



Peter Grzybek (22.11.1957 – 29.05.2019)

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On May 29, 2019 Peter Grzybek passed away.

Peter Grzybek was born in 1957 in Herne, Germany. His alma mater was Ruhr University Bochum, but having been awarded different scholarships, he also studied in Yugoslavia, the Soviet Union and the United States. In 1988 he defended his PhD thesis on the conception of signs in Soviet semiotics. In 1992 he moved to Graz in Austria and started working as a researcher at the University of Graz, with which he was affiliated until his death serving as the Chair of the Department of Slavic Languages, Literatures and Cultures. He also held visiting positions in Berlin and Salzburg.

Peter Grzybek was a multifaceted scholar. He left a considerable legacy in the fields of linguistics (especially important are his works on phraseology: e.g., Baur, Chlosta, Grzybek 1995, graphemes: Grzybek 2005, 2007a, 2014b, and the issues of word length and sentence length: Grzybek 2006, 2016b, Grzybek, Stadlober, Kelih 2007, Fan, Grzybek, Altman 2010), folklore studies (especially proverbs and erotic folklore: Grzybek 1995, 1999a), literary studies (e.g., a classification of authors and genres, or stylometry: Grzybek 2014a), and semiotics (Grzybek 1999b, 2007b, 2014c). He also made an important contribution to verse studies (including the study of verse rhythm in comparison with the rhythm of prose) and poetics (e.g., Grzybek 2002, 2013a, and 2013b). For him, an exact scientific approach, including the use of quantitative methods was of utmost importance (see Grzybek, Köhler 2007), and he applied them to various Germanic, Slavic and Finno-Ugric texts.

One of Grzybek's last papers (2016a) was published in *Studia Metrica et Poetica*. It focused on certain linguistic aspects of traditional Estonian poetic texts – the folk song *Vana kannel* and the epic *Kalevipoeg*. Using the methods of statistics and information theory, Grzybek studied the entropy and variability of these texts, the occurrence of different word types and the correlation between word lengths and verse lengths.

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Peter Grzybek was also an energetic organizer of scholarly research. He was the editor or a member of the editorial board of several academic journals, the founder of several book series, and a participant in many research teams.

A scholar with a broad range of expertise, Peter was also a very active and prolific promoter of science. His wide knowledge, enthusiasm and kindness were contagious. *Studia Metrica et Poetica* will miss our friend and contributor.

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