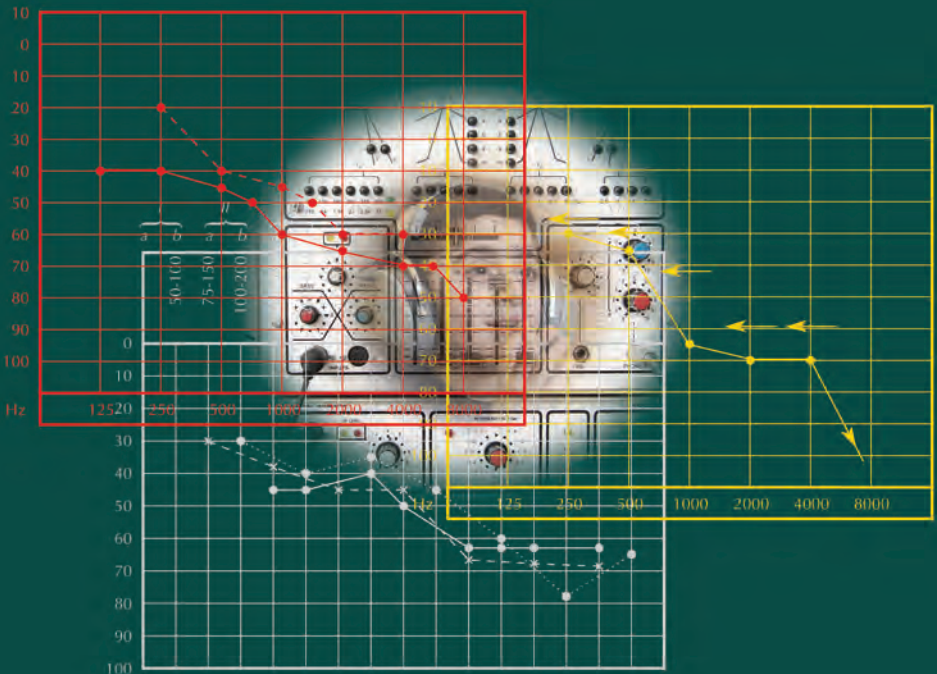


Petar Guberina

The Verbotonal Method



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Editor

CLAUDE ROBERGE



ARTRESOR
NAKLADA

ZAGREB, 2013

*Publication of this book was made possible due to the financial help
of the Graduate Association of the French Language Department,
Sophia University, Tokyo.*

ISBN 978-953-6522-84-2 – ArTresor naklada
ISBN 978-953-95195-9-7 – SUVAG

A CIP catalogue record for this book is available from the National and
University Library in Zagreb under the number 833562.

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Contents

Taking Flight (CLAUDE ROBERGE)	5
1. Insertion of the Verbotonal Method in Our Time	9
2. Use of the Tactile Sense in the Understanding of Speech	25
3. The Principle of Optimality	31
4. Hearing and Articulation from the Verbotonal Method Viewpoint (PETAR GUBERINA, JUGOSLAV GOSPODNETIĆ)	43
5. Phonetic Rhythms in the Verbotonal System	51
6. The Verbotonal Method and its Application to the Rehabilitation of the Deaf	65
7. The Audio-visual Structuro-global Method	87
8. Structuring and Overtaking of Perception and Psycholinguistic Structures According to the Structuro-global Audio-visual Methodology (S.G.A.V.) . . .	125
9. Theoretical Foundations of the Audio-visual Structuro-global Method (Saint-Cloud Zagreb Method) – A Linguistics of Speech –	151
10. The Learning of Foreign Languages According to Age	175
11. Integration of Hearing Impaired Children into Regular Schools through Speech Communication	209

12. Forty Years of Research in the Fields of Foreign Language Teaching and Speech Hearing Rehabilitation.	219
13. Importance and Nature of Intonation.	235
14. A Few Remarks Concerning Body Movements and Musical Stimulations According to the Verbotonal Method.	255
15. Is it Possible to Become a Fluent Bilingual?.	263
16. Problems Concerning the Use of Residual Sight by the Visually Handicapped	273
17. The Role of the Body in Learning Foreign Languages.	279
18. Reeducation of Hearing and Speech from the Dynamic Diagnosis Viewpoint	291
19. Universal Functioning of the Brain: Facility and Difficulties in Learning a Second Language.	307
20. Intelligibility of Speech through Low Frequencies (PETAR GUBERINA, MIRJANA SIMIĆ)	321
21. Speech and Space	349
22. Philosophy, Principles and Developments of the Verbotonal Method	363
23. The Idea of Structure in the Audio-visual Structuro-global Methodology	381
24. Early Diagnosis and Early Rehabilitation – The Role of the Body –	391
25. Speech as the Foundation of all the Organizational Elements of the Zagreb School of Phonetics	403
26. Creativity and Rehabilitation.	425
27. Philosophy of the Verbotonal System.	447

