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Farewell to the professor of UKW in Bydgoszcz, member of the Scientific Council of "Studies in Educational Theory" Ewa Danuta Kubiak-Szyborska

When outstanding academic scientists from the pedagogical community, teachers of teachers, and in this case friends of student youth, who conduct research that allows them to learn more deeply and better understand their dilemmas, who selflessly devoted their time, formal and informal involvement in ensuring that candidates for the profession of pedagogue, teacher are satisfied with the course of their studies, our hearts ache especially. Such was the case of prof. Ewa Danuta Kubiak-Szyborska, PhD, DSc, from the Kazimierz Wielki University in Bydgoszcz, who also supported our journal by preparing reviews of submitted articles. She had been retired since 2023, but this did not eliminate her need and interest in the life, successes and problems of her alma mater and the development of educational theory as a discipline of pedagogical sciences.

The highly valued Professor of the Institute of Pedagogy has passed away. She began her academic career after completing her studies in pedagogy in 1975, first as an assistant at the Higher School of Pedagogy, and after defending her doctoral dissertation, which she prepared on the topic of "Psychosocial conditions for the professional stabilization of teachers of defensive training" - as an assistant professor in the educational theory team. At scientific conferences organized in this scientific subdiscipline, she presented the results of her own basic research, because they concerned conceptual categories, the teleology of education, the essence of the process and methods of education. She brilliantly combined scientific theories with the deontology of the teaching profession.

She obtained her postdoctoral degree in the field of humanities, in the discipline of pedagogy at the Faculty of Social Sciences of the University of Gdańsk, where in 2004 she submitted her scientific achievements for assessment, including her postdoctoral dissertation entitled "The subjectivity of academic youth. A study of the subjective status of students in the period of transformation". From 2005, she headed the Department of Educational Theory and Teacher Deontology for almost fourteen years. Her exceptional dedication to organizational matters at the Faculty of Pedagogy and Psychology of the Bydgoszcz Academy in the years 2003-2008 was demonstrated by her taking on the extremely demanding function of vice-dean for full-time studies, and yet, while getting used to administrative duties, she was preparing for the habilitation procedure. She reconciled this beautifully, which is not at all easy with such burdens. As the author of significant scientific monographs, she created in her team the Bydgoszcz school of research in the field of theoretical foundations of education and pedeutology, referring in a way to one of the fundamental principles in education that oblige every educator, teacher, pedagogue to be an authentic personality for their charges, radiating to them not only moral autonomy, but also serenity, personal passion, interests or pragmatic, artistic, craft, technical, etc. skills that aroused their admiration.

Professor E. Szymborska-Kubiak of the UKW knew perfectly well those to whom she addressed the results of her research, conducting arduous studies of the literature on the subject concerning - as she wrote - "the arduous everyday life of transformation". The change of the political system implied the need for changes, first of all, in the theory of education, which had to free itself from the stigma of the monistic, servile totalitarian power of the Polish People's Republic, socialist pedagogy. She had an excellent social ear, so her treatises were a fundamental departure for theories of education in a society undergoing systemic transformation, open, pluralistic, overcoming the dissonance between enslavement and freedom. Her treatises open up a space for a broad and open to cultural, worldview and ideological differences constant renewal of debates, discussions on the scientific foundations of education, both in the formal-lexical and theoretical-methodological plane.

In the pages of "Studies in the Theory of Education", we addressed the need reported by E. Kubiak-Szymborska to verify the subject of research on the theory of education in light of new socio-cultural phenomena, fashions, trends, pop culture penetrating socialization, as well as to include experts from other sciences, pedagogical disciplines bordering on or other pedagogical subdisciplines in educational research teams. In the above scope,

together with Dariusz Zajac, she published an interesting selection of texts and developed them under a common thematic scope "). These are also excellent collections of debates among educational researchers, such as: "On educators and education. The perspective of pedagogical thinking" (ed., 2010); "Theory of education in the period of transformation" (co-ed. Zajac, 2008). We will reach for such important works of this pedagogue as: "Basic problems of the theory of education. The context of contemporary transformations" (co-authored by Zajac, 2006), which is a deepening of the earlier co-authored monograph entitled "Around the basic issues of educational theory" (2002) and "Education. In the circle of questions" (co-author Zajac, 2013). E. Kubiak-Szymborska's research in the academic environment continues to inspire, inspiring her continuation in the higher education pedagogy environment. The monographs of the deceased educator are important here: "The subjectivity of academic youth. A study of the subjective status of students in the transformation period" (2003); "Academic teachers - students. Between partnership and apparent contact" (2005).

The Bydgoszcz Professor left the offline world, but she is with us on the pages of her dissertations and collective monographs, in our memory, memories of joint meetings and discussions, which carry with their content an important and timeless scientific, cultural, and therefore pedagogically valuable message. We will remember prof. Ewa Kubiak-Szymborska as a wonderful Colleague, Collaborator, Scholar, who from the beginning of the journal "Studia z Teorii Wychowania" took care of the highest possible level of published articles in the Scientific Editorial Board of our quarterly. She aptly combined theories of education with teacher deontology, drawing the attention of our community to the need to "discover the educator", which is a fundamental premise next to the imperative of discovering the child. As she wrote: "The effects and "power" of education depend to a large extent on what the educators (responsible for upbringing) will be" (2010, p. 8).

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