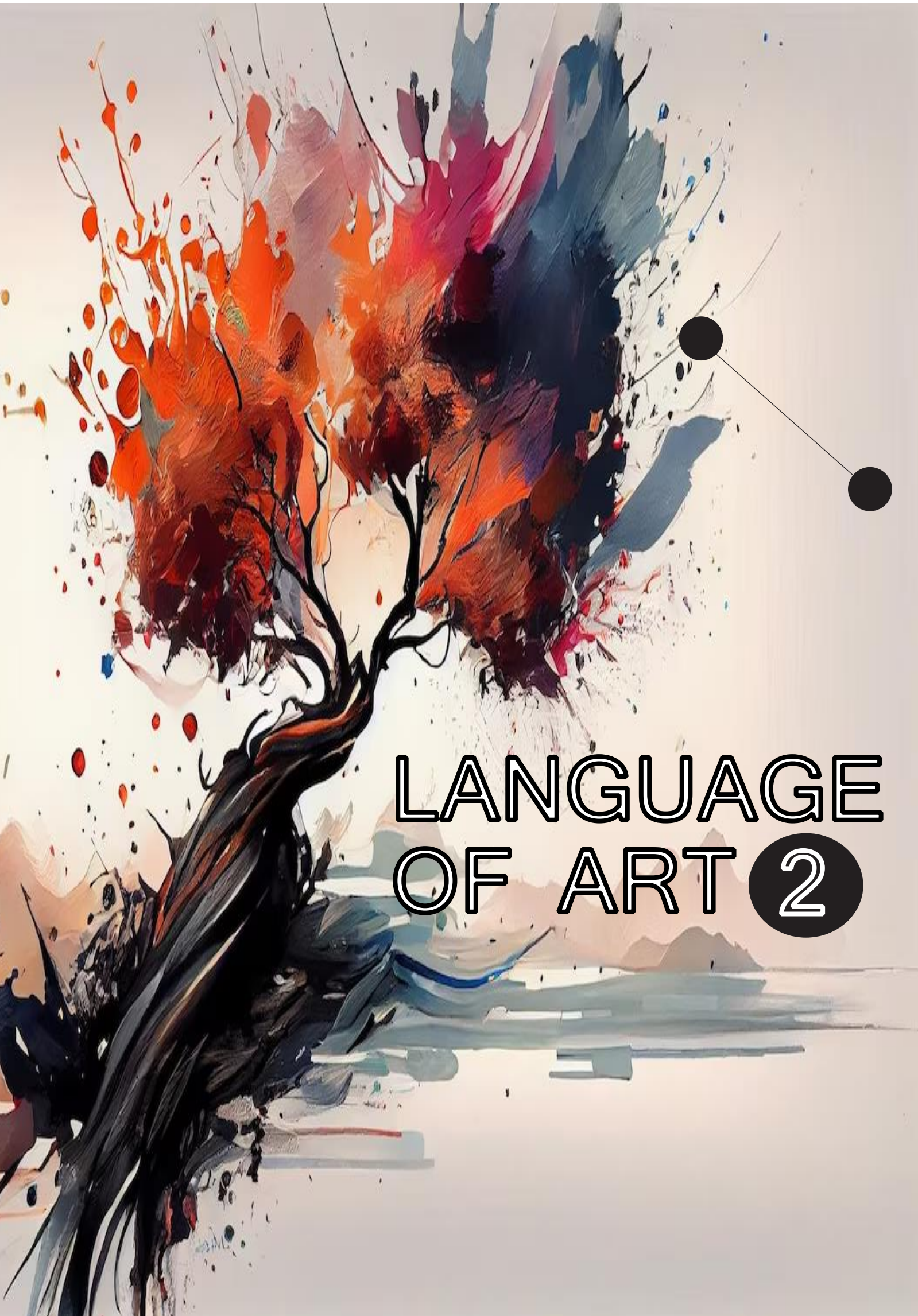


The warmth of hospitality, the shared cultural moments, and the genuine connections formed, especially during the Christmas celebration with my teacher's family, have left an indelible mark on my heart. I am profoundly thankful for the opportunities provided, not only for academic growth but also for fostering a sense of belonging and community.

