

In Memory of Ladislav Drozdík*

Zuzana GAŽÁKOVÁ

Professor PhDr. Ladislav Drozdík, CSc. (born March 3, 1930 in Nová Baňa) was a prominent linguist, teacher, and translator who inspired many people and made important contributions to the field of Arabic studies in Slovakia. In the year 2020 he would have celebrated his ninetyeth birthday if he had not passed away on the 4th of March 2017.¹

In 1953 he was awarded a Master's degree (Mgr.) in Slovak language and Semitic philology from the Faculty of Arts of the Comenius University in Bratislava. Immediately thereafter he was offered a position at the Semitic Seminar, where he worked as the assistant to Professor Ján Bakoš, whom he later succeeded. Throughout his active academic career, the Faculty of Arts was his permanent intellectual home, and in the years from 1992–1995 he served as the head of the Department of Classical and Semitic Philology. Moreover, after his retirement, he remained very active, and in the years from 1997–2003 he taught Arabic at the newly established Arabic Department at the Faculty of Arts of the Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica. He also accepted an offer to become a research fellow at the Institute of Oriental and African Studies of the Slovak Academy of Sciences.

During his long academic career, Professor Drozdík concentrated primarily on research in the field of linguistics and sociolinguistics. He realised that the lexicon is the most dynamic and variable linguistic domain of Modern Written Arabic. Therefore, he explored lexical innovations and evolutionary trends of Arabic, mainly the most productive procedures of word-formation – derivation and lexical innovation by means of borrowing. As an admirer of Arabic literature, he

* The present contribution followed by Bibliography of Works by Ladislav Drozdík is published as a part of the VEGA 1/0611/20 grant project of the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of the Slovak Republic. It is in a way a condensed and updated version of the part of the bachelor thesis of BROWN, Fiona Sophia: *The Life and Legacy of Ladislav Drozdík*. Bratislava: Univerzita Komenského 2020, 61 pp. The thesis was supervised by Zuzana Gažáková. We would like to give special thanks to the children of Professor Drozdík – Vojtech Drozdík, Ján Drozdík and Katarína Madison –, who not only devoted precious time to extensive interviews but also lent us materials from the personal archive of their father, thus making our research possible.¹

translated a number of works of both classical and modern Arabic literature into Slovak, including poetry. Unfortunately, despite playing such a decisive role in the development of Arabic studies in our country, his scientific articles and translations from Arabic literature are, perhaps unjustly, lesser known. We also have to keep in mind that during his lifetime academic work was very difficult, and the community of Slovak orientalists was very small. Moreover, the foreign scientific literature was not as accessible as it is nowadays, not to mention the fact that the evolution of digital technologies, which are so helpful to researchers nowadays, was still in its infancy. Therefore, in our following contribution we would like to pay tribute to this exceptional man with a very special feel for foreign languages, focusing on his remarkable achievements in the field of Oriental studies in the form of a detailed bibliography of his works.²

Zuzana Gažáková
Univerzita Komenského v Bratislave
Filozofická fakulta
Katedra klasickej a semitskej filológie
Gondova ul. 2
SK-81102 Bratislava
zuzana.gazakova@uniba.sk

Abstracts

In Memory of Ladislav Drozdík

Zuzana GAŽÁKOVÁ

This opening chapter pays tribute to the distinguished Slovak Arabist and linguist, Professor Ladislav Drozdík who would have celebrated his ninetieth birthday in 2020. In a concise manner, it outlines the milestones of his significant career and serves as an introduction to the following bibliography of his scholarly works.

[Ladislav Drozdík in memoriam]

V otváracom príspevku si pripomínáme okrúhle 90. výročie narodenia významného slovenského jazykovedca a arabistu, profesora Ladislava Drozdíka. V krátkom sumári uvádzame míľniky jeho významnej kariéry, ktoré nám slúžia aj ako úvod k nasledujúcej časti zameranej na bibliografiu jeho vedeckých prác.

²¹ The thorough contribution dedicated chiefly to Professor Drozdík's life and his scholarly career has already been published in the journal of Institute of Oriental Studies, Slovak Academy of Sciences, see BROWN, Fiona Sophia, GAŽÁKOVÁ, Zuzana: The Life and Legacy of Professor Ladislav Drozdík. In: *Asian and African Studies*, Vol, 30, no. 2 (2021), pp. 462–472.