

When I was asked to write few sentences about Hristo Kyuchukov, it seemed to me as a simple task. Later on, after my first drafts, I have realized that this won't be as easy as I was thinking. What can I write about a man I know personally only for last three years and even during this period, our cooperation is from the half based on e – mails and other types of indirect communication. Of course, there are already twenty monographs, hundreds of scientific papers published, number of professional activities on international level, successful academic career and many more. All these things mentioned are well known facts. On the field of Roma language and culture and on the field of linguistic in general, Hristo Kyuchukov is globally recognized authority. But this is an image of Hristo I know only rarelv. Not that I would never have the opportunity to see him work or to get to know his views and ideas. Not that I wouldn't respect his achievements and his contribution to scientific knowledge. It's only that whenever I spend my time with him, doesn't matter if we are currently working on some academic issues or just having some non – formal conversation during a coffee break, my strongest impression of Hristo is, that he is a very kind - hearted, honest and modest person. This is how I see him above all. And this is the reason, why I would like to focus my description of this outstanding man on a huge human aspect of his personality.

It was several years ago when I met Hristo Kyuchukov for the first time on the floor of our institute. At the time I knew about him only that he is the new associated professor of Roma language, well known professional in this field, coming to our faculty from Bulgaria. As a regular student, I had no bigger interest to search for more detailed information about this person. I was only hoping that when it comes to examination he won't be so strict. But there were some visible differences between him and the rest of our pedagogical stuff. And when I'm speaking about differences I don't mean only his not typically Slovak look. One great man said once, that there are things known and things unknown. And between them are the Doors. When I think about this metaphor I remember that from the very first day since Hristo came to our institute, door to his office was always open. Of course only when he was present. That was something what we have not been used to. There is an unwritten rule that you have to knock first and wait before entering someone's office. All doors on our institute's floor were during the day closed, except his. That seemed to me little bit strange. I simply couldn't understand, why somebody doesn't watch his privacy and allows anyone to look over his shoulder. Later I asked him why? Now I understand that to be a good pedagogue does mean to keep your door always open. To be there for students and colleagues, answering their questions, talk about their everyday problems and help them whenever it's possible. Another thing I noticed at the time was that Hristo played down the importance of his academic titles in everyday contact. At least it seemed to me so. That was also something new for us. There is relative large power distance between staff and students in Slovak universities which reflects to high degree of formality, and this goes for all institutions or organizations in general. To use only