

DICE 22/2



DIVERSITÉ ET IDENTITÉ CULTURELLE EN EUROPE

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DIVERSITATE ȘI IDENTITATE CULTURALĂ ÎN EUROPA



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TOME 22/2



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I. FUNDAMENTALS

LES NOMS DES DIEUX ET DES DÉESSES DANS LA CULTURE ROUMAINE ANCIENNE

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Abstract:

Names of gods and goddesses in old Romanian culture

Names of gods and goddesses in Greek and Roman mythologies are commonly considered proofs of speakers' classical culture. The information on Greek-Latin mythology and the employment in texts of names of divinities illustrating it have been interpreted, almost without exception, as signs of cultural renewal in modern Romanian writing. The Enlightenment, particularly receptive to Latin, Old Greek or Romance Western Literature, followed by classicism and romanticism, literary currents that facilitated the dissemination into Romanian space of texts representative of Western modern culture, favoured the reception of themes and ideas associated with mythology. These aspects were often illustrated by means of proper names as signs of a new artistic sensibility and as stylistic markers.

Historical dictionaries of the Romanian language further argue this idea by referring to the generally accepted meaning of the lexeme *dumnezeu* (god) and its synonym *zeu* (deity) in the old Romanian literary language, the former seldom used as a common noun before the end of the 18th century. In monotheistic religions, such as Christianity, the two nouns, *dumnezeu* and *zeu*, designated "the supreme, eternal being, the primordial transcendent cause, the fundamental principle of existence and universal order, the creator and judge of the world" (*Dicționarul limbii române* [Dictionary of the Romanian language]) whenever they were used in the singular, usually articulated form and many times as proper names. In the plural and with direct reference to polytheistic religions, the nouns indistinctly denoted "pagan deities, false gods, idols, deities; beings imagined as having supernatural powers" (*Dicționarul limbii române* [Dictionary of the Romanian language]).

Therefore, the occurrence of proper names designating gods and goddesses in Greek-Latin culture and mythology is scarce in old Romanian texts. The dissemination of these names can be explained especially through the type of text

(secular or religious) and the form and content of the sources used by translators. However, the rare citation and use of the names of Greek or Roman divinities in old Romanian writing, as well as the current meaning of the plural forms *dumnezei* and *dumnezeițe* or *dumnezeoiae*, as opposed to the singular (*dumne*)zeu, must not be linked with the lack of knowledge of Greek-Roman mythology. They should be related to the prohibition imposed by church officials (constantly promoted by canonical texts) on the use of names of “idols, false gods”, which were considered elements resulting from the influence of heathen beliefs.

Key words:

Old literature, mythology, *dumnezei* (gods), *dumnezeițe*, *dumnezeoiae* (goddesses).

REALITY AND ITS MODES OF KNOWLEDGE

Alexandru GAFTON

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Abstract:

The text briefly outlines the principal types of knowledge concerning reality, highlighting their genealogical and functional interrelations.

Keywords:

Reality, knowledge, science, segmentation and delineation of reality, paths of knowledge, humanity.

“

II.

BRANDS OF CULTURAL IDENTITY

EPISTÈME DE LA CULTURE À LA RECHERCHE DU RECIT NARRATIF ^{1*}

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Résumé :

Si la littérature structure, nourrit, ouvre des perspectives sans cesse renouvelées sur l’Etre humain, sa Conscience et le Réel, le contact de plus en plus faible avec celle-ci (la littérature) engendre des « dysfonctionnements » auxquels la psychologie dans sa vaste gamme d’approches thérapeutiques tente d’y remédier.

Le questionnement que l’autrice propose concerne la place et le nouveau rôle de la thérapie (plus connue sous le nom de Thérapie Narrative) mettant au centre le récit et la métaphore.

Nous tenterons de saisir en quoi ladite Thérapie Narrative exerce son rôle substitutif à la littérature, en analysant la transposition des principes narratifs jusqu’à là réservés aux domaines disciplinaires dits littéraires, et ceci dans le but d’une réconciliation de l’être humain avec sa nature profonde et ses aspirations de créativité et liberté.

