
FOREWORD

Perspectives of Comparative World Literature and Cultural Studies

Dear friends!

This is the result of a Ukrainian-Japanese research project which took place from 1 December 2020 until late January 2021 and involved students and graduate students from Poltava V.G. Korolenko National Pedagogical University (Ukraine) and Saitama State University (Japan).

This international project involved four scientific seminars on the following topic: “Perspectives of Comparative World Literature and Cultural Studies”, during which Ukrainian and Japanese students and graduate students were able to present their research in English and share their scientific and educational experience.

The seminars were organized by Doctor of Philology, Dean & Professor Susumu Nonaka (Saitama State University, Japan) and Doctor of Philology, Professor, Chair of World Literature Department, director of the Scientific and Methodological Center of English Language and Literature Studies Quality Control Olga Nikolenko (Poltava V.G. Korolenko National Pedagogical University, Ukraine).

The seminars were held online in real time by using Zoom. Thanks to modern equipment we were able to secure a stable connection between Saitama State University and the classroom of Ukrainian and Japanese friendship “Sakura”, as well as the Scientific

and Methodological Center of English Language and Literature Studies Quality Control at PNP.

During the seminars, participants presented their vivid, well-researched reports which were followed by thought-provoking discussions.

Research papers by students and graduate students were dedicated to topical issues of Japanese and Ukrainian culture, classical and modern European literature, gender issues, national traditions and art in Ukraine and Japan.

Seminar supervisors gave lectures on Japanese and European literature, namely, Dean & Professor Susumu Nonaka presented his take on some famous books by Natsume Soseki, and Professor Olga Nikolenko spoke about the development of “new drama” in Europe and feminist issues in “A Doll’s House” by Henrik Ibsen.

The summary of the series of student seminars took place on 26 January 2021 in the form of a round table, where students from Poltava V.G. Korolenko National Pedagogical University and Saitama State University exchanged their impressions and thoughts on the problems addressed in the reports.

All participants of the international Ukrainian-Japanese seminars received certificates from Ukrainian and Japanese universities.

The cooperation between Poltava V.G. Korolenko National Pedagogical University and Saitama State University began in 2012. It has now reached a new level and will further strengthen educational and scientific cooperation, develop student and teacher mobility.

On 26 January 2021, a ceremony was held to award Dean & Professor Susumu Nonaka the high title of Honorary Professor of Poltava V.G. Korolenko National Pedagogical University.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all the participants of the Ukrainian-Japanese seminars within the framework of the research project “Perspectives of Comparative World Literature and Cultural Studies” for their active participation and for the papers they submitted for publication. We hope that the publication of works by students and graduate students from Ukraine and Japan in a joint collection of research papers will encourage young people to continue their research activities and strengthen their friendship and partnership between Poltava V.G. Korolenko National Pedagogical University and Saitama State University.

Best regards

Olga Nikolenko (Poltava V.G. Korolenko National Pedagogical University, Ukraine)

Susumu Nonaka (Saitama State University, Japan)