7TH ESTIDIA CONFERENCE EXPLORING REAL-LIFE, FICTIONAL AND VIRTUAL DIALOGUE: SIMILARITIES, DIFFERENCES AND COMPLEMENTARITIES 2024

12-14 JUNE, 2024

MYKOLAS ROMERIS UNIVERSITY, VILNIUS, LITHUANIA

Contents

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

7th ESTIDIA Conference Exploring Real-life, Fictional and Virtual Dialogue: Similarities, Differences and Complementarities

12-14 June 2024

Mykolas Romeris University (Vilnius, Lithuania)

	Day 1 - Wednesday 12 June
8:30-9:20	*Registration opens: Mykolas Romeris University, Ateities 20, I-414*
9:20-9:30	**Welcome and opening ceremony** Room I-414 Vice-Rector for Research and Innovations dr. Eglė Malinauskienė Link MS TEAMS
9:30-10:30	**KEYNOTE 1** **Prof. dr. Cornelia Ilie (Strömstad Academy, Sweden)** ***Heuristic vs. eristic dialogue: Cancelling individuals by cancelling dialogue*** Room I-414 Link MS TEAMS

10:30-11:00	**Coffee break** (Profesoriumas, the 2nd floor)		
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11:00-13:00	**METHODOLOGICAL WORKSHOP**
	
	Different approaches to dialogic research: Analysing a multimodal and multicultural embodiment of joint action in real-life and "non-real-life" interactions
	
	Convenor: Prof. dr. Keiko Tsuchiya, Yokohama City University (Japan)
	
	Part 1. Panelists
	1. *Face-to-face and online communication of Japanese children with Autism Spectrum Disorders*, Kyoko Aizaki (Hamamatsu University School of Medicine, Japan)
	2. *Reading medical records aloud: Enhancing the validity of announcing lab results*, Satomi Kuroshima (Tamagawa University, Japan)
	3. *Managing relations in dialogue between healthcare professionals: Multimodal and multicultural realisation of joint action*, Małgorzata Chałupnik (University of Nottingham, UK)
	4. *Analysing gaze behaviours of a doctor and a nurse in simulated emergency:*
		Paper presentations
		
		Dialogue in educational settings
		
		(Moderator Eglė Selevičienė)
		
		Lucija Zala Bezlaj and Janja Žmavc
		    Racist or funny? A conversation and rhetorical analysis of a classroom discussion
			Paper presentations
			
			War and peace dialogues
			
			(Moderator Viktorija Mažeikienė)
			
			Urszula Okulska
			    Peace journalism as dialogue. The case of alternative journalistic reports on the war in Ukraine

		Takanori Kawamata and Hiromasa Tanaka
		    A case study: Dialogic interactions between a Japanese visual impaired student with local resources in Malta island
			Nataliia Vdovychenko and Ad Backus
			    The use of Telegram bots during the war in Ukraine

		Martina Ronci and Shima Moallemi
		    Making informal invitations in French: A contrastive analysis of dialogues in real-life conversations, textbooks, TV shows, and AI-generated texts
			Iryna Nedainova
			    From appeals for help to demands for action: Changes in President Zelenskyy's international discourse in the course of war in Ukraine

		Zdravka Biočina and Ivona Škreblin Kirbiš
		    Interactivity in online presentations in educational settings
			Ludmilla A'Beckett
			    "But you just watch mainstream media, don't you?" Conspiracist strategies of dialogic contraction in online comments by Putin's supporters

