

ABSTRACTS
Volume VIII, No. 1(15)/2017

Research Articles

THEORY, HISTORY AND LITERARY CRITICISM

La dichotomie de l'espace dans
L'Amour, la fantasia d'Assia Djébar

Monica Garoiu

Dichotomy of Space in Assia Djébar's *Fantasia: An Algerian Cavalcade*

Abstract:

Assia Djébar's literary work is based on a dichotomy of space that reflects the gender segregation in Muslim society where women are confined to the domestic space while men occupy the public space. By analyzing Djébar's autobiographical novel *Fantasia: An Algerian Cavalcade* (1985), we aim to consider the male-female binary opposition and its migration to a hybrid space centered on the French language – the language of the former colonizer. This generates what the author calls her androgynous state representing, in a Platonic sense, the union of masculine and feminine. Djébar argues that the French language allows her to cross the line that separates the sexes in Muslim society. Thus, this type of writing that refuses bipolarity generates a linguistic wandering characterized by plurality and movement.

Keywords: Assia Djébar, masculin-feminin, Algerian Francophone literature, French language, Muslim society

A Foucauldian Study of Power, Subjectivity, and Control in the
Beats' Literature and Life

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Abstract:

In the 1950s and '60s, American society operated a rampant panopticism, techniques of coercion, control, and surveillance, to make certain that every individual conformed to society and therefore was not a menace to the establishment. According to Foucault's ideas, power produces discourses and the clash of discourses leads to the change of subjectivities or consciousnesses and also to the internalization of a particular discourse. In other words, it is via creation of subjectivities that power dominates human beings. The Beats knew that the subjectivity that people assign to themselves is imaginary and illusory; it has been given to them by their culture or society and accordingly, they define themselves and only imagine that they are that sort of persons independently and take it as 'truth'. This paper strives to show that the Beats were completely cognizant of this process and through resisting the power, subjectivity, and control that society had imposed upon them tried to create new and different subjectivities, as Foucault had recommended. This imposition was so dangerous that it threatened to destroy individuality and by the same token, the Beats were dead set against it.

Keywords: Beats, control, Foucault, power, resistance, subjectivity

Implicit Meanings in Fictional Conflict Discourses: Insights from two Nigerian Novels

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Abstract:

Research on Chimamanda Adichie's literary works has been devoted to the investigation of the thematic, stylistic, lexico-semantic, discursual and pragmatic features of her texts. While the pragmatic studies of the texts have examined implicit and explicit meanings, including explicit thematisation of conflicts, in them, very little attention has been paid to the contextual examination of implicit contents of conflict discourse in her texts. This study is therefore a pragmatic exploration of implicit meanings in conflict discourses in Adichie's novels. It identifies the types of conflict that emerge in the texts and determines how they implicitly facilitate access to conflict-related thematic orientation of Adichie. All the conflict-motivated discourses in the two novels of Adichie, *Purple Hibiscus (PH)* and *Half of a Yellow Sun (HYS)*, *constituted the data for the study. These were analysed using insights from Gricean theory of implicature, which served as the theoretical framework for the study. The results indicate that pragmatic inference contributes to the realisation of implicit meanings in three broad types of conflict in the data, namely, domestic conflict, religious conflict and ethnic conflict, especially with the engagement of figurative expressions with additional meaning and non-figurative expressions with additional meaning. Figurative expressions (non-literal language usage in the data) manifest as figure of speech, especially metaphor, and proverbial expression, flouting the maxim of manner to give off implicitly thematised conflicts, namely, resistance against domestic violence, conflict of religious faith/belief, and sentiment of tribal differences. Non-figurative expressions (literal uses of language) however go with additional meanings, flouting the maxim of quantity to implicitly thematise such conflicts as clash in domestic lifestyle, conflict of religious belief, resistance against religious imposition and tribal clash-motivated inhumanity. The link between conflict types and implicit meanings in Adichie's novels obviously aids a pragmatic understanding of conflict-related issues in the texts. It therefore demonstrates the capability of Gricean pragmatics in the realisation of implicit meanings in conflict discourses in novels.

Keywords: Adichie, conflict discourses, implicit meanings, thematised conflict, conflict types, novels

Humanity Cast as the Other in the Tragedy of Life: An Ecocritical Reading of Margaret Atwood's *Surfacing*, *The Handmaid's Tale* and *Madd Addam* Trilogy

Parisa Changizi
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Abstract:

This article aims to analyze Margaret Atwood's *Surfacing*, *The Handmaid's Tale*, and *Madd Addam* Trilogy from an ecocritical perspective. Establishing the recognizable pattern of error and guilt as the point of departure, we contend that the root of the tragic understanding of human existence is environmental. Drawing on an unorthodox take on the concept of Othering in ecocritical discourse, we posit that humans perceived themselves as the marginalized Other in the tragedy of life. In this way, nature became the ultimate opponent to be feared, fought, and conquered. The exiled humanity's perception on planet earth as adversarial catapulted them to an ultimately self-destructive path most notable in Atwood's apocalyptic literature. Finally, we argue against an absolute sense of tragedy.