Mots clé :

Culture systémique, littérature, accompagnement, approche (thérapie) narrative.

Abstract:

This article aims to examine the state of culture (and more specifically, literature as a constitutive and evolving art of the human person) in its civilizational vision.

While the appetite for literature is experiencing worrying declines, followed by the emergence of manifestations of malaise, loneliness, and even social rejection, it is clear that other practices related to the culture of support, such as new community affiliations, are taking over.

^{1*} Ce travail est dédié à mes amis, aux consultants et collègues qui soutiennent cette part lumineuse de la Vie ayant trait directement ou indirectement aux approches (thérapeutiques) narratives.

The questioning that the author proposes concerns the place and the new role of therapy (better known under the name of Narrative Therapy) putting the story and the metaphor at the center.

We will attempt to understand how the Narrative Therapy exercises its role as a substitute for literature, by analyzing the transposition of narrative principles reserved for literary disciplinary fields, and this with the aim of reconciling the human being with his deep nature and his aspirations for creativity and freedom.

Keywords:

Systemic culture, literature, support, narrative approach (therapy)

L'INSOUCIANCE PICARESQUE DE BUCAREST

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Abstract:

Are foreign travel writers not the best positioned to capture, through their curious and nomadic gaze, the soul of a capital and its people? In the 1930s, Paul Morand, who would later become France's ambassador in 1943, brought back from his stays in Romania a series of postcards depicting a country between the West and the East, as well as informed and endearing reflections on the Romanian soul. In doing so, he developed a myth-analysis of Bucharest that achieved well-deserved renown.

Keywords:

Bucharest, francophonie, royal family, gardens, character of the people.

THE MAN IN PROVERBS

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Abstract:

The essay proposes an interpretation of proverbs as condensed forms of practical thought, organised by a proverbial reason articulated through three interdependent dimensions: functional, cognitive and expressive. The functional dimension orders experience through relations of causality, proportion and temporality. The cognitive dimension regulates critical judgement by mechanisms of reciprocity and limitation. The expressive dimension fixes meanings through contradiction and analogy. The paremiological examples illustrating this interpretation are drawn from Mihai Eminescu’s journalistic writings and highlight the mechanisms that convert empirical observation into norms and instruments of collective validation.

Keywords:

Proverb, practical reason, causality, proportion, limit, contradiction, analogy.

EDUCATIONAL INFLUENCERS ROMANIAN YOUTHS LIVE BY: AN ANALYSIS OF HOW RELIGION IS SHARED THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA

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Abstract:

Romanian celebrities on social media (influencers) have begun to exert persuasion on a massive scale, potentially influencing the young people who follow them while pursuing individual profit. This study sets out to investigate the content shared by such educational influencers (edu-influencers) on three popular social media platforms (Instagram, Tik-Tok and YouTube) where influencer culture has been rife in recent years. In so doing, it seeks to examine how religion (often combined with personal development content) is shared through social media and whether edu-influencers' behaviour is predominately promotional, thereby failing to link to important societal issues. The religious content of edu-influencers will be investigated along two themes: encouraging education and fostering participation. The results will facilitate a better understanding of influencer culture and will emphasize the need for developing critical digital literacy among youngsters who use social media for communication, education, and individual purposes.

Key words:

Social media, educational influencers, religion, personal development, engagement, social-media followers, Romanian.

INTERCULTURAL IMPRINTS IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING AND LEARNING

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Abstract

It is widely acknowledged that teaching and learning a foreign language are interdependent with the socio-cultural contexts in which these processes occur. Integrating an intercultural approach in EFL (English as a Foreign Language) classrooms, however, presents a significant challenge, as teachers must facilitate the understanding and acquisition of values, beliefs and patterns of behaviour that may differ or even conflict with their own. Therefore, when translating theoretical insights into practical teaching, intercultural strategies should be implemented thoughtfully, competently and sensitively, in order to provide an effective means for cultivating – among others – tolerance, respect and understanding among students. This movement from theory to classroom practice requires experimentation with new methods and often invites teachers to explore unfamiliar territories in EFL education. This also involves the selection of those teaching strategies, activities and materials that respond to the students’ needs, proficiency levels and abilities, and that address issues of context and culture or foster cultural awareness.

