

ABSTRACTS
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Research Articles

THEORY, HISTORY AND LITERARY CRITICISM

L' évolution du synchronisme culturel roumain-polonais : à
partir des anciennes influences élitistes jusqu'au dialogue
idéologique contemporain

A.C. Cofan

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The Evolution of Romanian-Polish Synchronism: from Early Elitist Influences to Contemporary
Ideological Dialogue

Abstract:

The concept of *synchronism*, introduced to the public in the 1924 work *History of Modern Romanian Civilization* by the Romanian critic Eugen Lovinescu, appears more relevant today than ever, despite the harsh criticism it received at the time of its publication from figures such as C. Rădulescu-Motru and G. Ibrăileanu. This study primarily traces the Romanian-Polish relations that have dissipated over the years, while specifically focusing on the post-communist era, twenty years after the fall of the Ceaușescu regime, with a particular emphasis on the year 2011. It is entirely natural that the imitation underpinning Lovinescu's synchronism should originate from a sentiment of (cultural) admiration – from the weaker and less developed party towards the stronger and more advanced one – ultimately evolving into something deeper: a relationship defined by mutual respect and cordial coexistence. Exporting foreign culture, and specifically elements of civilization, is a phenomenon that increasingly defines our contemporary world, in which – thanks to this synchronism – the traditional distinction between cultural center and periphery no longer exists. The world has become a global village where everyone knows one another, shares a similar cultural awareness, and enjoys the same civilizational benefits.

Keywords: synchronism, Romanian and Polish culture, imitation, Eugen Lovinescu, ideological dialogue

L'enquête en mouvement :
topographie urbaine et construction du sens dans *Le Pendu de Saint-Pholien* de Georges Simenon

Adina-Irina Fornă

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The Investigation in Motion: Urban Topography and Construction of Meaning in Georges Simenon's *Le Pendu de Saint-Pholien*

Abstract :

This article offers an analysis of how geographical mobility structures the progression of the investigation in Georges Simenon's novel *Le Pendu de Saint-Pholien*. Without relying on Liège as the central space of the inquiry, the study focuses on the other cities visited by Maigret – Bremen, Reims, and Paris – to show how each contributes to the gradual accumulation of clues to solve the mystery. Simenon's meticulous descriptions – streets, buildings, hotel rooms, morgue, cafés, and characters' homes – are not mere decorations, but function as narrative instruments, reinforcing atmosphere, revealing psychological and moral aspects, and guiding the reader's understanding of events. These urban spaces form successive layers where material elements (suitcase, clothing, corpse), intense emotions (fear, remorse), and memory of events come together, shaping the interpretation of the initial plot. The case progresses not through sudden revelation, but through the successive sedimentation of information scattered across the spaces traversed by Commissaire Maigret. The article demonstrates that topographical and architectural detail actively helps build the story's interpretive framework.

Keywords: detective investigation, urban topography, geographical mobility, memory, itinerary

The More Things Change, the More They Stay the Same:
Disillusionment in Vonani Bila's
Political Poetry

Kazeem Adebisi-Adelabu

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Abstract:

With the transition to multiracial democracy in 1994, South Africans, especially non-whites, had looked forward to a new era of social equality, economic justice, and political liberation. This sensibility gave birth to what a critic once described as a "honeymoon literature" in the country. Not long after the emergence of this kind of literature emerged another, which resonates with the political consciousness of social injustice and oppression of the apartheid era and the disenchantment noticeable in the literature of post-independence sub-Saharan up north. This article examines the representation of disillusionment in the poetry of Vonani Bila, a notable political poet of the post-apartheid era. Using Frantz Fanon's theoretical insights about post-Independence elites, aptly described as the national bourgeoisie, I examine purposively selected political poems in *Handsome Jita*, a collection of the poet's select works, to show, firstly, that social injustice is at the root of disillusionment with multiracial democracy in South Africa. Secondly, I show that the social injustice in the new South Africa is an issue of class, rather than race. I also call attention to the similarity between this development and what obtains in sub-Saharan countries up north not long after their independence.