Atwood's stance is ultimately one of paradox: she is as much as a pessimist that she is an optimist as hope inevitably is the everlasting concomitant of tragedy.

Keywords: ecophobia, Othering, ontological fall, tragedy, evolution, *phusis*, apocalypse

LINGUISTICS, STYLISTICS AND TRANSLATION STUDIES

Cooperation and Negotiating Meaning in Communication

Adriana Vizental

Abstract:

In communication, meaning is not inherent to words alone, but is affected by a multitude of factors pertaining to the linguistic and situational context. Furthermore, as J.L. Austin suggests in his Theory of Speech Acts, or as Paul Grice argues with his Cooperative Principle and his Theory of Conversational Implicature, in the act of communication there is often a gap between what the speaker (S) says and what the speaker means. Austin demonstrates that the speaker's meaning is not carried by their words, but by their communicative intention. In his turn, Grice focuses on the way the hearer (H) manages to interpret S's message correctly despite all the indirectness that characterizes ordinary communicative exchanges. And yet, there are numerous cases when H does not manage to decode S's intended meaning successfully. The paper analyzes such instances, focusing on the causes that generate misunderstanding and on ways to solve them by negotiation.

Keywords: missing links, illocutionary force (SA), cooperation, implying/implicature, explicature, making inferences

Cuvinte de substrat? Da.

Cuvinte dacice? Nu.

Dan Ungureanu

Stratum Words? Yes

Dacian Terms? No

Abstract:

The substrate words in Romanian are assumed to be Dacian, Thracian or Balkanic. At closer inspection, many of them have cognates in Italy, which rules out a Balkanic origin; or Northern Italy and France, which indicates a Celtic origin.

Keywords: Substrate lexic, Historical Linguistics, Romanian language, Celtic

A Sociolinguistic Study of Conversations in Chinua Achebe's *A Man of the People*

Kazeem K. Olaniyan

Abstract:

This paper examines sociolinguistic features of conversational interactions among characters in Achebe's *A Man of the People*. The aim is to differ from the largely stylistic examination of the text, and therefore, to study conversations in the mediated arena of literature to see how societal structures and beliefs are projected through the voices of fictive characters. For data, all the conversations in the text were sampled and analysed, using ethnographic theories with particular reference to Hymes' SPEAKING.

Our findings reveal that social and contextual variables such as cultural norms, topics, gender, situational impositions, etc. influence the interactions between and/ or among the characters in the text. These, as our findings reveal, constrain the linguistic choices made by the characters. These social-contextual variables also facilitate readers' understanding of both the text and the world views advanced by the writer through the voices of the characters.

This paper concludes that analyzing literary texts most especially prose works using Hymes' SPEAKING aids a better understanding of the texts and the world views projected in the texts.

Keywords: Sociolinguistics, Ethnography of Communication, A Man of the People, texts, and conversational interactions

El español ¿*sueña o sueña*? Engarce interlingüístico y desviación léxico-gramatical en los hábitos expresivos de estudiantes hispanófonos rumanos (en contextos de inmigración)

Lavinia Ienceanu

Romanian as a Dead Ringer or “Dead Wringer” of Spanish? Language Convergence and Lexico-grammatical Dissimilarities in Linguistic Behaviour of Romanian Hispanophone Students (Migrants included)

Abstract:

With both Spanish and Romanian descending from a common ancestor, Latin, similarities between the two Romance sisters are a self-evident fact. And indeed, the inherent musicality of Spanish, most appealing to the Romanian ear, acts as an added incentive to an ever larger number of students acquiring it as bilinguals (L2) or as an optional subject (L3) in schools and centres for foreign languages. On the other hand, certain facilitating circumstances make it possible for some children to be actually immersed from quite an early age in the languacultural setting of the target language. A case in point provide families migrating to Spain or Latin America in search for better-paid jobs. Oddly enough, even if, admittedly, migration brings natives and foreigners closer together distance-wise, the remaining linguistic gaps to bridge are anything but few. Lending fresh support to this view is the paper at hand, which, while taking inspiration from one of the errors most frequently encountered in our teaching experience – i.e. mixing up *sonar* and *soñar* –, and amassing new evidence adduced by a national project research corpus, proposes to track down Spanish-Romanian interferences and zoom in on their structural-functional idiosyncrasies as exhibited by oral narrating skills of Romanian students at home learning SFL, on the one hand, and, on the other, of the former's fellow-countrymen resuming

speaking Romanian after spending/studying several years in Spain, as compared to emigrating Romanian natives, for whom Spanish has been promoted to the status of L1. The ultimate goal of our research, therefore, is to advance new teaching strategies meant to enhance metalinguistic awareness and catalyse acquisition of typologically related languages such as Spanish and Romanian in both major student groups under survey.

