



*Ewa Małgorzata Skorek*¹

**From a University Course to a Periodical.
Speech Therapy Ideas at the Department of Pedagogy, Sociology
and Health Sciences of the University of Zielona Góra
in Their Historical Perspective**

Andrzej Lewandowski MA pioneered academic and didactic speech therapy initiatives at the Department of Pedagogy of the Tadeusz Kotarbiński Higher School of Pedagogy (WSP). He triggered the creation of a professional Speech Therapy Atelier designed to educate regular and extramural students in the field of diagnosis and the therapy of language communication disorders. Until 2003 the atelier was situated in room 419 (the main building), and in 2003 it changed its name to Therapeutic Atelier and was moved to room 439. Since February 1989 dr Ewa M. Skorek has been in charge of the room. In 1999 she extended its function and apart from training regular and extramural students, it has since then been also used for students of postgraduate studies.

Speech Therapy as an academic course has always been present in the curricula of pedagogical studies, but not for students of all specializations. However since the beginning, Speech Therapy has been an integral part of the curriculum for students of Protective-Educational Pedagogy and Social Rehabilitation. Both regular and extramural students learn about the fundamentals of speech therapy in the course of their studies, and more specifically about its content and functions, about the stages and conditions of proper speech development, about the essence of particular speech disorders and delayed development of speech, as well as about prevention and norms of effective cooperation of pedagogues, caretakers and teachers with speech therapists. The course Speech Therapy was run by Andrzej Lewandowski MA until 1988, and since February 1989 it has been run by Ewa M. Skorek PhD, who was joined some time later by Zdzisława Janiszewska-Nieścioruk PhD.

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Postgraduate studies *Pedagogical Therapy*

In 1999 the first edition of *Postgraduate Studies in Pedagogical Therapy* was started. The course is designed for preschool, primary school and secondary school teachers, school pedagogues and caregivers in educational institutions, who are also graduates of MA or BA courses with pedagogical training.

Graduates receive a certificate of completion of postgraduate studies in the field of pedagogical therapy, which confirms their qualifications for running specialist individual therapy classes, as well as corrective/compensative workshops for children, adolescents and adults with specific learning difficulties (the qualification was formerly known as a pedagogue therapist, and nowadays it is labelled as: a specialist pedagogical therapy teacher).



Photo 1. The 5th edition students of the *Postgraduate Pedagogical Therapy Studies* during a lecture in Music Therapy.

The course lasts 3 terms encompassing 370 hours of theoretical and practical training. So far 283 graduates have completed the course and a new, 10th edition started in 2011/2012.

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Ewa M. Skorek was the founder of the course as well as the author of its curriculum. She has been the head of the studies since the first edition until now.

Postgraduate studies *Speech Therapy with Pedagogical Therapy* and postgraduate studies *Speech Therapy with Voice Emission*

In 2003 a 3-term course of *Postgraduate Studies of School Speech Therapy with Pedagogical Therapy* was started at the Department of Pedagogical and Social Sciences of the University of Zielona Góra, which in the same academic year was converted into a 4-term *Postgraduate Studies of Universal Speech Therapy with Pedagogical Therapy*, and in the following year into *Postgraduate Studies of Speech Therapy with Pedagogical Therapy*.



Photo 2. Students of the 1st edition of Postgraduate Studies in Speech Therapy with Pedagogical Therapy.

The postgraduate studies *Speech Therapy with Voice Emission* were started in 2009/2010. The course is designed for graduates of MA or BA studies. Its students receive a certificate of completion of postgraduate studies in the field of speech therapy with voice emission, which gives

them qualifications to work as speech therapists at all educational and medical institutions, as well as at private speech therapy surgeries, and to run classes of voice projection and voice emission with elements of rehabilitation. Additionally, students who have qualifications to teach may run classes of Voice Emission at Pedagogical Departments and Teachers' Training Colleges.

The course lasts 4 terms (2 years), now encompassing 770 hours of theoretical and practical training (the former four editions featured 830 hours). So far 6 editions of Speech Therapy with Pedagogical Therapy have been completed since 2003 with 266 graduates. In 2010/2011, the 6th edition started (now Year 2 with 66 students) and in 2011/2012, the 7th edition (now Year 1 with 70 students). The course Speech Therapy with Voice Emission has so far been completed by 35 students.