28. Petar Guberina, a Patriarch, Forefather, Visionary, and Prophet (MIHOVIL PANSINI)	463
Bibliography of Professor Petar Guberina	475
Main Specific Expressions Used for the Understanding of the Verbotonal System (CLAUDE ROBERGE)	477
Verbotonal Method Terminology – Index	491
Short Biography of Professor Claude Roberge	503

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Publisher

ARTRESOR NAKLADA
Šulekova 4a, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia
www.artresor.hr

Co-Publisher

POLIKLINIKA SUVAG
Ljudevita Posavskog 10, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia
www.suvag.hr

Design & Layout

FRANJO KIŠ

Proof-reading

IVAN MATKOVIĆ

Pre-press

ARTRESOR NAKLADA, ZAGREB

Printed by

TISKARA ZELINA D. D., SV. IVAN ZELINA

Printed in Croatia

2013

*Publication of this book was supported by Ministry of Science,
Education and Sports of the Republic of Croatia.*



Dr PETAR GUBERINA

(1913-2005)

Dr Guberina was born on May 22, 1913 in Šibenik, Croatia, on the

Adriatic Sea. He finished high school there, studying Latin and Greek among other subjects.

He graduated from the University of Zagreb in French and Latin (1935) and continued studying French at the Sorbonne, where he obtained his doctorate. His thesis, prepared under the guidance of Dr Pierre Fouché, but mainly Dr Jules Marouzeau, was named *Valeur logique et valeur stylistique des propositions complexes*. This research already opened the way to the linguistics of speech by stressing rhythm, intonation, and gestures as optional features of languages and therefore of their learning. Such an approach put Dr Guberina in contact with the Geneva School (Ferdinand de Saussure – Jean Piaget).

In 1951 he became professor at the Faculty of Liberal Arts at the University of Zagreb, where he continued teaching until 1983. In the beginning, he was a teacher of French and the Dean of the Department of Romance Languages (1951-1965). In 1954, he started the Institute of Phonetics, and the phonetic course the following year. He remained director of the Institute until 1983. From that time on, he devoted his activities to research.

His research in “the linguistics of speech” revolutionized the teaching of modern languages and led him to the Structuro-global Audio-visual method (SGAV) with Paul Rivenc from CREDIF.

From that time on, this method was introduced worldwide in the field of biological and human sciences. The Verbotonal Method was developed in every continent. A great number of institutions (many hundreds of them) all over the world have adopted the principles and ways of the Verbotonal System and have been using the

electroacoustic instruments, specializing in the field of rehabilitation and training of hearing impaired subjects, of children with speech handicaps as well as in the therapy of adult subjects with speech handicaps.

The basic principles of the Verbotonal System are also found as the basic components of all modern methods of teaching foreign languages and are the starting points generally acknowledged by the electroacoustic producers and publishers of acoustic material and hearing aids.

The bibliography of the Verbotonal System contains more than 6,100 titles written in 20 languages.

Professor Guberina was a Member of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts from 1963. He became the director of the Poliklinika SUVAG (formerly the Center SUVAG), founded in 1961. He became its scientific and technical adviser.

From 1982, the SUVAG Center has been known worldwide as a center for the development and training of the Verbotonal System for scholars of many international research projects, among them, four financed by the American government. The most important one was *Restricted Bands of Frequencies in the Auditory Rehabilitation of Deaf* (1961).

As a scientific expert, he was appointed (in 1989) to work on a project of the European Union called “COST 219” concerning the hearing improvement of handicapped subjects.

In 1992, within the TEMPUS Program, a subject linked with the Verbotonal training (*Pathology of Hearing and/or Speech: Teaching of Foreign languages*) and the organization of the graduate studies program (MA studies) were established. This program includes the cooperation of the University of Zagreb School of Medicine and four countries of the European Union: Belgium, France, Italy and Spain.

Professor Guberina also served during a period of many years as a visiting or expert professor for UNICEF, UNESCO, the United Nations, and the World Health Organization.

In France, Professor Guberina received two Légion d’Honneur awards:

- Chevalier in 1968,
- Officier in 1989.