Keywords: Spanish as a Foreign Language (SFL), migration, error, bilingualism, language interference

Categoria gramaticală a determinării – elemente în litigiu

Lavinia Dălălău (Nasta)

The Grammatical Category of Determination – Disputed Elements

Abstract:

The present article addresses the controversial issues within the category of determination in Romanian language. The focus of this study will be aimed towards three important aspects: the name of the category, the members of the paradigm and the lexico-grammatical class to which this category belongs.

Keywords: grammatical category, terminology, members of the paradigm, noun, verb

Câteva considerații teoretice privind conceptele de „substitut”, „anaforă” și „proformă”

Anamaria-Bianca Teușdea Tonț

Some Theoretical Considerations on the Concepts of “Substitute”, “Anaphora” and “Proform”

Abstract:

This article regards the concepts of *substitute*, *anaphora* and *proform*. In literature, there frequently appears a theory that the terms previously named “considerably overlap”, but Romanian grammar draws no clear boundaries between these concepts. After the comparative analysis of the main definitions for the concepts of *substitute*, *anaphora/ anaphoric* and *proforms*, I found that the *anaphors/ anaphoricals* are a type of proforms and the *proforms* are a type of substitute, which proves that the target terms are not equivalent.

Keywords: anaphora, anaphoric element, grammatical substitution, proform, substitute form

God in Public: A Prolegomena to Public Theology in the Romanian Context

Corneliu Constantineanu

Abstract:

This paper intends to begin a conversation on *public theology* in the Romanian context. The launching of the *Global Network for Public Theology* and of the *International Journal of Public Theology* some 10 years represent two significant markers for this new field of study. Public theology is a serious engagement of Christian faith with the public domain in all its social, political, cultural and economic spheres of life in society. It is proposed that the engagement of theology in conversation with issues of public domain becomes not only relevant but extremely urgent if we consider the historical, post-communist, post-dictatorial, transitional context of Romania and the entire region of Central and Eastern Europe, where faith was privatized and excluded from the public discourse for many decades. It is argued that in this context one of the most important and urgent tasks of the church as well as of Christian theology is to become an authentic witness in the public realm, to proclaim and embody the gospel as public truth, i.e. a theology concerned with and addressing the *entire reality* of life in society. It is thus shown that a crucial preoccupation for Christians in Romania and in this part of the world is an articulation of a solid public theology of culture, of work, of social justice and reconciliation, a public theology for the common good and human flourishing. After a brief presentation of a particular aspect of the Romanian regarding religion and public life, the paper offers an introduction to this new field of study by looking at some definitions, characteristics, approaches and tasks of public theology.

Keywords: public theology, faith and life, society, public realm, Romania, religion

Michael the Brave: the Construction of National Hero Myth in Cinematography

Flavius Ghender

Abstract:

In this article, I will present how the figure of the Wallachian Prince Michael the Brave was transformed into a modern national hero by means of cinematography. I will start with the assumption that the movies are efficient channels for the transmission of information about history and society, values for the promotion and consolidation of political ideologies. The communist regime of Nicolae Ceaușescu considered the cinematography as efficient weapon of propaganda. I will show how by means of two movies – *Mihai Viteazul* (Michael the Brave, 1971) and *Buzduganul cu trei peceți* (The mace with three seals, 1977) – the Prince of Wallachia was transformed into a modern national hero and the author of the Romanians' national unity dream. Although the myth of Michael the Brave national hero is older, probably the work of 19th century intellectual Nicolae Bălcescu, during the communist regime the construction of Michael the Brave's myth from nationalist perspective was a state policy, realized through the simplification and the distortion of history. The school books and the movies were efficient channels for the promotion of Michael the Brave's myth from national-communist perspective.

Keywords: nationalism, ideology, cinematography, communism, myth

Considerations on the Quality of Offender as Stipulated by Art. 8, paragraph 1, GO 15/2002

Eugenia Iovanaş

Abstract:

The law topic exploited in the present paper is whether, according the provisions of art. 1 paragraph 1 letter b) of the Government Ordinance no. 15/2002, on the application of usage tariff and tariff for crossing Romanian national road network, the contravention liability for the contravention provided by art. 8 par. 1 of the same normative act belongs to the natural or legal persons registered in registration certificate who fulfils, at the time of the offense, the condition of vehicle ownership or the contravention responsibility belongs to natural or legal persons inscribed in the certificate of ownership as owner, even if vehicle in question was alienated on basis of some translated property documents, bearing a certain date by presenting it to a public authority, but the vehicle was not registered on new owner's name.

Keywords: Contravention liability, offender, car user/customer, vehicle radiation, vignette, usage tariff