Bogusław Śliwerski
Poland

**In Memory of Professor Czesław Kupisiewicz
Honorary Editor of “The New Educational Review”
Real Member of the Polish Academy of Sciences**

DOI: 10.15804/tner.2015.42.4.25

On the 5th of November 2015, CZESŁAW KUPISIEWICZ passed away to do his eternal duty, an eminent educationalist, member of the Polish Academy of Sciences, retired professor of the University of Warsaw and Maria Grzegorzewska University, the author of several dozen monographic studies on general didactics, comparative pedagogy, educational policy and history of pedagogical thought as well as hundreds of scientific contributions published in renowned Polish and international journals.

Already during his lifetime, Professor Czesław Kupisiewicz became one of the classics of the pedagogical thought, famous not only for a vast scope of the scientific research carried out but also for making the best use of the experience and wisdom of the masters of his generation, gained throughout his long life of dramatic occurrences and, last but not least, the author of a frequently reissued academic textbook. Thousands, or shall we say dozens of thousands of teachers, studied his excellent treatises on the theory of education or pupil school failure. In his own opinion, it was a paradox to fight school failure together with those who actually had contributed to it.

He passed away at the age of 91, a scientist, the teacher of teachers and the educationalist of educationalists; a man of letters and master of the Polish language, whose perfect scientific narration not only complied with the highest methodological standards of liberal arts and social science but was comprehensible and convincing.

Let me recall, following the publishing chronology, the works of the professor, fundamental for the pedagogical science: “On Efficacy of Problem Teaching” (1960) “, “Teaching Failures. Reasons and some Improvement Measures” (1964),

“Preventing School Year Repetition” (1966), “Programmed Teaching” (1966), “Essentials of General Didactics” (1973), “Programmed Teaching in Higher Education” (1974), “Methods of Didactic Programming” (1974), “Educational Transformations Worldwide (1978), “The Education System During Reconstruction” (1982), “The Paradigms and Visions of Educational Reforms” (1985), “Directions of the Education System Reconstruction in the Industrialized Countries” (1988), “Outline of the Education System Reconstruction in Poland” (1988), “School Reform Concepts in the Eighties” (1992), “Proposals and Directions of School Reforms in the USA, the UK and Poland at the Turn of the Eighties and Nineties:” (1994), “School Reform Concepts in some Selected Countries of the World at the Turn of the Eighties and Nineties:” (1995), “On the School Reform. A Selection of Studies and Articles 1977–1999 (1999)”, “The Question of Educating. A Selection of Studies and Articles (1999)”, “Selected Problems of Pedagogical Theory and Practice on the Eve of the 21st Century (2003), “World Projects of Educational Reforms” (2006), “School of the 21st Century” (2006), “Sketches from the History of Didactics” (2010), “From the Theory and Practice of Education” (2012), “Didactics. Academic Textbook” (2012).

We shall proudly admit that Czesław Kupisiewicz was one of the most eminent intellectuals and the greatest thinker of Polish pedagogy in the 20th and throughout the first decade of the 21st centuries. An unattainable example for the generations of scientists to come, he never contented himself with the achieved degrees and titles, the positions held and academic responsibilities taken, but continued to enrich his accomplishments with new studies and novel areas of scientific insight, sharing his cognitive passions and encouraging changes in the widely understood educational theory and practice. His comparative studies of pedagogy presented the education systems worldwide, emphasizing the role of development tendencies, which should be recognized not only by educationalists and policy makers but also by the public.

Not everybody knows that Professor Czesław Kupisiewicz was involved in the effort for new initiatives of the Committee for Pedagogical Science, Polish Academy of Sciences. Three years ago the members of the Committee met with the Professor, declaring their intention to write an academic textbook, each in his discipline of pedagogical science. Then, the Professor not only shared his historical and cultural knowledge on the essence of an academic textbook, its functions, roles, the importance of visualization of knowledge, the role of didactic measures taken to educate a candidate for the profession of an educationalist, but also pointed to the obstacles he had faced when working on his textbooks.

His intellectual support contributed to the publication of a dozen or so of textbooks, issued under the auspices of the Committee for Pedagogical Science, Polish Academy of Sciences, where the authors attempted faithfully to make the best use of the art of academic dissemination of knowledge. A national conference to commemorate the 110th anniversary of professor Bogdan Suchodolski, held at HUMANITAS University, the Rector of which, Jerzy Kopel, PhD, was his friend, was the last public focus on his own biographic studies devoted to an outstanding humanist and educator of culture.

Let me express my gratitude for enriching our milieu with the timeless values, for the art of shaping pedagogy on the very highest level, for obliging us to accept the mission and take joint responsibility for the educational reforms, those including the ability and criteria of reasonable criticism of the authorities, should they make any evident mistakes.

Let him rest in peace. A number of his followers shall never give up his scientific heritage, ready to reconstruct, analyse, advance and discuss his work on a new, global scale.

*Prof. Bogusław Śliwerski, PhD.
Member of the Presidium of Central Commission
for the Scientific Degrees and Professor Title
President of the Committee of the Pedagogical
Sciences of the Polish Academy of Sciences*