These moments of joy and connection will forever be cherished, and I extend my heartfelt thanks to all who made this journey an enriching and unforgettable chapter of my life.

In conclusion, my visit to Nitra and the High Tatras through the National Scholarship Program has been a cultural extravaganza, made even more delightful by the presence of Uzbek friends. Slovakia's diverse landscapes, historical treasures, and warm community have left an indelible mark, and the bonds forged during this journey are a testament to the power of cultural exchange and shared experiences. I do my best to come back to Nitra, Slovakia and enjoy the atmosphere again and again.

**MAMURA
ABDUJABBAROVA**



LANGUAGE OF ART 2

ENGLISH JOURNAL FOR YOU

MY WORLD HAS BEEN FILLED



Take me back to those gardens,
back to those times.
When I heard your voice clearly.
Where the truth is hidden.
Where the water springs -
it will give me strength.

It seemed so easy to
stand firm in faith,
and so close to you, so easy
to give you everything.

You are getting closer,
brightness swirling through darkness.
You are the air I breathe,
the blood flowing through me.

Everything rises,
even the dead come alive,
I feel God's pulse in me again.
You are the One, by whom
my world has been filled.

This is the place,
a place where you want to grow
with flowers and caress.

This is the moment
I know you'll hold me,
when no one does.

It seemed so easy
to stand firm in faith,
But you're close to me,
I want to give you all I have.

You are getting closer,
brightness swirling through darkness.
You are the air I breathe,
the blood flowing through me.

Everything rises,
even the dead come alive,
I feel God's pulse in me again.
You are the One, by whom
my world has been filled.

This is the moment of moments.
You and me,
me and You.
And when I seem to have no strength,
You
have already won.
You have already won!

LÁVLA RENČKOVÁ



GET TO YOU T!

I heard you be smokin' with those **kids kids**
puttin' on those **things things**
 not carin' about **these these**
 things you cannot **see see**:

honor you can **feel feel**
 passion you can **fulfill**
 talkin' 'bout the humanistic **learnin'**
 vision you can **see see**
 respect you can **re-built**
 get out of your head your **mindless sittin'**

you said the world's **changed**
 so bein' weak is **ok**
 your **life** your **right**
 but what about the **roundabout?**

if you don't like **go go go**
 nobody's at the **door door**
 hack I'm pushin' **to do so so so**

I hope that they kicked **out**
 never step on us you **runt**
 find something u love **love**
 teacher's not for **everyone**

Open your beautiful **mind**
 don't let your days go **by**
 or opportunities **say**:

Bye bye **bye**

ADAM BILÍK

Imagine Dragons - Symphony

Ever since I was young (Coming up, coming up)
 Always marching to a drum (Bra-da-dum, Bra-da-dum)
 Always focused on me (One one, one one)
 Now I wish that I could hold someone (Someone)
 So tell my mom, I love her
 Call my baby sister
 Should've hugged and kissed her
 'Cause life is just a mystery
 And it's gone before you know it
 So if you love me, won't you show it?
 'Cause this life is one big symphony
 This night is one for you and me
 I'm the strings and you're the timpani
 You're my constant tambourine
 This life is one big symphony
 So glad I've got you next to me
 I'm the chords and you're the melody
 This life's one big symphony
 She was the piano
 I'm the xylophone
 You can have the trumpet
 I'm the saxophone
 Life is skipping rope (Keep going, keep going)
 Finding solace in a note (Dote dote, dote dote)
 Had to struggle when I was broke (So low, so low)
 Writing music just to cope (No hope, no hope)
 Yeah, life is just perspective
 Laughing when you've wrecked it
 Smiling when you kept it together
 You weathered the storm
 At the end of the play, you sang all the way
 Doesn't matter how off-key
 If you did it your way
 This life is one big symphony
 This night is one for you and me
 I'm the strings and you're the timpani
 You're my constant tambourine
 This life is one big symphony
 So glad I've got you next to me
 I'm the chords and you're the melody
 This life's one big symphony
 Would you care if I played you the flute?
 See, it's my favorite one because it's so delicate and beautiful
 I pull out the trombone if it's more suitable
 Wanna make you smile
 It's been a little while since I've seen the white of your teeth
 Been a hard year
 Lucky the guitar's here



