ABSTRACTS
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Research Articles

THEORY, HISTORY AND LITERARY CRITICISM

From Plato to Swift and Orwell, from Utopia to Dystopia

Toma Sava

Abstract:

From Plato to Marx and beyond, human kind had a constant preoccupation for bettering the world, strived for its improvement and, ultimately, aimed to create a perfect society, unaffected by change. This article discusses some well-known utopian and dystopian literary writings and aims to highlight the development of some shared major and minor themes common for both forms. The paper forwards the argument that the *utopian* is always interrelated with the *actual*.

Keywords: utopian, political organization, dystopian, social construct

The Anti-Death League

Manuela Odeta Belei

Abstract:

Kingsley Amis was the most prominent literary figure among political, cultural and social polemicists, appealing to the shifting tastes of elite and popular audiences alike. Widely remembered as a compelling person, a man of alarming appetites and energies, or as one of the funniest, cleverest or rudest men that most people had ever met, Amis enjoyed the status of a "celebrity" quoted in newspaper and periodicals, during a time when the devilish machinations of mass media had not yet given rise to the term's present-day negative or at least pejorative connotations. His work is of vital importance not only for its influence, but for the pleasure it affords, and the breadth and depth of its achievement. As for Amis the man, he was in life as he was on the page: commanding, invigorating, sparkling, and full of esprit.

Keywords: ambitious novel, death, pessimism, depressive states, providential love

Pamfil Şeicaru's Literary Portrait

Andrei Ando

Abstract:

The aim of this article is to forward critical insight into the depictions of Pamfil Seicaru`s complex personality; whether portrayed as publicist, public speaker or politician he is the subject of at least 14 literary works by Ion Agârbiceanu, Liviu Rebreanu, Cezar Petrescu, Marin Preda, Radu Tudoran, Tudor Muşatescu, Mihail Sebastian. Depending on the historical period and its relevancy for the directions and trends of Romanian literature, the works were grouped as follows: a) 1930-1945 – Ion Agârbiceanu, Liviu Rebreanu, Cezar Petrescu, Mihail Sebastian; b) 1945 – the '60s – Tudor Muşatescu, Cezar Petrescu; c) the '70s – Marin Preda, Radu Tudoran. One of the main sources of information for the present study is Silviu Angelescu's almost exhaustive endeavour dedicated the literary portrait.

Keywords: pamphlet, literary character, behaviour, motivation, name

LINGUISTICS, STYLISTICS AND TRANSLATION STUDIES

La proximidad lingüística entre idiomas como arma de doble filo. El porqué de la necesidad de una gramática contrastiva español rumano

Alberto Madrona Fernández

Linguistic Proximity between Languages as a Double-edged Sword. Arguments for a Contrastive Spanish-Romanian Grammar

Abstract:

This article presents the advantages that the proximity between languages has for teachers and students, if both are aware of them. At the same time, it highlights some of the disadvantages, such as false friends and fossilized errors, especially between Portuguese and Romanian students of the Spanish language. After reviewing some of the most recent definitions of false friends, the article examines the opinion of some scholars: managing lexical false friends is not so difficult as to manage structural ones. Consequently, the article goes on to argue for a contrastive grammar Spanish-Romanian grammar and discusses the most original features of the book written by Madrona & Pisot (2009), *Diferencias de usos gramaticales entre el español y el rumano* [*Differences of grammatical uses between Spanish and Romanian*].

Keywords: proximity between languages, false friend, fossilized error, contrastive grammar, Romanian language

Translation within TEFL:
The Nonprofessional Skill

Oana-Maria Franțescu

Abstract:

With translation used, then banned, then reinstated in TEFL, the mixed expectations employers have from prospective workers about their linguistic competence entail distinct nuances the classroom context takes in what regards translation. Boris Naimushin's concept of a fifth skill has important consequences in the shift from a secondary role of translation in support of the other four skills (reading, writing, listening, and speaking) to a purpose of its own. The paper explores the border zone between professionalized translation and learner's translation starting from Naimushin's hypothesis. It aims to support the use of translation in language teaching while warning on the implications on the labour market of the existence of non-professional translation and translators. The references to Romanian learners reflect some specific aspects in the perception of translation as part of the foreign language experience. The paper also provides a few considerations on the impact of translation on learners of different levels suggesting that, should translation be included as a fifth skill, it should ideally have its own distinct descriptors in correspondence to those of the CEFR, for each level. This is another challenge in distinguishing between professional and learner's translation, but very relevant for employers who specifically want to recruit speakers of other L2 languages for jobs other than professional translation, but involving translation competences.