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	Dialogues between consultants, information engineers and linguists, Keiko Tsuchiya[1], Frank Coffey[2], Bise Kazuya[3], Takeshi Saitoh[4] ([1] Yokohama City University, Japan, [2] Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust, UK, [3] Kyushu Institute of Technology, Japan) 5. *Exploring experimental and analytical methods for online communication: An interdisciplinary approach*, Miharu Fuyuno (Kyushu University, Japan)		
13:00-14:00	**Lunch break** (the University Cafeteria, the ground floor - please gown downstairs in front of the information desk)		
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14:00-16:30	**METHODOLOGICAL WORKSHOP CONT.** *Part 2 Data analysis session*	**Paper presentations** ***Dialogue in educational settings cont.*** (Moderator Gerda Šimienė) Diana Tomić and Alma Vančura *Dialogue in public speaking pedagogy: The case of Croatia*	**Paper presentations** ***War and peace dialogue cont.*** (Moderator Viktorija Mažeikienė) Elçin Yılmaz *Hate speech acts in Turkish youtube comments about the Israel-Hamas war*
		Giedrė Valūnaitė-Oleškevičienė, Gražina Čiuladienė, Lora Tamošiūnienė and Liudmila Mockienė *Teacher digital skills in online language teaching and learning: Dialogue or silence?*	**Paper presentations** ***Media online dialogues*** (Moderator Viktorija Mažeikienė) Bianca-Florentina Cheregi, Mălina Ciocea and Florenţa Toader

			Ukrainian refugee voices in Romania: The use of metadialogic practices in independent media documentaries
		Taofeek O. Dalamu and Bonke O. Dalamu *Partnership: An illustration of modal behavioural dialogues in Knorr Chicken Cube® advertising communication in Nigeria*	Valeria Sinkeviciute *"It is not inconceivable you might see the Dakserpensis Monoculus": Joint fantasising and the construction of group membership in online communities*
		Bernard Ngmenniabangne Bilikpe *Folktales and focus group discourse in Dagaare: Frequency of passives and middle constructions*	Ruth Breeze *Performing antagonism: Dialogues with the far right on reader comments pages*
			Nihad Fottouh and Vera Tsenova *The imagery of migrants: A self and social construct*
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17:00-18:00	**KEYNOTE 2** **Dr. Michael Kranert (University of Southampton, UK)** ***Dialogue across scales: The wicked problem of achieving Net-Zero locally*** Room I-414 Link MS TEAMS		
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08:30-09:30	**KEYNOTE 3** **Prof. dr. Jurga Cibulskienė (Vilnius University, Lithuania)**		

	Diverse metaphorical voices in the media: Do they enhance dialogic potential? Room I-414 Link MS TEAMS
09:30-10:00	**Coffee break** (Profesoriumas, the 2nd floor)

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10:00-12:00	**Paper presentations** *Dialogic interactions in political and public discourse* (Moderator Liudmila Mockienė) Ruxandra Boicu and Silvia Branea *Pre-electoral discourse on Facebook: A Romanian case-study* Sandra Lukšić *Talking to each other, but how?* Adrian Toader *"United we stand, divided we fall". Political slogans in the face of modern crises*	**THEMATIC WORKSHOP 1** *InTranslation 2024: Humanity, cultures, technologies, and translation – complex dialogic intersections* Convenors: assoc. prof. dr. Lora Tamošiūnienė, assoc. prof. dr. Vilhelmina Vaičiūnienė, assoc. prof. dr. Viktorija Mažeikienė (Mykolas Romeris University, Lithuania) Part 1 Technologies, translation, and translator education Dainius Sabaliauskas and Aurimas Novikovas (EUROTRADUS) *The impact of AI on the language industry: The transformative shift from translators to language specialists* Krzysztof Łoboda *Translating legal culture with neural-network enhanced (NMT/LLM) translation technology: near prospects or far future?* Krzysztof Łoboda and Olga Mastela	**Paper presentations** *Dialogic interactions in fictional universes* (Moderator Joana Aleksandrovič) Paolo Braga *Pregame speeches in movies: Motivational rhetoric through the lenses of screenwriting* Agnieszka Szurek *Ethos and persona in human-robot relationships* Monika Kavalir and Aja Čelhar *„Uh, I'm a pretty sick guy": Adapting the dialogue of* American Psycho *for screen* Liviu-Andrei Dobre *Enunciation strategies in hip hop music: A case study of Kanye West and Cedry2k*

