

Interview with Ukrainian Newspaper

1. Some personal information: Name, age, etc.

My name is Reima Sado Al-Jarf, Muslim, Arab, Saudi Arabian, divorced, female. I measure age by achievements and how old we feel inside. In that sense I am 20.

2. Is this your first visit to Ukraine? To Gorlovka?

This is my second visit to Ukraine and first visit to Horlovka. I came to Ukraine last year for the 8th TESOL Ukraine Conference in Vinnytsia.

3. Did you have any fears? Or any expectations before coming here?

I did not have any fears or expectations before coming to Ukraine as I have prior experience.

4. Did the expectations about the conference come true?

The conference was more than I expected. There were improvements in the conference venue, services and hospitality. The computer lab and internet connection were better than last year.

5. What institute do you represent

I work at the College of Languages and Translation, King Saud University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

6. What is your field of activities at the institute?

I am a professor. I teach English language, translation and interpreting courses, serve on college and university committees, provide educational consultations, serve on M.A. thesis examination committees, participate in national, regional and international conferences, evaluate conference proposals

for national and international conferences, and evaluate grant proposals, research papers and books and other academic and administrative tasks.

7. What are your hobbies?

Reading, aerobic exercise, photography and traveling.

8. Do you like to travel? What countries did you visit? Which one did you like most?

Very much. I have been to 40 states in the U.S.A. and several provinces in Canada, and Mexico. In Europe, I have toured Britain (England, Scotland, Wales), Ireland, France, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Austria, Holland, Belgium, Luxembourg, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Spain, Portugal, Liechtenstein, San Marino, Monaco, Hungary, Turkey, Ukraine, Greece. In Asia, I have been to Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Hong Kong, the Philippines, Macau, China, and Korea. I have been to Australia and New Zealand and few Arab countries like Jordan, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Morocco, and Egypt. I have visited more than 50 universities in those countries. Each of these countries is unique and each has added to my repertoire of knowledge and experiences.

9. Some words about your research work.

My research interests are: Use of technology in teaching and learning, reading in the native language and second language, error analysis, reading curriculum and textbook design, and test construction. I have 3 published books and more than 30 published articles in English and Arabic. I have given 50 presentations and attended 90 conferences in USA, UK, Greece, Ukraine, Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, Greece, UAE, Jordan, Egypt, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia.

10. Some wishes for the people who live in Gorlovka, for the students who study at the Gorlovka State Pedagogical Institute for Foreign Languages.

You have a beautiful country, great culture, long history and wonderful human relations skills. I wish Ukrainian people could promote tourism in their country to give people from around the world a chance to visit their country.

11. Some wishes for the students who study at the Gorlovka State Pedagogical Institute for Foreign Languages.

I liked the students at the Gorlovka State Pedagogical Institute for Foreign Languages. They are active, enthusiastic and did a great job at the conference, and were smiling all the time. I liked the student journalists who interviewed me for their hard work and professionalism. They were able to write, edit, typeset and print their newsletter in a matter of few hours and hand it out before the end of the conference. I wish them all a bright future.

Special thanks are due to Iryna and Helena who escorted me, entertained me, and took care of me throughout my stay in Gorlovka. They shared with me information about educational, social and cultural life in Ukraine.

12. What is the funniest thing that ever happened with you in Ukraine?

I cannot recall any.

13. What did you like most while being here? What didn't you like most while staying here?

I liked peoples' hospitality, friendliness and helpfulness. I do not like the fact that many people smoke as I am severely allergic to cigarettes. Some people do not queue and do not wait for you. They push whether at the airport or on the plane. I do not like spitting in the streets which is unhygienic.

14. Are there any things left that you wanted to do but didn't during your stay?

No.

15. Plans for the future?

I am giving a presentation at TESOL Arabia in March, 2 presentations at 2 conferences in Riyadh, and another at a conference in USA in June. I would love to come to Crimea in the summer to teach there.

16. What will you do after the conference?

I will go home, get ready for the spring semester which starts February 7. I have to finish a couple of conference presentations and papers.

17. Did you exchange experience? Did you get to know some new, important, useful information at the conference?

Of course. I have many enriching conversations with Ukrainian colleagues and students who attended the conference and sat in my workshops. I enjoyed talking and listening to Muslim students from Crimea who attended my workshop and invited me to visit their university in Semferopol.