Keywords: translation, teaching, competence, techniques, skills, level descriptors

Socio-Cultural Difficulties in Teaching Political and Diplomatic Language at the Preparatory Year

Andreea-Victoria Grigore

Abstract:

The aim of this paper is to present some of the social and cultural difficulties which appear during the process of teaching and learning political and diplomatic language at the Preparatory Year (Faculty of Letters, University of Bucharest). The identification of the aforementioned difficulties is based on a six-year experience in teaching this specialised language to foreign students who intend to study in Romanian different scientific areas, mainly related to law and political sciences. The paper examines various situations in which the socio-cultural background of the foreign students becomes a barrier to the proper comprehension of political and diplomatic concepts, as well as to the corresponding terminology.

Keywords: teaching difficulties, specialised language, political and diplomatic language, foreign students, socio-cultural barrier

Considérations didactiques sur l'emploi et l'omission des déterminants dans cinq langues romanes : espagnol, galicien, catalan, français et roumain

Silvia-Maria Chireac

**Didactic Reflections on the Use and Absence of the Articles in Five Romance Languages:
Spanish, Galician, Catalan, French and Romanian**

Abstract:
Since it is well known the difficulties of learners of Romance languages studying nominal phrases without articles, in this paper we will present evidence of a comparative study regarding the use and the absence of definite and indefinite articles in five Romance languages, languages which distinguish genre and number. The analyses show significant differences in the use and absence of the article in Romance languages, even if they are related languages. In this study we consider the acquisition of the article in L1 as a reference point for the acquisition of it in other Romance languages. Authors like Cenoz, 2001; Jarvis, 2003; Odlin et Jarvis, 2004; Pavlenko et Jarvis, 2002 highlight the necessity to take into account the role of other languages previously acquired. This exhaustive analysis will serve as a tool for the learners who are in contact with Romance languages for whitch the similarities of linguistic structures are not always a help in the process of language learning, but they present difficulties which must be removed from their interlanguage stuctures.
Keywords: Romance languages, linguistic distance, definite and indefinite article, interlanguage

Adapting Methods of Teaching Romanian as a Foreign Language to the Target Group

Cristina-Valentina Dafinoiu

Abstract:
The increasing number of foreigners interested in learning Romanian for various reasons (whether they come to study in Romania, they come to work in Romania or they settle permanently in this European country) had required creating and teaching a new domain: "Romanian language as a foreign language". Thus, Romanian language teachers have found themselves in the position to teach their mother tongue from a completely different perspective, something not easily achieved. And, from this viewpoint, many have rightly asked themselves about the magic formula by which the foreigner, regardless of country of origin, age, sex, occupation, social status or religion, could learn Romanian quickly and easily.

A recipe to guarantee full success, in our view, has not been found yet. Therefore, in this article we have tried to analyze how different methods of teaching Romanian language must suit the different types of course participants and their level of knowledge of Romanian. Thus, we described methods such as exposure, conversation, linguistic analysis, discovery, problem solving, demonstration, working with the textbook, teaching game, teamwork, brainstorming and exercise method.

The conclusion we have reached is that, regardless of how homogeneous a group of course participants may be, the use of a single teaching method, even if it is the most suitable for the target group, will not be able to guarantee full success; therefore, we rely on the premise that only the combination of several methods of teaching Romanian as a foreign language can bring the desired result, namely the acquiring by non-native speakers of a new language that they need to understand and speak.

Ce se (mai) ştie despre **rudari?**
(studiu sociolingvistic cu privire la situaţia rudarilor din localitatea Valea Mare, judeţul Vâlcea)

Alina-Iuliana Popescu

What do We Know about The Throughmakers? (Sociolinguistic Study on the Situation of the Romani People, from Valea Mare, Vâlcea County)

Abstract:
Over time, the research studies on those minority populations were, unfortunately, very few, limited to: Ion Chelcea, *The Throughmakers. Contributions to an ethnographical "enigma"*, Bucharest, 1943 and *The Throughmakers of the Danube Valley*, 1978; C. Serban, *Contributions to the History of the Throughmakers from Romanian Country: The Gypsies Throughmakers from the 17th to the 18th century,* in the "Magazine of History", XII, 1959, no. 2, p. 131–147); Ion Calotă, *Speech of the throughmakers from Oltenia*, Craiova, Sibla, 1974, and *The Throughmakers from Oltenia. Dialectology and linguistic geography study*, 1995. As it concerns the *băieşi,* we shall mention two reference works of some local researcher, Dorin Lozovanu, The *Romanian population from the Balkan Peninsula*, geographically human study (thesis), Iaşi, July, 2008, and Nicolae Saramandu*, Dialectal research to an unknown group of Romanian speakers: Băiaşii from the Northern Croatia*, "Phonetics and Dialectology", no. XVI, 2007.
Vasile Ursan explained in his paper that "băieşii from Jina are the gypsies who formerly worked in quarries" and Nicolae Saramandu, in his article, restrict the ethnonym only on the Roma population (Gypsies) of the Central Europe. This ethnographic and linguistic identity between *the Throughmakers* and *the Băieşi* (goldsmiths miners) we have tried to establish during the study and we have conducted research on customizing the inhabitants of the village of Valea Mare, from Vâlcea county. Linguistic differences, caught by Nicholas Saramandu, we consider minor, in opposition to many of speech similarities. Field survey, which we conducted, largely impressionistic transcribed, come to annihilate any doubts about the idea that it would be about two different populations. It is clearly an overlap both linguistic and ethnological. As for the identity of the Roma population, we are opposed to the view of Ion Calotă who talks about an identity of the two populations. We will come back, in this regard, with additional conclusions in a study on all the Throughmakers populations from Oltenia.
Keywords: investigation, sociolinguistic study, the Romani people, dialect, linguistic geography

