The two final contributions are devoted to the situation of a language and its respective literature outside its home territory; the language chosen is German. Lutz Götze (Saarbrücken) „On the position of the German language in the states of the CIS, the Czech Republic and Hungary“ shows that German (after English, of course) is sought after in the states of the former socialist countries. This growing demand for the teaching of German should be satisfied, if possible. Care should be taken, however, that this be done with circumspection. In no case should such a cultural policy give the impression that traditions of the past are being revived. In order to avoid this, Götze proposes an outline for a future policy of promotion of the German language. Alexander Ritter (Hamburg) „Borders between cultures and textual history: On the conditions for and the problems of dealing with German literature of the diaspora“ shows that the literature of German-speaking minorities has specific traits. It is part of a most complex cultural network, a network that is much more complicated than that of „normal“ German literature. Description and analysis have to take into consideration not only the German culture but also the respective host cultures. In writing the history of the literature of German-speaking minorities, authors have to meet not only the requirements of normal literary history; they also have to take into consideration the specific factors of the minority situation.

The various problems connected with language policy in border regions have not been (and could not be) dealt with exhaustively in the framework of the Saarbrücken conference. The symposium has shown the rich variety of aspects that have to be considered in the analysis and it has been able to study selected aspects in depth.