Od prvých detských krokov,
 nesiem sa v rytme bicích.
 Sebecky hľadím na seba,
 chcem niečí dotyk cítiť
 Tak povedzte mojej mame, že ju ľúbim.
 Zavolajte mojej sestre,
 že objatie a bozk jej dlžím.
 Pretože život je jednoducho záhadou,
 a zmizne skôr než lúskneš prstom.
 Tak ak ma ľúbiš, ukáž mi to srdcom.
 Pretože život je jednou veľkou symfóniou,
 a túto noc v nej hráme.
 Ja budem strunou, ak budeš tympanmi,
 ty-tamburína, čo všetky zvuky láme.
 Pretože život je jednou veľkou symfóniou,
 keď kráčaš vedľa mňa.
 Ja budem akordom, ty ma veď melódiou,
 tou životnou symfóniou.
 Ona bola klavír,
 ja xylofón.
 Ty hraj na trúbku,
 zostane mi saxofón.
 Cez život ako cez švihadlo skáčem,
 hľadám sa v notách.
 A len vďaka hudbe,
 stojím dnes na nohách.
 Áno, život je len perspektívou,
 smežeme sa, keď sa nám rozpadá.
 Keď drží pokope, na tvári nám úsmev hrá.
 Stál si v búrke,
 na konci ktorej si spieval z plných pľúc.
 Nevadili chybné tóny, či falošné noty,
 lebo koniec koncov, bol si to ty.
 Pretože život je jednou veľkou symfóniou,
 a túto noc v nej hráme.
 Ja budem strunou, ak budeš tympanmi,
 ty-tamburína, čo všetky zvuky láme.
 Pretože život je jednou veľkou symfóniou,
 keď kráčaš vedľa mňa.
 Ja budem akordom, ty ma veď melódiou,
 tou životnou symfóniou.
 Dovolíš? Zahrám ti na flautu.
 Pozri, hrá jemnosťou,
 a práve preto mi je najbližšia.
 Ak sa ti máli, vezmem trombón,
 nech si šťastnejšia.
 Už nejakú chvíľu som nevidel
 tvoj úsmev na tvári,
 Bol to ťažký rok,
 nech šťastie vráti,
 tóny gitary.

Translation: Terézia Gutténová



The Sun Is Also a Star by Nicola Yoon

Have you ever thought that Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet" which happened for five days, was too slow? Well, then this is the book for you! This author read "Romeo and Juliet" and told Shakespeare to hold her beer while she wrote the greatest love story to happen in 24 hours. If you're willing to get swept away in a whirlwind love story of two kids trying to anchor themselves in a certain place and time in life, you'll enjoy this book. Sure, it's a little sappy and unrealistic, but I don't read books hoping for realism. I had a strange relationship with this book in that I couldn't put it down once I started reading but couldn't bring myself to pick it up once I put it down. To put it briefly, it kept my interest but didn't compel me to finish it. I'm glad I finally finished it, even though it took me a while, and I'd suggest this book to anyone looking for a quick contemporary romance.

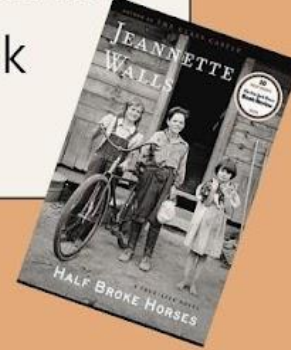
-Daniela Verešová



Half Broke Horses by Jeanette Walls

Lily Casey Smith, the author's grandmother, provides a delightful and unexpected look into the past in "Half Broke Horses." A tough lady who could teach you some important life lessons while defeating you at poker. It's a nonfiction biography. Although the author claims in her epilogue that these creative liberties make the book feel more like a novel, I believe that they make it feel more realistic. For example, the author chose to write the book in the first person. I feel much more connected to Lily as a person after hearing her voice and getting to know her than I would have if she had simply stated the facts. Lily has some incredible adventures. Some are more believable than others. If you're looking for a point of view from the past from a horse riding teacher, this book is for you. But I'd pass on this one if you're only interested in information and facts. Overall, I enjoyed the wild adventure that this book took me on. I would also recommend the audiobook narrated by the author)

-Daniela Verešová



THE MAJESTY OF NIGHTMARES AND ROSES

There was a myth of a being. Nobody knew who it was talking about, or if it was real. And those that have experienced it were taken to an asylum because they ended up mad. Who could blame them? They lost their children and nobody could explain it to them. Since the dawn of time, some children went to Dreamland and with one wrong turn never returned.