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		Enhancing reflective practice in the era of automation: A way to approach MT and AI in translator education today	
		Maria Lopez-Medel	
		A study of gender bias when translating professions	
		Julija Jančak	
		The (R)evolution of Translation Technology: The Status Quo and Trends	
		Giedrė Valūnaitė-Oleškevičienė, Chaya Liebeskind	
		Multi-word discourse markers in translation from English into Hebrew and Lithuanian for multicultural dialogue	
		Darius Valūnas	
		Translator's chances to beat MT	
		Discussion	
12:00-13:00	**Lunch break** (the University Cafeteria, the ground floor)		
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	Sigita Rackevičienė, Liudmila Mockienė, Andrius Utka *Bridging knowledge asymmetry: Terminology preferences in expert-to-layperson dialogue*	*Dialogue and discussion through unconventional artistic intervention: Addressing communist-era heritage* Enida Godime *Dialogue and non-dialogue in the postmodernism literature (Overview in Ridvan Dibra's novel)* Marisa Kerbizi and Fjoralba Satka *The role of dialogue in contemporary literature in expressing the trauma of totalitarianism: Case of Albanian literature* Adeyemi Roheemat Olabimpe *Understanding a speech act of the features of ọ̀yọ́ palace orature* *Discussion*	Hana Aissaoui *Dialogic forms and societal transformations in James Joyce's* A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man *(1916): Insights for contemporary relevance*
	Purificação Silvano, Giedre Valunaite-Oleskeviciene, Mariana Damova & Chaya Liebeskind *Reproduction of dialogues in monologues: A semantic-pragmatic analysis of questions*		Joanna Aleksandrovič *Cultural mosaic in Zadie Smith's* White Teeth*: A postcolonial aspect*
	Xiaona Ma and Carl Vogel *Syntactic alignment correlates with task success in dialogue*		
	Daniel Weiss *Reporting a hiking trip to (hyper-?) active hearers*		
15:00-15:30	**Coffee break** (Profesoriumas, the 2nd floor)		
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16:30-18:30	*Free time before the excursion and dinner*		
18:30-19:30	*Excursion in the Old Town* *(the meeting point – the Bell Tower of the Cathedral Square)*		

19:30-21:30	*Gala dinner in the Old Town* https://www.restoranasgrey.lt/en/			
	Day 3 – Friday 14 June			
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08:30-10:30	**THEMATIC WORKSHOP 2** NB This workshop will start at 10:00 ***Multi-foci analysis of real and fictional healthcare dialogue*** Convenor: prof. dr. Catalina Iliescu-Gheorghiu (University of Alicante, Spain) *Part 1 – Panelists* María López-Medel; Elena Pérez; Silvia Sánchez • E. Pérez: the importance of language in grieving as compared to empathy; which of them prevails in such a situation (loss of a dear one and mourning). (English and Spanish) • S. Sánchez: focus on neighbouring languages and cultures: their	**THEMATIC WORKSHOP 3** ***Intersection of discourse studies and dialogue system research: Towards an interdisciplinary approach for mutual development*** Convenors: prof. dr. Mayumi Usami (Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, Japan), prof. dr. Ryuichiro Higashinaka (Nagoya University, Japan), prof. Dr. Hiroyuki Nishikawa (Meikai University, Japan) Panelists: 1. Mayumi Usami *Applying discourse politeness theory to the study of dialogue systems* 2. Yikai Tseng, Takenobu Tokunaga, and Hikaru Yokono *Lexical level control in dialogue systems* 3. Kouki Miyazawa and Yoshinao Sato	**Paper presentations** ***Humour and dialogue*** (Moderator Joana Aleksandrovič) Jan Chovanec and Villy Tsakona *Interactional humour in YouTube comments section: The construction of joking threads* Kateryna Yeremieieva *Would you laugh with us? Internet humour and mutual (dis)trust in the dialogue process (case of Ukraine in 2022-2023)* Arie Sover	**MRU philology students panel** ***FLOWS 2024*** (a parallel event - t*erm paper presentations and discussions*)

