

Editor's note

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The papers gathered in this Special Issue of *Bulletin of Transilvania University* represent contributions that were presented at the international conference entitled *Structure, Use, and Meaning*, organized by the Department of Theoretical and Applied Linguistics of the Faculty of Letters from *Transilvania* University of Braşov in September 2020. The great majority of these articles tackle various linguistic issues, while some of them are more socio-culturally oriented.

The first paper of the volume authored by Oana Ardeleanu and titled ***Construction of favorable national identity through political discourse*** investigates five speeches of Michael I, the former king of Romania, which were delivered via the radio to the Romanian people on New Year's Eve in a time span of about 30 years. The author attempts to identify how the discursive strategies employed by the speaker contribute to the creation of national identity.

Also related to political discourses is the second contribution to this volume, ***Manipulating the interpretation of political discourses***, in which the two authors, Elena Cristina Berariu and Andreea Peterlicean seek to reveal that words can be a means of manipulating people in terms of their emotions and attitudes concerning various contexts. The data they have employed to prove their point are Covid pandemic-related discourses produced in Romania and Great Britain.

In his paper, Victor Celac tries to provide an answer to the question ***What it means to be a lexicographer***, based on his own experience as a lexicographer. The author chooses to compare two types of Romanian dictionaries: one intended for the

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general public, such as *DEX* (Dicționarul Explicativ al Limbii Române – ‘The Explanatory Dictionary of Romanian’) and one meant for linguists, covering dictionaries like *DA* (Dicționarul Academiei - ‘The Academy Dictionary’) or *DLR* (Dicționarul limbii române - ‘The Dictionary of Romanian Language’) and to bring to the fore the major differences between them.

Anda Lucia Ciltan and Victor Emanuel Ciuciuc’s article, ***A task-based teaching proposal for raising awareness of commissive speech acts through English modal verbs***, focuses on aiding Romanian students integrate their pragmatic competence in other skills by using a task-based approach. This teaching method is designed to help students realize the importance of speech acts such as promises and threats, to make them aware that such acts can be expressed in various ways, and to allow them to develop genuine interactions and deal with real-life tasks.

Raluca Constantin’s paper ***On phonological processes in child Romanian*** takes the reader to another field of linguistics, namely phonology. The aim of the author is to evidence on the basis of diary data some of the phonological processes typically developing young Romanian-acquiring children make recourse to in their attempt to produce adult targets.

In ***The emotional arcs of political narratives***, Nicolae-Sorin Dragan takes a different stance to political speeches by focussing on those that ‘tell a story’ (i.e. the political narratives) and have an emotional content, as they are “employed strategically to strengthen a collective identity (...) and make possible the development of a coherent community, nation, or collective actor” (Polletta 2006, 12). The political narratives investigated stem from the final debate for the presidential elections in Romania in 2009 and were analyzed in terms *emotional arcs*, a term launched by the American writer Kurt Vonnegut. The conclusion reached by the author is that the political actor should be able to convey emotional content by all semiotic means.

Ioana Miron’s contribution is an attempt at ***Reconstructing Chinese Pidgin English phonology on the basis of written sources***, as this is an extinct variety. The paper provides the reader with a wealth of data concerning the consonants of CPE, showing that “although voiced phonemes, especially the plosives /b, d, g/ are

attested, it is apparent that voicing contrasts are not easily realized by CPE speakers". Of major importance is the section dedicated to the syllable onset and coda in CPE. Here the author shows that while single consonant onsets do occur in this variety, the phonotactic constraints transferred from the substrate restrict single-consonant codas. Vowel-epenthesis, consonant deletion and /w/-vocalization seem to be the most common repair strategies that operate on consonant clusters in the initial and final segments of the CPE syllable.

Omid Rezaie, Mehrdad Vasheghani Farahani, and Millad Masoomzadeh's *Lexical bundles in PhD dissertations and master theses: a comparative inquiry* aims at identifying which of the major parts (i.e. abstract, introduction, and conclusions) of the 100 academic papers (doctoral dissertations and master theses) they investigated showed a high amount of formulaic language in the form of lexical bundles. The results of their analysis indicated that the abstract contained more lexical bundles than the other two parts they focused on.

In her paper entitled *Uses and functions of the Romanian marker dar and its English equivalent but in professional spoken interaction. A contrastive corpus analysis*, Cristina Stan's aim is to see whether the contrastive markers 'but' and 'dar' have a similar or a different behavior in the two languages, given the fact that the opposition they express could be pragmatic or semantic in nature and that certain contexts emphasize the pragmatic rather than the semantic meaning of the conjunctions. The data employed are two corpora, one Romanian and one English, which were analyzed from a structural and a functional perspective, in order to identify linguistic patterns in professional spoken interaction.

Iveta Žákovská's contribution to the volume investigates *How the imagined audience is involved and represented in TV news broadcasts*. To this aim, the author has collected data from three popular Czech TV channels, paying special attention to the 'vox pops' format, "perceived as a substitution for the viewer's direct involvement in the news broadcast". At the same time, she also tried to identify how TV news broadcasting include voices representing the audience in news coverage and how these speakers are categorised with regards to their experience concerning the events they express their opinion on.

The paper titled ***Ditransitive structures: the to-Dative***, authored by Tania Zamfir is an attempt at analysing English idiomatic expressions which contain ditransitive structures. To this end, she has employed 200 idioms extracted from a number of dictionaries, which she has subjected to a semantic and a syntactic investigation, in order to prove that the idiomatic expressions in English can occur in alternating ditransitive frames, i.e. *the double object frame* and *the prepositional frame*.

Language policies and multilingualism in modern Tunisia, a paper co-authored by Ibtissem Smari and Ildikó Hortobágyi, offers an encompassing view on Tunisia's linguistic landscape after the country gained its independence from France, focusing on the current educational reforms. The two scholars point out that nowadays education in this country is trilingual (Arabic, French, and English). Moreover, Tunisian students have access to additional foreign languages, such as German, Russian or Italian. But while some new languages are introduced, others, such as Tunisian Arabic and Berber seem to be on the decline, indicating the changing language policy of the country.

Simona Şoica's article entitled ***Two cultures, two agents of knowledge, one dispute: The making of the Făgăraş Mountains natural park*** takes the reader to the geographic landscape of *Făgăraş Mountains* in Romania, by investigating from a semiotic perspective the conflicting discourse between two entities interested in transforming this area into a natural park.

Mariselda Tessarolo's paper ***What may be done with language*** nicely sums up the many characteristic features of language. Thus, it is shown that thinking needs language in order to articulate itself, that language is acquired within a culture, that it enables people to express their own perceptions of the world, and more importantly, it enables the communicative process between people.