The curriculum of both specializations features 50 subjects grouped in 5 clusters: psychological fundamentals of speech therapy, linguistic fundamentals of speech therapy, medical fundamentals of speech therapy, pedagogical fundamentals of speech therapy (these clusters are introduced in Year 1) and a cluster of strictly therapeutic subjects is introduced in Year 2. All courses are run by highly valued university lecturers and practicing speech therapists working on an everyday basis in various therapeutic institutions.

The accompanying system of internships for students must be regarded as an additional asset of the whole course. Students practise directly with teachers running methodology classes and participate in rehabilitation workshops for people with various dysfunctions in language communication (e.g. adults after strokes or laryngectomy and children with acute developmental disorders).

Dr Ewa M. Skorek was the founder of the courses *Speech Therapy with Pedagogical Therapy* and *Speech Therapy with Voice Emission*, as well as the author of their curricula. She has been the head of the studies since the first edition until now.

Cooperation with other academic institutions

The long-lasting experience of organizing postgraduate studies of pedagogical therapy and speech therapy constitutes an invaluable source of contacts with Polish and foreign academic institutions. Currently, we are cooperating with the Medical University of Lublin, the University of Hradec Kralove, the University of Riga and the University of Bratislava. The effects of mutual projects are apparent in English-speaking collective publications, such as: *Environmental Difficulties in Schoolchildren with Speech Disorders...* and *Case Study in Speech-Language Pathology...*, as well in the latest venture in our department involving the publication of the Internet periodical *Journal of Speech and Language Pathology*.

Research projects

Each of the successive editions of our postgraduate studies is accompanied by research projects involving students of postgraduate courses, didactic personnel as well as mutual colleagues from other academic institutions (Ewa M. Skorek is the head of all projects):

1) 3 international projects:

- 2009-2010 *Case Study in Speech-Language Pathology* (completed),
- 2009 *The Quality of Life of People with Language Communication Disorders* (completed),
- 2006 *Environmental Difficulties in Schoolchildren with Speech Disorders* (completed);

2) 6 national projects:

- 2009-2012 *Contemporary Problems of Diagnosis and Speech Therapy Methodology* (in progress),
- 2009–2010 *Preventive Logopaedic Treatment at Preschools* (completed),
- 2009–2010 *Methods of Phoneme Elicitation* (completed),
- 2007 *Research on Stuttering – Psycho-Social Condition of Children who Stutter at School Age* (completed),
- 2004 *Optimization of the Therapeutic Process* (completed),
- 2002 *Psycho-Social Condition of Children with Learning Difficulties* (completed).

The findings of the projects have been published in, e.g. *Research on Stuttering in Pre-school and School Children...* and *Life Quality in Children with Speech Disorders...*, as well as in monographs: *Profiles of Life Quality in Children with Language Communication Disorders*, *Methods of Phoneme Elicitation*, and *Preventive Measures and Therapy of Respiratory Dysfunctions in Children*.

Academic Seminars

The abovementioned speech therapy and pedagogical therapy research projects ingrained in the structure of postgraduate studies have been accompanied by academic seminars:

- International Academic Seminar "The Quality of Life of People with Language Communication Disorders" (26–29 June 2008, Zielona Góra – Radzyń near Sława);
- International Academic Seminar: "Case Study in Speech-Language Pathology" (2–4 Oct. 2009, Zielona Góra – Łagów Lubuski),
- Academic Seminar: "Methods of Diagnosis and Speech Therapy" (30 June 2010, Zielona Góra – Garbicz);
- Academic Seminar: "Contemporary Problems of Pedagogical Therapy. Selected Issues" (29 Jan. 2011, Zielona Góra – Łagów Lubuski).

– Academic Seminar "Stuttering. A Study of Cases" (19 June 2011, Zielona Góra – Garbicz).