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	similarities, differences and complementarities in doctor-patient dialogues when bad news being given. (French and Spanish) • M. Lopez-Medel: the gender perspective (female nurse, male patient) and the discursive signals as well as non-verbal language and sexism. (English and Spanish) • C. Iliescu: cultural and linguistic contrastive factors (Romanian and Spanish).	*Prosodic Attitude Recognition for Spoken Dialogue Systems on Reading Speech and Spontaneous Dialogue Corpora* 4. Ryuichiro Higashinaka *Analysis of Human-System Interactions in Dialogue-System-Related Competitions*	*Humor and enjoyment reducers* Bianca Alecu *The collaborative construction of humour in Romanian Reddit interactions*	
10:30-11:00	**Coffee break** (Profesoriumas, the 2nd floor)			
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13:00-14:00	**Lunch break** (the University Cafeteria, the ground floor)			
14:00-15:00	**KEYNOTE 5** **Assoc. prof. dr. Lora Tamošiūnienė (King Sejong Institute and Mykolas Romeris University, Lithuania)** *About textuality of grief*			

	Room I-414 Link MS TEAMS
15:00-16:30	**CLOSING OF THE CONFERENCE** Room I-414 Link MS TEAMS
	POST-CONFERENCE TRIP TO TRAKAI **Saturday 15 June** 11:00 Bus leaves campus 13:30 Lunch in Trakai 17:00 Return to campus

Scientific Committee

Pilar Blitvich (University of North Carolina at Charlotte, USA)

Belinda Blanche Crawford (University of Calabria, Italy)

Bart Garssen (University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands)

Michael Haugh (University of Queensland, Australia)

Cornelia Ilie (Strömstad Academy, Sweden)

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Povilas Aleksandravičius (Mykolas Romeris University, Lithuania)

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Mahvish Rashid (Mykolas Romeris University, Lithuania)

Location, conference website, contact

Conference website

https://estidia2024.mruni.eu/

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Keynote Speakers

Cornelia Ilie (Strömstad Academy, Sweden)

Heuristic vs. eristic dialogue: Cancelling individuals by cancelling dialogue

Bionote

Cornelia Ilie is Professor of Linguistics and Rhetoric at Strömstad Academy, Sweden and Visiting Professor at Hellenic American University, Athens, Greece. Previously she was Professor at Örebro University and Malmö University, Sweden. She was research fellow at Lancaster University, UK and research scholar at U.C. Berkeley, and held visiting professorships at universities in Austria, Finland, Greece, Italy, Romania, Spain, and the UK. She is the founder and president of ESTIDIA (European Society for Transcultural and Interdisciplinary Dialogue), Board member of IPrA (International Pragmatics Association), and Member of the ESF (European Science Foundation) College of Expert Reviewers.

Her research interests are interdisciplinary and internationally anchored. Prof. Ilie has published extensively on institutional pragmatics and discourse practices (particularly political, media and academic discourses), intercultural rhetoric and argumentation. In addition to numerous book chapters, refereed journal and encyclopedia articles, her recent publications include the following books: The Use of English in Institutional and Business Settings: An Intercultural Perspective (Peter Lang, 2007); European Parliaments under Scrutiny: Discourse Strategies and Interaction Practices (John Benjamins, 2010); Evolving Genres in Web-Mediated Communication (Peter Lang, 2012); International Encyclopedia of Language and Social Interaction (Wiley-Blackwell, 2015); Argumentation across Communities of Practice: Multi-Disciplinary Perspectives (John Benjamins 2017); Challenging

Leadership Stereotypes through Discourse: Power, Management and Gender (Springer 2017); Pragmatics and Its Interfaces (John Benjamins, 2018); Questioning and Answering Practices across Contexts and Cultures (John Benjamins, 2021); Manufacturing Dissent: Manipulation and Counter-Manipulation in Times of Crisis (John Benjamins 2024).

