

ABSTRACTS

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Research Articles

THEORY, HISTORY AND LITERARY CRITICISM

Dimensions and Features of Feminist Literature: Novelistic Trends in Contemporary Arab Feminist Literature

Falih Mahdi Jabur Al-Zamili

Abstract:

This paper focuses on the concept of feminism with a stress on the novelistic trends of feminist fiction in the Middle East. We will discuss representative feminist literary works during the contemporary feminist movement. Feminist literature is considered to be creative work because it advocates for women's causes and because they defend their freedom and rights. We will focus on the idea that critical feminist works impacted societies throughout history and helped women get their freedom and independence, even though feminist literature is considered to be focused on the different shapes of sexuality. We analyze the Feminist Movement of the Middle East through Muslim culture influenced by the West. They consider that the Arab world is experiencing a global crisis with a series of underlying structural problems extending to cultural conflict. The condition and position of women in the Islamic world are one of the most controversial and studied issues in the last decades.

Keywords: Arab literature, gender, feminism, identity, Islamic feminism, Middle East, novelistic trends

Means of Conversing with the Other: History and Memory in Toni Morrison's Fiction

Ghufran Abd Hussein

Abstract:

The present research is a reading of Toni Morrison's novels meant to emphasize the relation between historical reality and memory to deal with otherness in the racist, segregationist, and social, sexist environment of twentieth-century white America. Her novels deal with the historical reality of the black family. They serve as memories for the present, and future generations as the writer's true mission is to preserve and recall the past of the men and women of her people. The characters' memories can be repressed or forgotten. In contrast, the collective memory (family, religious, or social group memory) can be shared with the community and shape their identity. Her novels tell the story of the blacks as a commodity. It is the story of slavery and the slave trade and their undeniable impact on the future development of the former slaves. By writing about slavery with all its range of injustices, Morrison opens the dialogue with the other. Slavery, based on the exploitation of the weak, particularly blacks, by the whites who hold economic and political power, is put to trial in Morrison's novels. Writing about slavery would not provoke or nourish resentment but ask that this injustice never be repeated.

Keywords: slavery, identity, memory, Morrison (Toni), *Beloved*, *A Mercy*, triangular trade

J. M. Coetzee's *Age of Iron*: The Odyssey of Returning back to One's Ethical Self by Loving the Other

Arash Moradi
Farideh Pourgiv

Abstract:

J. M. Coetzee's *Age of Iron* depicts the apocalyptic years of racial rage and violence in South Africa. In this paper, an attempt is made to delineate Elizabeth Curren's difficult 'journey' back to her ethical self by using Homi Bhabha's theory of the nation and Emanuel Levinas's ethical philosophy. First, it is discussed how the apartheid regime has pedagogically inculcated the white population of South Africa with the ideas of superiority and indifference over the black population. Then, Curren's arduous journey back to her ethical self is discussed showing how by acting in a performative manner her ethical self learns not to pass judgements on the other becoming once again capable of sympathizing and empathizing with as well as loving the other. Coetzee speaks about and refers to the apartheid obliquely and indirectly since having done otherwise would have strengthened the apartheid regime by 'reflecting' and 'supplementing' history. Alluding to several other literary works enables Coetzee not only to depict the hellish conditions of South Africa indirectly but also to offer the possibility of some kind of redemption for his protagonists. Coetzee presents love and understanding for the other as the only solution for post-apartheid South African people.

Keywords: nation, pedagogical, performative, ethical, apartheid

De la corpul feminin la corpul poetic. O formă de hibridare

Grațierea Benga

Feminine Body and the Body of Poetry. A Type of Hybridization

Abstract:

The aim of the present paper is to highlight the way Elena Vlădăreanu (a Romanian writer) turns a feminine experience (motherhood) into a main theme of her poetry. After following an outline that shows some significant points of view on the relation between repetition and creation, the study focuses on poems whose style is both autonomous and paradigmatic. An reflexive approach of body, connection, and disjunction is hidden in Vlădăreanu's poetry, by means of strategies that emphasize the mincing/ hybridization of human subject and suggest the language crises.

Keywords: motherhood, repetition, distinction, prevalence, politics

Facing History: A Comparative Study of Howard Barker and Bahram Beyzaie's Selected Plays

Sahar Moghadam
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Abstract:

This article attempts to compare Bahram Beyzaie and Howard Barker, two tragedians with a critical-historical approach towards the past, formal history, and canonical texts. The plays by Beyzaie and Barker (*Judith* and *Possibilities* by Barker and *Fath-Nameh-Kalat* by Beyzaie) are studied based on the theories of Hegel, Theodor Adorno, and Hayden White including historicizing and the matter of truth, the process of subjectivity, the moral philosophy of rationality/irrationality, and sacrifice. Rereading and representing historical events through tragedies and via personal ethics, aesthetics, and critical approaches pave the way for the audience and readers' understanding of the past. This offers them the power of imagination and creation and saves them from habitual repetitions as well as the imitation of Grand Narratives. This negation gives self-consciousness to the individual and leads her/him in transforming from a passive and obedient object to an active and rebellious subject in the society. Beyzaie's and Barker's challenging and complex views of the past, historical narrations, and patriotic/patriarchal morality, along with the literary techniques they use which provide a shocking, skeptical, and delusional atmosphere for the audience to encourage it to deny, guess, and create are the notable and radical artistic and philosophical characteristics of these playwrights.