Keywords: disillusionment, post-apartheid poetry, bourgeoisie, political elites, Vonani Bila

A Study of Speech, Silence, and Selfhood through the Portrayal of Rosa Burger from Nadine Gordimer's *Burger's Daughter*

Ashima Arora
Naveen Kumar Mehta

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Abstract:

Nadine Gordimer wrote *Burger's Daughter*, her seventh book in 1979. It is a novel inspired by the historical and political events that occurred within South Africa in the mid-1970s. The characterization of Rosa Burger, the protagonist, by Gordimer reveals that she is the heir of the legacy of her parents, who were revolutionaries. Cathy and Lionel Burger, her parents, died in South Africa fighting against racial injustice. Their greatness as heroes puts a pressure on Rosa, who is having difficulties in forming her individual identity. She starts to wonder who she is besides being the daughter of her revolutionary parents. She, therefore, leaves behind the forceful political terminology of her parents. Instead, she prefers keeping silent because silence is the way she can get out of their shadow. Silence is illustrated through her prison experience, her time in another country and even when she returned home to South Africa. The silence both secures her, gives her some room to think over, and it also becomes a kind of silent protest. The identity formation that takes place in Rosa is physical. She employs her silence through the body and the suppression of her physical senses to resist her political destiny. This paper examines how speech and silence both define the trajectory of Rosa, who breaks free of the social constructs and lives in accordance with her personal decisions.

Keywords: liminality, selfhood, silence, legacy, autonomy, language

Grief in Reverse: Formal Subversion and the Limits of Narrative in Lorrie Moore's *How to Talk to Your Mother (Notes)*

Lehel Szakács

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Abstract:

This article argues that in *How to Talk to Your Mother (Notes)*, Lorrie Moore transforms formal experimentation into philosophical statement: the story's reverse chronology and second-person narration work together not merely as stylistic innovation but as a structural argument about the nature of grief, memory, and the limits of narrative as a tool for processing loss. Where conventional narrative promises meaning through sequence and closure, Moore's inverted form deliberately withholds both. Drawing on Gérard Genette's narratological framework – specifically his concepts of narrative order and *anachrony* – and Paul Ricoeur's philosophy of narrative time and *emplotment*, the article demonstrates that Moore's formal choices enact rather than describe the failure of narrative identity under grief. The analysis is further informed by recent philosophical accounts of grief and selfhood, as well as interdisciplinary scholarship on second-person narration. Close reading of the story reveals that its second-person address and reversed timeline are mutually constitutive devices that together stage a coherent philosophical argument: that some losses resist the structures culture has developed to accommodate them, leaving narrative – and the self it was meant to sustain – irrevocably incomplete.

Keywords: narratology, second-person narration, reverse chronology, grief, narrative identity, Lorrie Moore, short fiction

Decodarea imaginariului spațial în proza scurtă titeliană. O posibilă semiotică a teritoriului

Delia Badea

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Decoding the Spatial Imaginary in Sorin Titel's Short Prose. A Possible Semiotics of Territory

Abstract:

The study starts from the premise that a series of symbolic spatial figures operate in Sorin Titel's short prose as privileged metaphors for reading the fictional imaginary. At the same time, at a methodological level, the approach proposes a reconsideration of some postulated tensions in the field of current literary theory that have imposed the idea of an incompatibility between the concise regime of short prose and the epistemological demands of geocentric hermeneutic approaches. In this logic, the reading grid proposed here tests the way in which Sorin Titel's short prose supports a geocritical approach, aiming, to this end, to identify alternative strategies for representing space, other than ample descriptive accumulations. This perspective allows, ultimately, to focus on the way in which the geocritical lens shapes the reading of the selected texts and transforms it into a tool for decoding space.

Keywords: short fiction, Sorin Titel, geocriticism, topos, chora, spatial strategies

LINGUISTICS, STYLISTICS AND TRANSLATION STUDIES

Secvențe dintr-un jurnal despre cuvinte

Simona Constantinovici

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Sequences from a Journal about Words

Abstract:

In *Sequences from a journal about words*, we will address the status and etymology of some language units that are known or have recently entered the lexicon, which have developed semantic offshoots over time, and the way we relate to them across various communicative registers. We will attempt to provide four lexical mappings concerning terms such as *inimă*, *grej*, *sticlete* și *extraneitate*. Lexical mappings are to be understood as forms of preservation and subsequent stylistic delimitation within the semantic field of specific vocables and the relationships they create in the mind of the Romanian speaker. They are meant to better highlight vocabulary dynamics and to stimulate increased interest in the philosophy of language, because any association of words within communicative circumstances that may be entirely different establishes a higher form of inquiry, a reflection leading toward the ontological space of being through words. We cannot exist outside this universe, which is an eminently semantic one.