Photo 3. International Academic Seminar "The Quality of Life of People with Language Communication Disorders" (26–29 June 2008, Zielona Góra – Radzyń near. Sława).

Seminars provide an excellent opportunity to become acquainted with the academic interests of others and to exchange opinions on the quality of life of people with language communication disorders and on methods of their diagnosis and therapy.

Publications

Cooperation with foreign academic institutions, the exchange of experience and ongoing academic research have found their reflection in numerous publications, which were published within the framework of the functioning of the postgraduate studies. These are:

– Skorek E. M., Rządka M., *Profilaktyka i terapia dysfunkcji oddechowych u dzieci*. Oficyna Wydawnicza Uniwersytetu Zielonogórskiego, Zielona Góra 2011, pp. 154. ISBN: 978-83-7481-370-9 (*Preventive Measures and Therapy of Respiratory Dysfunctions in Children*);

- Skorek E. M. (ed.), *Methods of Diagnosis and Speech Therapy in Logopaedics. Selected Issues. Part 1. Methods of Direct Stimulation in Speech Therapy*. University of Zielona Góra. Zielona Góra 2010, pp. 298. ISBN: 978-83-7481-343-3;
- Skorek E. M. (ed.), *Methods of Diagnosis and Speech Therapy in Logopaedics. Selected Issues. Part 2. Methods Supporting Speech Therapy*. University of Zielona Góra. Zielona Góra 2010, pp. 299. ISBN: 978-83-7481-344-0;
- Skorek E. M., Tarkowski Z. (eds.), *Case Study in Speech-Language Pathology*. Oficyna Wydawnicza Uniwersytetu Zielonogórskiego, Zielona Góra 2009, pp. 150. ISBN: 978-83-7481-292-4;
- Tarkowski Z., Skorek E. M., *Research on Stuttering in Pre-School and School Children*. Oficyna Wydawnicza Uniwersytetu Zielonogórskiego, Zielona Góra 2009, pp. 142, ISBN: 978-83-7481-266-5;
- Skorek E. M., *Life Quality in Children with Speech Disorders*. Oficyna Wydawnicza "Impuls", Kraków 2009, pp. 179. ISBN: 978-83-7308-496-4;
- Tarkowski Z., Skorek E. M. (eds.), *Environmental Difficulties in Schoolchildren with Speech Disorders*. Oficyna Wydawnicza "Impuls", Kraków 2008, pp. 150. ISBN: 978-83-7587-074-9;
- Skorek E. M. (ed.), *Terapia pedagogiczna. Wybrane zagadnienia*. Vol. 1. Oficyna Wydawnicza "Impuls", Kraków 2004, pp. 121, ISBN: 83-7308-358-8; edition II 2005, ISBN: 8373085726; edition II 2007, ISBN: 978-83-7308-859-7 (*Pedagogical Therapy. Selected Issues*);
- Skorek E. M. (ed.), *Terapia pedagogiczna. Zagadnienia praktyczne i propozycje zajęć*. Vol. 2. Oficyna Wydawnicza "Impuls", Kraków 2004, pp. 178 + CD-ROM, ISBN: 83-7308-359-6; edition II 2005, ISBN: 83-7308-571-8; edition III 2007, ISBN: 978-83-7308-857-3 (*Pedagogical Therapy. Practical Issues and Suggested Classes*);
- Skorek E. M., *100 tekstów do ćwiczeń logopedycznych*. Wydawnictwo "Harmonia", Gdańsk 2005, pp. 183, ISBN: 83-7134-195-4; edition II 2006, ISBN: 83-7134-195-4; edition III 2007, ISBN: 978-83-7134-195-3 (*100 Texts for Speech Therapy Exercises*);
- Skorek E. M., Nyczaj-Draż M. (eds.), *Dzieci z trudnościami edukacyjnymi*. University of Zielona Góra, Zielona Góra 2002, pp. 145, ISBN: 83-89048-16-7 (*Children with Educational Difficulties*);
- Skorek E. M. /selection and edition/, *Rysowane wierszyki*. Oficyna Wydawnicza "Impuls", Kraków 2002, pp. 157, ISBN: 83-7308-157-7; edition II 2005, ISBN: 83-7308-505-X; edition III 2006, ISBN: 978-83-7308-674-6; edition IV 2008, ISBN 978-83-7308-674-6 (*Drawn Poems*);

Organization of learning conditions

In 2002, in the wake of Ewa M. Skorek's initiative, the Postgraduate Studies of Pedagogical Therapy and the Postgraduate Studies of Speech Therapy with Pedagogical Therapy were complemented by a valuable addition of an *Atelier for Children with Educational Difficulties*, and since October 2007 also by a *Speech Therapy Clinic for Students*.