By exploring the sociocultural challenges in EFL teaching and learning, this study seeks to contribute to both the theoretical framework and practical strategies that enable the integration of context and culture into EFL classrooms. It also investigates effective classroom procedures and principles for addressing sociocultural challenges in contemporary EFL education, in order to make English classes more engaging, and enable students from diverse cultural backgrounds to internalize, apply and transfer new knowledge in meaningful ways, and interact harmoniously.

Keywords: interculturality, language teaching, EFL/ ESL, sociocultural challenges, cultural awareness

ENTRE SUPRÉMATIE DE L'ETHOS ET ABSENCE D'ALTERITÉ : LES PRODRAMES D'UNE GUERRE ÉMOTIONNELLE

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Abstract:

As a subject of discord, moral, verbal and physical violence, our study examines the anticipated representations of marriage and divorce among single female students. Drawing on Abric's theory of social representations, alongside thematic and discourse analyses, our results indicate that this union is perceived as an anticipated source of harm, rejection and conflicts between the Self and the other. The heightened emotional management of this traumatic theme obscures any reflexivity, alterity and empathy, hence the necessity of a university education in order to reconsiderate the Other.

Keywords:

Representations; Marriage, Divorce, Alterity, Trauma.

SOCIOCULTURAL ISSUES IN ESP WRITTEN COMMUNICATION

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Abstract

Modern interdisciplinary approaches to communication have highlighted that this area stretches beyond the mastery and proficient use of vocabulary items or the separate study of culture. In contemporary settings, successful and persuasive communication also requires the speakers' and the recipients' ability to handle various cultural challenges, spawned by cultural diversity. The first part of this paper tackles several definitions of culture and discusses the interconnections between language and culture; it also presents some significant implications entailed by a sociocultural approach to effective communication in ESP - English for Specific Purposes contexts. The second part of this study analyses two instances of ESP written communication, in order to highlight the sociocultural elements that permeate the respective professional messages and stress the necessity to pay due attention to the factors that can contribute to the improvement of communication in professional contexts.

Keywords

Communication, professional contexts, ESP – English for Specific Purposes, written communication, sociocultural approach

EMIL CIORAN ON THE DILEMMAATIC *OTHERNESS*

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Abstract:

Defined as “man’s fatal passion”, *otherness* represented for Cioran the corollary of a philosophy of “infinite possibilities”, born of an irrepressible longing to depart. This form of inner freedom, transmuted into the impossibility of settling, turned, in his view, from a spiritual symbol into a condition of human nature. Yet, by choosing the alternative of *otherness* over the *something* of his origins, Emil Cioran ends by asking himself, rhetorically, what good the change had done him: had he remained in his native village, would he not have grasped life’s essential truth just as well, perhaps even better, than amid the tumult of technicist blessings offered by a civilisation that estranges man from primordial wisdom?

Keywords:

Something, otherness, alternative, change, return.

MARIN SORESCU TOUCHED BY THE WING OF DESTINY

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Abstract:

This study explores a series of previously unexamined aspects concerning the reception of Marin Sorescu’s poetry during his early literary debut. It also delves into literary history as a reflection of the reverence the poet extends to the eminent cultural figure G. Călinescu, in gratitude for having his verses commented upon in the latter’s renowned column in *Contemporanul*.

We are not, strictly speaking, dealing with a correspondence, but rather with a brief epistolary moment in Sorescu’s life. The two letters sent to G. Călinescu during the final months of his life received no reply. Yet they reveal Marin Sorescu’s “monologue” on his own lyrical universe, through which Călinescu gains insight into the young poet’s views on the role of poetry, interwoven with examples from his own work. This unveiling of a creative programme unfolds in the form of a confession, one that does not shy away from acknowledging certain (literary) transgressions.

