

ABSTRACTS

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Research Articles

THEORY, HISTORY AND LITERARY CRITICISM

La Colonna Traiana raccontata: un'anteprima delle Lezioni americane calviniane

Corina-Gabriela Bădeliță

Trajan's Column Narrated: a Preview of Italo Calvino's Six Memos for the Next Millenium

Abstract:

The paper focuses on the essay *Trajan's Column narrated*, which is part of the latest collection published by Italo Calvino himself. It is therefore a work of maturity. The purpose of our analysis is twofold: firstly, we want to make known Calvino's reading of the Trajan's Column – this “epic carved in the stone, one of the most extensive and perfect figurative narrations that are known to us” –, a writing little known to the wide audience. Secondly, we wish to emphasize the literary merits of this short, yet very dense essay, highly representative for the Italian writer's way of making literature, and already encompassing his recommendations for the next millennium literature: lightness, quickness, exactitude, visibility, multiplicity.

Keywords: Italo Calvino, Trajan's Column, figurative narration, ocular essay, literary testament

Doomed Eternality of Desire and Fear in *A Delicate Balance*

Samira Sasani
Elham Haghrezaei

Abstract:

A Delicate Balance is a play of fear and threat. The characters in this play show an unknown dread of the outside world and try to maintain the status quo. The sense of communication is bound to a protective behavior which results in their avoidance of any outsider. Laing's theory on the condition of the schizoid and the divided selves which torture his existence has become the framework through which this study will show how collusions at work create divided selves and how these selves find themselves in their encounter with the real world. In this article, the attempt has been made to demonstrate the deepest layers of relationships between the characters of the play, while delving into the conflicting forces which are at work in each character's inner world resulting in their ironically opposing and conflicting behaviors. This study will also reveal how masks act as important tools to protect the characters' existence from the threat of the outside invaders. These schizoid characters suffer from, deal with and behave differently towards their inner split and the conflict it arises from within, so that their main focus will be to preserve their existence.

Keywords: Edward Albee, *A Delicate Balance*, R. D. Laing, Divided Self, Self and Others

The Theatre of Cruelty and the Drama of the 1950s

Claudiu Margan

Abstract:

The stage of the '50s brings a new aesthetic attitude, initially perceived as a threat to the theatre itself. Many voices talked about the *death of representation*, about *final aesthetics*, but time has proved that it was merely an effort to adapt the art of performance to the demands of contemporary society. The idea of cruelty in the theatre, stated by Antonin Artaud and transformed into aesthetics by the playwrights of the 1950s, means not only the necessity of the shock effect of the new theatre in order to make a real connection with the audience, as it often appears in literary criticism, but also understanding theatre as the theatre of life, as an essential form of knowledge.

Keywords: drama, aesthetics, experimental theatre, Artaud, performance, absurd

The Blind Leading the Blind: Hemingway and Fitzgerald in *A Moveable Feast*

Dan Horațiu Popescu

Abstract:

My paper aims at identifying the images and episodes – in the texts Hemingway dedicated to Scott Fitzgerald in *A Moveable Feast* – that reveal the interplay between *memories* and *forgiving oneself*, and therefore underlining the therapeutic value of those particular texts for the author. While tracing back the events in the Paris of the 1920s, he exposes the vulnerability not only of his individual self, but of Fitzgerald's as well. Less obvious because of Hemingway's compulsion to dominate, but even striking due to Fitzgerald's "complementary need to be dominated", (their) vulnerability hints at various degrees of self-destructive behavior. Hemingway's late awareness of all these and his attempts at protecting Fitzgerald, both physically and textually, raise the issue of who speaks, who listens and who responds, or of the critical trust in individual testimony, of a "hermeneutics of suspicion", as Ricoeur once formulated when referring to psychoanalysis. Is the goal of Hemingway's narrative, in this respect, one of a pacified, happy memory? Or not?

The Rabelaisian chronotope of growth, as designed by Bakhtin, is also employed when analyzing Hemingway and Fitzgerald's whereabouts across the playground provided by Paris in the 1920s. Does everything that is "good" – food, drink, sex, beauty, the craft of writing, etc – really grow in those sections of *A Moveable Feast*? And does "the bad" thin out and perish as the writer moves on with his stories of remembering? And do his readers move along with the flow? The Rabelaisian series at work in the stories – of the human body, food series, drink and drunkenness, sexual series, death series, etc – intersect one another and speak forth of the complexity of a text that is far from being a light touch on some youth existential experiences.

Keywords: Fitzgerald, vulnerability, pacified memory, Rabelaisian chronotope

LINGUISTICS, STYLISTICS AND TRANSLATION STUDIES

On Verb Phrases and Idioms in Romanian and English

Manuela Margan

Abstract:

This article introduces a comparative approach to the structural patterns of verbal phraseological units in English and Romanian as they often raise serious problems to the non-native speakers due to their translation. The aim of this study is to draw the attention to the phraseological similitudes between the two languages but it will also point out the differences and the difficulties when it comes to equivalence.