Nobody knew why. Nobody knew how. Nobody knew when it was going to happen next. Nobody knew who was going to be next. Nobody knew who was responsible. All they knew was that the children were alive, in a coma-like state. Their bodies never grew up, never needed anything. Back in the old days, when the kids weren't waking up and fellow humans were getting scared, the children were killed. As time progressed, instead of killing, they started putting them away to watch for any change. As time progressed even further, they started experimenting with the kids – will the bodies heal after a wound even if they weren't doing anything?

Will the bodies react to a change of place from one climate to another? Will the bodies

respond to the presence or absence of a family member? Can anything change the coma-like state? The answer was always the same – the body didn't react in any way. The wound didn't bleed or heal nor take damage of any sort even when exposed to an allergen.

Eventually, the amount of "sleeping children" raised suspicion because the stories could spread more easily. The news wrote about the "sleeping children" more and more often to the point where kids and parents were scared to let the kids sleep. But everyone knew that it wasn't a solution for the rest of the time. But as far as they knew, there was no cure or saving the kids kidnapped in their sleep. Years went on before scientists took a closer look at the children who weren't waking up and figured out where the problem was – their consciousness wasn't there.

They created a lot of theories, but people believed one and that one only. They believed there was someone keeping them hostage in the "dream realm". They called the kidnapper "Majesty of Nightmares and Roses". You might ask why the roses? Well, because with each child taken, a rose appeared near their house.

Sometimes a red one, other times purple, and even a few red ones and a single white one appeared, but nobody could figure out what the different colours meant or why the white one was only one.

There was only one being who knew the meaning of the white rose, The Majesty themselves. Well, the kidnapped person by now knows as well, but that took a long time. The Majesty valued time, because had nothing but time. They wanted to be sure that White understood, which over the course of time, he did. He was as the nickname indicated – pure-hearted and understood.

Everyone who was kidnapped as a child didn't stay a child, they grew up to a certain age, and since they were in a dreamland which is under The Majesty's control, they can choose the age when their bodies stop ageing. White chose age 27, so even though he was mentally over a hundred, in the realm, he was 27. White was a boy born in the 1800s, his body even burned to ashes, but he lived on in the realm.

He spent his time with The Majesty going through the realm, talking to every person there and while The Majesty was in the dreams, getting another person, White was waiting to welcome them to their new home.

Then, one night, The Majesty came back with another kid. She was shivering, still scared. "What happened?" White asked when he saw the girl shaking. "I took it a bit too far. She seemed like one of the strong kids who got scared, but she's still too innocent for it."

They knelt down to the little girl. "I'm sorry and I hope that one day, you will be able to forgive me, but without the scarring, I cannot bring you here to give you a timeless life. There's no more bad stuff here." They smiled and then looked up at White. "I scared him far more than I scared you."

White gave him a look. "Yeah, thanks for that. But yes, life here is way better than out there. No death, no hurting, only dreams. Now, you can either go and explore, it's perfectly safe, or we can show you around." He smiled at the newest addition to the world. The girl ran away quickly. "Don't worry, my love, I found myself a home here, I'm sure she will too. Now come, there's always work for us, isn't there?" He pulled the ruler back on their feet.

"In full honesty, there's only one thing left to be done if you want it," The Majesty said with a smile. "I found a way to give you powers like mine. So that we could share this place truly equally as I promised decades ago. But if you say no, I will fully understand. Sometimes it's the nightmare, rather than the roses." He tilted his head a little. White chuckled. "In times of nightmares, we'll be each other's roses."

The Majesty raised the sleeve on his arm. "You've been my white rose for dozens of years by now." "And you've been my purple rose for just as long," White said, lifting his sleeve as well. "So, whether we both have the power, or only you, the roses shall always flourish."

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