

THE SEMINAR ON “CLARICE LISPECTOR’S CREATIVE WORKS” AT THE
NATIONAL TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF UKRAINE “KYIV POLYTECHNIC
INSTITUTE”

*“The sunflower is the great child of the sun.
So much that it is born with the instinct to turn
its enormous corolla towards its creator.
It doesn’t matter if it’s a father or mother.
I don’t know. Is the sunflower a masculine or feminine flower?
I think, masculine. But one thing is for sure: the sunflower is Ukrainian”*
Clarice Lispector

The Brazilian writer of Ukrainian descent Clarice Lispector is still little-known for the most Ukrainians which makes the seminar dedicated to Clarice Lispector’s life and creative work held on 23.10.14 at Kyivska Polytechnica is notably topical. The fact that the event was covered not only on the participants’ websites but in the weekly newspaper “Dzerkalo Tyzdnya” is the evidence of its importance.

The First Secretary of the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Brazil in Ukraine Luis Fernando Machado took the lead in carrying the seminar out. His initiative was supported by the Faculty of Linguistics, the Faculty of Sociology and Law and also by the Institute of Publishing and Printing.

The great for the KPI event was opened by Rector on Scientific and Pedagogical work Sergei Sidorenko. In his speech Mr. Sidorenko emphasized that the event is of crucial importance and thus underlined the significance of humanitarian aspect in the educational process of our university. Clarice Lispector’s life and literary heritage were described in details in the speeches of the our guests: the First Secretary of the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Brazil in Ukraine Luis Fernando Machado; the Brazilian writer, translator and specialist in the study of literature Vira Vovk; the historian of Brazilian and Portuguese literature, visiting professor of Sao Paulo University Nadia Battelle Gottlieb; and the team leader of the Department of Political

Affairs of the United Nations in Ukraine Bogdan Nagaylo. The Vice Dean of the Faculty of Linguistics Olga Demydenko was the meeting moderator.

The event was the first step to the contribution to spreading Clarice Lispector's literary heritage. The Faculty of linguistics initiated to deliver the competition for the best translation of the extract from her novel "The Hour of the Star". It was announced as far back as in June by Svitlana Kulezneva (the Head of the International Office of the faculty) who took an active part in organizing and arranging the event.

The competition was divided into two stages. At the first stage, the Committee of the Faculty of Linguistics represented by senior lecturer Svitlana Kulezneva, associate professor Serhiy Krivenko and lecturer Anna Russu (the Department of Ukrainian language, literature and culture), associate professor Natalia Glinka and lecturer Valeria Connelly (The Department of Theory, Practice and Translation of English) chose 5 winners among the participants. At the second stage the best translations were sent to the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Brazil and the independent Embassy's committee made their final decision.

According to the results Olga Gladka (the Faculty of Linguistics) took the first place, the second one was taken by Irina Pytailo (the Faculty of Chemical Engineering) and Eugenia Shumitska (the Faculty of Linguistics) took the third place. The Embassy prized the winners with the trophies and all the competitors were awarded honorable diplomas. The competitor's translations are supposed to be published in the Almanac of students' creative works of the Faculty of Linguistics and the winner's text to be posted on the Clarice Lispector Center website.

There was not only translators' proficiency that amazed the guests but also students of the Institute of Publishing and Printing who prepared 50 contest illustrations to the writer's works and representatives of the Faculty of Sociology and Law who acted the theatrical performance based on her literary heritage.

We are convinced that the seminar dedicated to Clarice Lispector was only the first step to a close co-operation among scientists and students of both countries that gives the opportunity to know her multi-sided personality. Ukraine appeared in the

writer's imagination as the land of sunflowers which turn their corollas towards Sun – their creator. Who will be Clarice Lispector for Ukraine? Would she be the symbol that unites Ukrainian and Brazilian cultures? These and many other questions have arisen for future researchers of the heritage of this incredibly talented woman.