Keywords: verb phrase, verb, syntagm, phraseological unit, cognate, meaning, language.

SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL STUDIES

A Diachronic Study of Introduction Sections

Fatemeh Bagheri
Liming Deng

Abstract:

We analyzed the introduction sections of a hundred and eighty doctoral dissertations of L1 culture over the last fifty years to discover the change concerning the utilization of interactive markers. Interactive markers are employed by writers to guide the audience throughout the piece. More application of such markers makes the text reader friendly and easy to follow and the less application of them shows the respective writing is constructed to target a more specialized audience. Using Hyland (2005) model of metadiscourse, we analyzed our 262,564 words corpus for hard and soft disciplines in the three time intervals of 1966, 1986, and 2016. Findings of the study confirm that due to the overall lower deployment of interactive markers in the introduction sections of our corpus, the genre is likely meant to be read by community members rather than a general audience of diverse disciplines. No evident disciplinary difference was found except for the overall trend change which is positive and negative respectively in the hard and soft disciplines.

Keywords: introduction sections, interactive metadiscourse, diachronic change, academic writing, disciplinary differences

Intellectuals, School and the birth of the Romanian nation in Transylvania

Flavius Ghender

Abstract

The national identity of the Romanian people emerged in the last part of 18th century and was shaped in 19th century. Imagining a Romanian nation is the brain child of intellectuals who have defined the national community and built first a cultural identity, then a political identity. After the Habsburg conquest, the Greek-Catholic Church favored the formation of a new generation of intellectuals, who contributed to the formation of a national conscience crossing religious boundaries. Half a century later, the Transylvanian School set the ground for the formation of the Romanian nation. The revolutionary generation of 1848 imagined the nation beyond social and confessional boundaries, mobilizing the peasantry and the townspeople to achieve its national political goals. The national identity of the Romanians of Transylvanian was shaped in a competitive manner, as an answer to the hostile images of foreigners, especially in competition with the Hungarians' national ideology.

Keywords: nation, nationalism, ethnic conflict, culture, intellectuals

Literația multimodală media și competențele transversale. Textul multimodal în noul curriculum de Limba și literatura română pentru gimnaziu

Eva Monica Szekely

Multimodal Media Literacy and Transversal Competences. The Multimodal Text in the New Curricula of Romanian Language and Literature for Secondary School

Abstract:

Based on some works of multimodal literacy in Anglo-Saxon world that have been taken into consideration in the new outlook of Romanian language and literature curricula for the secondary school, the notion of multimodal literacy, initially suggested by Gunter Kress and Carey Jewitt (London, Institute of Education, 1994–2005) and Maureen Walsh (2009) has two dimensions which plan the education of a “multimodal literate” pupil/student. The first dimension would be “media literacy”, underlining the need for literacy in producing and having access at multimodal information (that combine more semiotic resources, such as verbal language, gesture, images) and the second one dwells on recognizing the fact that the experience in teaching and learning is intrinsic multisemiotic and multimodal. An important consequence of this way of conceiving/representing knowledge is the extension of semantic area of the notion of text(s): oral and written; continuous, discontinuous and multimodal texts.

Keywords: transversal competences, multimodal literacy, semiotical resources, multimodal media literacy, multimodal texts

The Institution of Civil Servants and Civil Servants in Romania, According to Current Legislation

Petru Tărchilă

Abstract:

All the functions and responsibilities established by the law in order to carry out the legal powers of public power by the central public administration, the local public administration and by all autonomous administrative authorities, designate the institution of the civil service. All the legislation in force defines the civil servant as the natural person, appointed under the law in a public position in Romania, who carries out the activities stipulated by the normative acts in force, activities that involve the exercise of the powers of public power. The total number of civil servants within the public administration central and local authorities and within the autonomous administrative authorities are the Corps of Civil Servants in Romania. The public state functions are established and approved according to the law, within the ministries, the specialized bodies of the central public administration, as well as within the autonomous administrative authorities. Territorial public functions are established and approved, according to the law, within the prefect institution, the deconcentrated public services of the ministries and the other bodies of the central public administration in the territorial-administrative units. The local public services are established and approved, according to the law, within their own apparatus, the local public administration authorities and the public institutions subordinated to them.

Keywords: public function, civil servant, public administration, senior civil servants

British literature during communism. The last decade: 1980–1989

Toma Sava

Abstract:

The aim of this article is to offer an overview of the last decade of communism from the perspective of the works translated and published by Romanian publishing houses, *i.e.* to offer direct and relevant data pertaining to how British literature was represented in the cultural/political context of the period.

Keywords: editorial canon, Shakespeare, high-brow literature, translations, British literature