The Geographic Origin of Romanian

Dan Ungureanu

Abstract:
Romanian shares phonetic, morphological, derivational, lexical innovations with a narrow area of Western Lombard and Vivaro-Alpin Occitan. These many arguments suggest that Romanian comes from the dialectalized Latin spoken in this area.
Keywords: Romance languages, vulgar Latin, dialects, Lombard, Occitan, Romanian, lexic

Categoria gramaticală a intensităţii
în gramaticile actuale ale limbii române

Roxana Marcu-Oniga

**The Grammatical Category of Intensity
in Contemporary Romanian Grammar**

Abstract:
The article approaches a current issue of great interest for both the theoretical and the applied linguistics. It is about the report between the properties expressed by an adjective or adverb during the act of comparison, which report has been seen as unified by traditional grammar and presented therefore undifferentiated. They were called the grammatical category of comparative or simply as comparative degree. Lately, the linguists have added the concept of intensity parallel with the comparative degree. This has led to the identification of two grammatical categories: the comparative degree and the intensity without a clear delineation to be made between them.

My article reflects the current situation in Romanian grammar. The firsts to talk about intensity and in a Romanian grammar were Vladimir Robu and Iorgu Iordan in their *Contemporary Romanian Language*, (Didactic and Pedagogic Publishing House, Bucharest, 1978). The idea was taken up in other grammar books, such as the first and second volume of the *Romanian Grammar, The Word* and *The Statement*, (Romanian Academy Publishing House, Bucharest, 2005) and *The Basic Romanian Grammar*, (Encyclopedic Universe Publishing, Bucharest, 2010). Both books led to a different solution than the one proposed by Vladimir Robu.

The information contained in this article is intended as a database for a wide analysis of an interesting issue in Romanian grammar today.

Keywords: grammatical category of intensity, adjective, adverb, contemporary Romanian grammar, traditional Romanian grammar, comparative degree, intensity degree, theoretical linguistics, applied linguistics

SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL STUDIES

Multiculturalism and the European Cultural Diversity

Flavius Ghender

Abstract:
Multiculturalism is a normative theory focused on the managing of cultural diversity in a democratic framework. The concept of collective rights lies in the centre of theory, demanding policies of recognition for minority groups, in societies reshaped for accepting 'multicultural citizenship'. Multiculturalism asks for widening of liberal democracies, ready to face new demands of cultural groups. For multiculturalists, in the absence of recognition, a person may experience losses or distortions, or may be the victim of a form of repression. Multiculturalism demands an equal status for the different cultures. The critics consider that

multiculturalism will undermine the basic principles of liberal democracy, based on individual rights and liberties and instead of promoting intercultural dialogue, will end up in policies of isolation.

Keywords: multiculturalism, cultural diversity, liberal democracy, interethnic conflict, intercultural communications, human rights, minorities

La passion de la connaissance et l'esthétique des proportions chez Matyla Ghyka

Radu Ciobotea

The Passion for Knowledge and the Estethics of Proportions
at Matyla Ghyka

Abstract:

Matyla Ghyka can be included in the series of writers saved by exile, a series including, among others, Mircea Eliade, Emil Cioran and Eugène Ionesco. Lesser-known in Romania, in comparison to the aforementioned writers, he lived a life extremely rich in events, and created work that sprung from his passion for the philosophy of numbers, for harmony in nature and arts. His books, written in exile, either in France or the United States, harmoniously complement the philosophical thinking of Mircea Eliade and Emil Cioran, without having the same impact or access to media coverage as his fellow countrymen. As a result, reading and interpreting Ghyka, a forbidden writer in communist Romania, appreciated by the interwar and postwar literary elites of Paris and New York, but still largely unknown to the public of the old and new worlds, is all the more necessary.

Keywords: ride, adventure, aesthetics, Golden section