The “meanings” conveyed by G. Călinescu in his laudatory article *Un Tânăr poet* (‘A Young Poet’) represent the final evaluative text in his long career and acquire the significance of a message to posterity. Călinescu’s critical intuition proved accurate regarding the literary future of the one who would become, as poet, playwright, literary critic and essayist, one of Romania’s most important writers. In conclusion, it may be said that the great Romanian critic stamped his authoritative seal upon the auspicious destiny of the young debutant in Romanian culture and literature.

Lastly, the handwriting of the two letters invites nuanced interpretations regarding the way this native possessor of the “simple perfect” tense wrote and thought.

Keywords:

Epistolary, original, poetry, debut, Marin Sorescu, G. Călinescu.

AUGUSTIN BUZURA'S *ORGOLII*: ON THE "FACES" OF ROMANIAN COMMUNISM

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Abstract

This study aims to demonstrate that Romanian novelists of the 1960s unveil both the terror of the Dej regime and the more sophisticated methods of torture employed under Ceaușescu. Augustin Buzura's *Orgolii* exemplifies this dual exposure, structured across two temporal planes: the 1950s and the 1970s. The link between these eras is embodied by Dr. Ion Cristian, a character caught in the relentless machinery of history during both periods. Notably, the novel introduces a unique typology of the informer – an agent of the Securitate – who records in a private journal (embedded by Buzura in 10 of the novel's 24 chapters) the conversations and experiences of those under surveillance, adding his own interpretations. The result is a biting comic effect, both situational and linguistic, which conceals a harsh truth: even in the Ceaușescu era, the individual remains a victim of the oppressive practices wielded by those in power.

Keywords

Pride, tyrannology, "obsessive decade", Ceaușescu regime, informer.

III. LINGUISTIC CONFLUENCES

ENGLISH INFLUENCE ON ROMANIAN IN THE SPEECH OF A BILINGUAL CHILD: FROM LEXICAL TO GRAMMATICAL CONVERGENCE

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Abstract:

This article analyses the influence of English on the Romanian spoken by a bilingual child, by using a small corpus of utterances produced during informal conversations. The discussion focuses on the way in which Romanian lexical items and grammatical patterns are adapted to conform to English models in the absence of any formal transfers from this language.

Lexical convergence to English involves semantic extensions in Romanian words on the model of their foreign counterparts, while grammatical convergence is evident in a variety of constructions that replicate English structural patterns, such as the presence of overt subjects in contexts where they are not normally required, marked word order, non-standard use of gerundial constructions, omission of clitic pronouns, and changes in the grammatical properties of some verbs that result in alien-sounding constructions.

Key words:

Bilingualism, convergence, semantic calque, grammatical interference.

CONCEPTUALIZATION OF THE ADVERB IN THE FIRST GRAMMARS OF THE ROMANIAN LANGUAGE (1667-1822)¹

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Abstract

The study of the adverb in the first grammars of the Romanian language highlights its significant heterogeneous character, from a grammatical and semantic point of view. Regarding its classification, we note that it belongs to the category of inflexible parts of speech. The first framing situation places the adverb in the large corpus of parts of speech (Staicu 1667), which can also be found in other authors' works. Integrating it among the inflexible parts of speech determined the outline of a predominantly invoked characteristic: the inflexibility of this part of speech. Also noteworthy is the syntactic behaviour, carefully highlighted by the authors of the analysed grammars. This aspect was punctuated by clarifications regarding the regency of the adverb, the verb holding the authority.

Key words:

Adverb, grammar, inflexibility, morphology.

¹ The study of the above-mentioned grammars is being carried on as the postdoctoral study titled “Constitution of the morpho-syntactic norm in the first grammars of the Romanian language (1667-1914). Inflexible parts of speech”.