Keywords: lexicon, semantics, lexical mapping, style, communication, language

Violența de limbaj în comunicarea digitală. Procedee și strategii ale ofensei – de la *hate* la obscenitate

Alina-Paula Neamțu

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Verbal Violence in Digital Communication: Devices and Strategies of Offense – from Hate Speech to Obscenity

Abstract:

Once technology developed and digital communication diversified its channels, expressing opinions on social networks, regardless of the topic addressed, has generated multiple reactions from Internet users. It is easy to see that, in addition to blatant spelling, lexical-grammatical, or stylistic errors, many commentators resort to non-standard spelling or memes to mask their violent language, wordplay, or other linguistic strategies to attack, denigrate, or insult their interlocutors. Whether or not they agree with their “unseen” discussion partners, netizens resort to insults, irony and sarcasm, hyperbole and diminutives, or vulgar, obscene language. In our paper, we illustrate some means to convey verbal violence on social media especially related to Romanian politicians and public figures, whose gestures, behaviour, or speech elicit multiple reactions and attitudes from their electorate. *Flaming, trolling* or *defamation/ denigration* within the broader context of offensive acts occur by appealing to name decomposition, suggestive nicknames, allusions to pathology or mental debility, metaphors, simile, metonymy, polysemy, slang etc.

Keywords: social media, vulgar/ obscene language, name-calling, hyperbole, diminutives, irony, memes

Translanguaging as an Emerging Approach to English Language Teaching: Teachers’ Perspectives

Alina Pintilii, Liliana Colodeeva, Irina Pușnei

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Abstract:

The rapid societal, technological, and educational changes of the 21st century have led to significant shifts in pedagogical approaches across disciplines, including English language teaching, where a substantial transition towards learner-centred practices has emerged. At the same time, many of the innovative approaches to foreign language instruction remain relatively unfamiliar to teachers. The present paper deals with one of these approaches, specifically translanguaging, aiming to introduce it to teachers and to raise their awareness of its importance to language education. In pursuit of that purpose, the article provides a comprehensive description of the approach and its benefits for the EFL classroom, among which the enhancement of intercultural communication. It also intends to determine the extent of teachers’ familiarity with translanguaging and to examine their perspectives on it through a questionnaire conducted among English language teachers in Republic of Moldova. The findings indicated that although many teachers were not acquainted with translanguaging, they demonstrated openness to learning more about it and, having been familiarised with it through the informative and exploratory items of the questionnaire, they could perceive it as beneficial. On the other hand, the study showed that the EFL teachers who used translanguaging in their teaching practice endorsed its implementation in the classroom while recognising the necessity of being properly informed about both its strength and limitations in order to use it effectively and attain the expected results.

Keywords: translanguaging, learner-centred approach, English language teaching, EFL classroom, intercultural communication

Analiza performanței modelului de limbaj ChatGPT în aplicarea normelor ortografice, morfologice și de punctuație ale limbii române

Anamaria-Bianca Tonț

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Analysis of ChatGPT's Performance in Applying Orthographic, Morphological, and Punctuation Norms of the Romanian Language

Abstract:

This study aims to analyze the way in which ChatGPT, an artificial intelligence-based system, applies the norms of the Romanian language in the process of text correction. The research seeks to determine the extent to which the corrections generated by this system comply with the orthographic, morphological, and punctuation norms established by *Gramatica limbii române / The Grammar of the Romanian Language* (2005), *Dicționarul ortografic, ortoepic și morfologic al limbii române / The Orthographic, Orthoepic, and Morphological Dictionary of the Romanian Language* (2021), and *Îndreptar ortografic, ortoepic, morfologic și de punctuație / Orthographic, Orthoepic, Morphological, and Punctuation Guide Book* (2024).

The analysis is based on a corpus of sentences containing deviations from the standard language, for which ChatGPT provides, according to the prompt designed by the authors, both the corrected version and explanations regarding the applied grammatical rules. The evaluation focuses on the formal accuracy of the corrections as well as on the validity of the linguistic justifications. The main objective is to determine the degree of conformity of the generated responses with academic norms and to identify the system's limitations in interpreting and explaining grammatical phenomena.

Keywords: artificial intelligence, ChatGPT, Romanian language, normative grammar, comparative analysis

SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL STUDIES

Diaspora slovenă din Argentina: paradigme identitare

Sergiu Lozinschi

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The Slovene Diaspora in Argentina: Identity Paradigms

Abstract:

A series of traumatic socio-political events during the 20th century determined the emigration of a significant number of Slovenians to Argentina, from all social categories, a lot of them intellectuals, artists, or writers who kept on writing in exile and built literary careers outside their homeland. This article presents and analyzes the historical circumstances of Slovenian emigration, the way they organize their community and socio-cultural life, the dynamic process of identity formation, the mechanisms for constructing and preserving "Slovenity" within Argentine society, the cultural and literary representations and practices related to their country of origin, and the characteristics of literature written by the so-called Slovenian political emigrants in Argentina.

Keywords: diaspora, political emigration, anticommunism, Slovenity, Slovenian culture