Keywords: historical events, representation, ethics, morality, subjectivity

LINGUISTICS, STYLISTICS AND TRANSLATION STUDIES

The Development of Communicative Skills in Teaching Romanian as a Foreign Language Online

Ludmila Branîşte

Abstract:

Since the advent of a new era of teaching, the development of communicative skills has been seen as one of the central objectives of language learning. However, the present-day context of the COVID-19 pandemic made us re-think and re-structure the majority of our teaching practices, including speaking activities that we used to suggest to our Romanian language students. In this paper, we have tried to tackle the topic of the development of communicative skills in teaching Romanian as a foreign language in an online classroom. The paper presents a list of obstacles that we, as teachers of Romanian as a foreign language, have encountered in the COVID-period teaching, such as students' shyness and reluctance to participate due to various reasons, the difficulties linked to the organization of pair- and groupwork, the obstacles in correcting and moulding students' pronunciation, as well as lack of feedback or reaction on part of students in the situations when a dialogue is intended by the teacher. All of these challenges are accompanied by potential solutions that we have found useful and efficient in our teaching practice. Moreover, the paper presents a number of activities that can be successfully used in an online environment for the development of learners' communicative skills. Taking into consideration the challenges presented in the second section of the article, we have tried to give some practical suggestions on how the respective activities can be conducted in an online classroom in an optimal way.

Keywords: communicative skills, Romanian as a foreign language, teaching methods, speaking activities, online teaching

Unelte software utilizate în activitatea de predare-învățare a RLS pentru îmbunătățirea competenței comunicative:

Wordwall și Edpuzzle

Anamaria-Bianca Tonț

Software tools used in teaching and learning RFL in order to improve communicative competence:

Wordwall and Edpuzzle

Abstract:

In order to develop speaking skills in Romanian, the teacher needs to provide foreign learners not only with linguistic tools, but especially with situations to use them in interactions, and the use of technology can provide contexts for developing speaking skills. Thus, the first part of our article presents the necessity of using software tools in teaching and learning Romanian as a foreign language. The second part has a pragmatic dimension as it explains how *Wordwall* and *Edpuzzle* applications can be included in RFL teaching activity. We can say that this part is a guide that aims to convince potential users not only of the ease of creating attractive educational resources, but especially of the impact they have among students.

In conclusion, we aim to demonstrate that by integrating software tools into the RFL teaching activity, the teaching process is student-oriented and the educational approach is transparent, interactive. Last but not least, it helps foreign students to improve communicative competence.

Keywords: software tools, Romanian as a Foreign Language, communicative competence, motivation

Limba română actuală în social media: elemente de vocabular și grafie

Alina-Paula Neamțu

Romanian Language in Social Media: Elements of Vocabulary and Writing

Abstract:

Social media has lately become a fertile space for self-expression. The Internet is widely used for communication, generating a new way of conveying messages, sharing impressions or criticizing the negative aspects of society. Cyberlanguage is characterized by various means of enriching the vocabulary, revealing non-standard writing or lexical changes in the substance of Romanian. The present study aims at exemplifying how derivation, word formation, puns or unconventional orthography are represented in social media, especially Facebook. The corpus of the paper is mainly based on commentaries displayed on different pages belonging to Romanian journalists and collected in 2022, approaching the most significant aspects of internal politics.

Keywords: lexical creativity, derivation, affixes, word formation, telescope words, contamination, non-standard writing

Addenda la o mică istorie a P.E.N. Club-ului Român: traducerile care fac... alte literaturi

Dan Horațiu Popescu

**Addenda to a Little History of the Romanian P.E.N. Club.
Translations that make... other literatures**

Abstract:

The author of the paper intends to capture an episode in the history of the Romanian P.E.N. Club, from the first years of its existence. The paper features the correspondence between its founder, Marcu Beza, the Romanian diplomat from the capital of Great Britain, and George Bernard Shaw. The issue of translating and producing some of Shaw's plays in Romania is highlighted in the context of the history of P.E.N. International. The organization's position with regard to an author's rights, and to promoting authors of reference among its members, is also analyzed.

Keywords: P.E.N. Club, Marcu Beza, Bernard Shaw, translation, author's rights

Other Representations in Politics: 'O To Ge' Rhetoric in Nigeria's Election Campaigns

David Olorunsogo, Matthew Oladoyin Ige

Abstract:

Politics is a battleground for ideological exhibition by different social and political actors, and these actors ensure victory at all cost, even if it sometimes leads to the denigration of opponents through labeling. This paper investigated how the All Progressive Congress (APC) was able to successfully oust the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) from the government by deploying strategies to present PDP with negative identities during campaigns exercises which preceded the election. Using the inquiry word 'O to ge Kwara', 15 videos were recovered from YouTube and they formed the data for the paper. YouTube was selected on the grounds that it serves as an archive for political campaign videos in Nigeria. The selected videos were subjected to analysis through the application of van Dijk's (2006) approach to Critical Discourse Analysis. The negative identity representation of the Peoples Democratic Party in the 2019 general elections in Kwara State, thrived on the 'O to ge' rhetoric and the representations from the vistas of 'others'. The paper concluded that these negative identity representations are projected through different discourse strategies.

Keywords: identity, CDA, political campaigns, 'O to ge', rhetoric, discursive moves