Photo 4. Aleksandra Pogorzelska MA during her classes of Pedagogical Therapy in the Atelier...

The atelier and the clinic constitute a complementary link in the educational process of students of the postgraduate studies in the field of speech therapy, pedagogical therapy and voice emission. They accomplish three functions: didactic, academic and tertiary:

- Didactic function – activities supporting the didactic process come down to the fact that the Atelier and the Clinic have become locations used for practice for students of the postgraduate studies of speech therapy, pedagogical therapy and voice emission, enabling first-hand contact with atypically developing children, as well as with patients displaying language communication disorders. They also provide practical preparation to future therapeutic practice;

- Academic function – classes with children, adolescents and adults inspire theoretical and empirical quests for applicable solutions in the field of various diagnostic and therapeutic methods for individuals with language communication disorders and therapies for children with specific learning difficulties. The effects of the inspiration may be found in the following publications: *Pedagogical Therapy. Selected Issues...*, *Pedagogical Therapy. Practical Problems and Suggestions for Classes...*, *100 Texts for Speech Therapy Exercises...*, *Drawn Poems...*,

- Tertiary function – cost-free provision of services involves the following: 1) systematic pedagogical therapy for children and adolescents with opinions confirming developmental dyslexia (dyslexia, dysgraphia, dysorthographia) and cost-free consultations for parents, caretakers and teachers involved with the children who display learning difficulties; 2) diagnosis and therapy; 3) individual voice emission classes

Journal of Speech and Language Pathology

On the basis of a long-lasting experience and cooperation with other academic institutions the periodical *Journal of Speech and language Pathology* was launched in the second half of 2011 at the Department of Pedagogy, Sociology and Health Sciences of the University of Zielona Góra (adjacent to the postgraduate studies of speech therapy).

The Editorial Board features many representatives of European speech therapy:

- Tatiana Akhutina PhD, Professor, Lomonosov Moscow State University (Russia),
- Zsolt Cséfalvay PhD, Associate Professor, Comenius University in Bratislava (Slovakia),
- Rositsa Iossifova PhD, New Bulgarian University in Sofia (Bulgaria),
- Péter Lajos PhD, Professor, Eötvös Loránd University (Hungary),
- Viktor Lechta PhD, Professor, Trnava University in Trnava (Slovakia),
- Karel Neubauer PhD, Associate Professor, University of Hradec Králové (Czech Republic),
- Iwona Nowakowska-Kempna PhD, Professor, Jesuit University of Philosophy and Education "Ignatianum" in Cracow (Poland)
- Ewa M. Skorek, PhD, University of Zielona Góra (Poland) – editor-in-chief
- Zbigniew Tarkowski PhD, Professor, Medical University of Lublin (Poland),
- Seyhun Topbas PhD, Professor, Anadolu University (Turkey),
- Sarmīte Tūbele PhD, Associate Professor, University of Latvia (Latvia).

The mission of the periodical is to publish reviewed academic articles, related to the broadly understood subject-matter of speech therapy: preventive measures in speech and language dysfunctions as well as difficulties with reading and writing; diagnosis and therapy of these dysfunctions; presentation of research methods and tools; psycho-social consequences of speech and language dysfunctions and the organization of therapeutic care. The periodical *Journal of Speech and Language Pathology* is biannually published online in English (January – June, July – December).

The launch of the periodical is a direct continuation of the prolific cooperation between the abovementioned academic institutions. Editors anticipate an intensified exchange of experiences and sincerely hope that it will contribute to the lasting integration of European speech therapists.