THE ROLE OF LINGUISTIC CONTACT IN THE EVOLUTION OF INTERJECTIONS IN THE ROMANIAN LANGUAGE¹

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Abstract

This study examines how linguistic contact has shaped the evolution of interjections in Romanian, highlighting both the internal dynamics of this lexical class and the impact of the main languages with which Romanian has interacted throughout history: Slavic, Turkish and Greek. Starting from theoretical premises regarding the hybrid nature of interjections – marked simultaneously by spontaneity and cultural conventionalisation – the research demonstrates that Romanian forms emerged through a complex process of borrowing, phonological adaptation and pragmatic reinterpretation. Slavic influences are most evident in religious expressions and phraseological mechanisms, Turkish in interjections of approval and encouragement, and Greek in the liturgical register. The general conclusion is that Romanian interjections reflect a linguistic space characterised by areal convergences, cultural transfers and parallel developments, constituting a valuable expressive marker for understanding the history of language contact.

Keywords

Linguistic contact, Greek influences, Slavic influences, Turkish influences, interjections, lexical borrowing, pragmatics.

¹ This article, which examines the evolution of the interjection, was prepared as part of The Postdoctoral Research Project UOC, entitled ‘*The Relationship between the Internal Genius and the Universals of Language and Thought in the Romanian Interjectional System.*’

A LINGUISTIC ANALYSIS OF THE FIRST OBSTETRICS TEXT WRITTEN IN ROMANIAN (1827)

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Abstract:

The article tackles with the first obstetrics text written and printed in Romanian in the first part of the 19th century. The text was elaborated by the Romanian physician Nicolae Chiriacopol and appeared in Iași, in 1827. Apart from its value as regards the useful information for midwives and pregnant women, as regards pregnancy, childbirth, the post-partum period and the diseases of infants, the text exhibits some morphosyntactic features which allow for a better understanding of the literary norm of the period.

Keywords:

Obstetrics, Nicolae Chiriacopol, 19th century, morphosyntax, literary norm.

Rezumat:

Prezentul studiu se oprește asupra primul text de obstetrică apărut în spațiul cultural românesc în prima jumătate a secolului al XIX-lea. Acesta a fost elaborat de medicul român Nicolae Chiriacopol și a apărut la Iași, în 1827. Dincolo de importanța practică a acestui text care oferă informații prețioase legate de sarcină, naștere, momentul lăuziei și bolile sugarilor, o atenție specială merită trăsăturile morfosintactice, care ne pot oferi o mai bună imagine asupra normei limbii literare a perioadei.

Cuvinte-cheie:

Obstetrică, Nicolae Chiriacopol, secolul al XIX-lea, morfosintaxă, normă literară.

THE ALTERNATIVE RELATION AND ITS MARKING STRATEGIES IN ROMANIAN

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Abstract

This study compares the two meanings of the concept of “*alternative relation*” as it appears in foreign linguistics, particularly in Mauri (2008), and in Romanian linguistics. While Mauri defines the alternative relation as a semantic relation between equivalent, non-co-occurring and mutually replaceable possibilities, Romanian studies emphasize temporal alternation and the succession of states of affairs. The research shows that Romanian linguistics does not offer a unified view regarding the status of the alternative relation: it is considered a subtype of disjunctive coordination, a subtype of copulative coordination, or a distinct type of coordination. The paper argues that the alternative relation from Romanian should be treated as a distinct type of coordination.

Keywords: alternative relation, disjunctive coordination, alternation, coordination semantics.

URBAN LEGENDS AND THE SUPERNATURAL IN ROMANIAN FOLKLORE: A CONTEMPORARY ANALYSIS

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Abstract:

This paper explores the persistence and transformation of supernatural entities and motifs from traditional Romanian folklore, particularly those involving devils and ghosts, within a contemporary urban setting. The study argues that these modern legends function as vital cultural tools for navigating irrational fears and affirming belief in the supernatural amid an increasingly secularised society.

Keywords:

Romanian folklore, urban legends, supernatural, devils, ghosts.

IV. EVENTS

**ALEXANDRU GAFTON, ȘTIINȚĂ ȘI IDEOLOGIE,
EDITURA UNIVERSITĂȚII DE VEST DIN
TIMIȘOARA, COLECȚIA „AULA MAGNA”,
TIMIȘOARA, 2025, 134 p.**

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Abstract :

The book "Science and Ideology" by Professor Alexandru Gafton of the "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iași has just been published by the University of the West of Timișoara Press in the "Aula Magna" collection. A prestigious figure in the academic world, he makes major contributions to diachronic linguistics and Romanian philology and has dedicated himself for more than thirty years to the study of the origin of human language.

Keywords:

The biosocial organism, reality, knowledge, ideologies, the objectivity of scientific knowledge.

**TRANSFORMING THE SELF AND SOCIETY
THROUGH THE POWER OF LANGUAGE.
A REVIEW OF *THE POWER OF LANGUAGE:
MULTILINGUALISM, SELF AND SOCIETY*
BY VIORICA MARIAN**

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Abstract:

Viorica Marian's *The Power of Language: Multilingualism, Self and Society* is a scholarly yet accessible work that investigates the profound impact of multilingualism on the mind, identity and society. Relying on a wealth of empirical studies and personal experiences, the author, a distinguished psycholinguist, offers a compelling and richly informative perspective.

Keywords:

Language, multilingualism, neural plasticity, cultural identity, communication, society.

REVIEW

Ştefan Găitănaru, 2025, *Daniil Andrean Panoneanul și limba română din secolul al XVII-lea*, Târgovişte: Editura Bibliotheca, 273 p.

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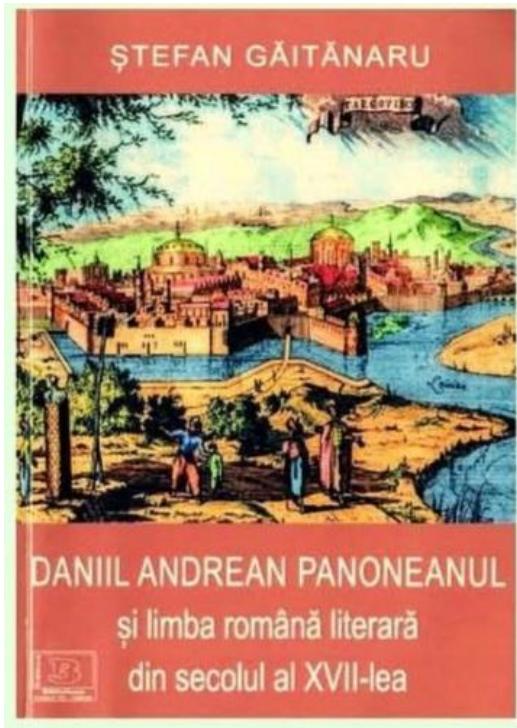
Abstract:

This review of the monograph devoted to the scholarly and literary activity of Daniil Andrean Panoneanul, an activity hitherto scarcely explored, aims to highlight the key points of Ştefan Găitănaru's analysis in his volume *Daniil Andrean Panoneanul și limba română literară din secolul al XVII-lea*, published in 2025.

Through exceptionally rigorous documentation, the philologist Ştefan Găitănaru seeks to fill a gap in studies dedicated to the diachronic analysis of the Romanian literary language, emphasising Panoneanul's contribution to its evolution. The approach is grounded in a systematic examination of linguistic phenomena excerpted from the enigmatic scholar's translations of major works: *Îndreptarea legii*, *Învățurile lui Neagoe Basarab către fiul său Theodosie* and *The Old Testament*.

Keywords:

Romanian literary language, diachrony, translation, lexicosemantic structures, grammatical structures.





Our journal is dedicated to the European Cultural Dialogue, with reference to universality, and features analyses regarding connections between particular and general, individual and collective, local and universal thinking, language, attitudes, behaviours, creation, and concrete action. The sections of each book entail different aspects of these topics:

- ideological, political, socio-economic, educational fundamentals of global and European cultural dialogue;
- cultural identity vs multilingualism; minority languages/ national languages/ official languages/ universal languages; diachronic and synchronic elements in cultural, linguistic contacts;
- alterity theories and practices, mentality evolution, institutionalized culture in the connection "Localism - Europeanism - Globalism";
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PINKER, S.; PRINCE, A., 1996, "The nature of human concepts", in: *Communication and Cognition*, 29, pp. 307-361.
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Dans ce numéro, études et articles signés

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