Abstract

In post-modern societies interpersonal and inter-group tensions arise and get articulated in the context of public dialogues on critically important issues. While disagreements are bound to occur in any public dialogue, there is less tolerance nowadays for the expression of diverging views, but rather a strong tendency to attack and silence such views (Ilie 2023). In the case of currently polarized real-life and virtual dialogues, negative emotions caused by discontent and resentment are blocking out reasonably argued viewpoints, escalating into hatred and threats with physical violence (Gumbus and Meglich 2013; Ilie 2021). We are thus witnessing an increasing ratio of polemical exchanges instantiating mixed types of dialogues (Walton 1998), which involve shifting from heuristic to eristic types of dialogue, and increasingly from eristic dialogue to cancelled dialogue.

While in heuristic dialogue the interactants are genuinely arguing in the pursuit of truth, or seeking to reach a rational and mutually acceptable argument-based resolution, the participants in eristic dialogue aim to simply win by defeating the counterparty and to make up for perceived grievances, whereby an initial disagreement may turn into an actual quarrel (Amossy 2014, Perelman and Olbrechts-Tyteca 1969, Walton and Krabbe 1995). As a result of noxious manifestations of current socio-political debate, an eristic dialogue may take a turn for the worse due to cancel culture tactics and thus become a cancelled dialogue, where aggressive speech acts (e.g. direct and indirect verbal threats) are performed, out of anger and hatred, to offend, threaten and delegitimize targeted individuals or groups.

The aim of this presentation is to explain and illustrate how discursive strategies controlled by scaled up negative emotions and sheer hatred generate shifts from heuristic to eristic types of dialogue that eventually emerge as cancelled dialogues. A cross-disciplinary analytical framework based on pragma-rhetoric (Ilie 2015; 2018) and argumentation theory (Dascal 1998; 2008) has been used to identify and account for the discursive and rhetorical shifts across heuristic, eristic, and cancelled dialogues.

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harassment in cyberspace. Journal of Management Policy and Practice, 14(5): 47.

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Manfred Kienpointner (University of Innsbruck, Austria)

Dialogic Aspects of Political Rhetoric in Speeches and Treatises on Freedom

Bionote

Manfred Kienpointner is Professor emeritus of General and Applied Linguistics at the University of Innsbruck, Austria. 1998 ISSA-Award for research on rhetoric and argumentation (ISSA = International Society for the Study of Argumentation). November 2001-January 2002 Visiting Scholar at the English Department of the University of Arizona/Tucson, U.S.A. 2005-2007 Guest professor at the Department of Linguistics, University of Vienna (substitute for Prof. Ruth Wodak). 2021 Award of the Südtiroler Sparkasse Foundation.

His main research areas are rhetoric and argumentation, contrastive linguistics and (im)politeness studies. Publications include the books Argumentationsanalyse (1983), Alltagslogik (1992), Vernünftig argumentieren (1996) and Latein – Deutsch kontrastiv (2010), Schmetterlinge in den Sprachen der Erde (2024). Editor of the special issues of the journals Pragmatics 9(1) (1999) on Ideologies of Politeness and Discourse Studies 25(4) (2023) on New Developments in Argumentation Studies.

Abstract

In this paper, I would like to defend a radically dialogic concept of language. More specifically, I will use the concept of "polyphony" as developed by Mikhail M. Bakhtin (cf. Bakhtin 1971, 1981) and its elaboration by Oswald Ducrot (cf. Ducrot 1984, Anscombre/Ducrot 1983, Ducrot 1999, Carel/Ducrot 2009), Eddy Roulet (cf. Roulet et al. 1987, Roulet et al. 2001; Filliettaz/Roulet 2002) and Henning Nølke (cf. Nølke 1992, 2017), as well as insights from dialogue theory as presented by Edda Weigand (2009), in order to support the position that true "monologues" do not exist: Even within supposedly monologic discourse (such as political speeches or treatises) a variety of (often implicit) "voices" can be reconstructed. Main rhetorical devices for implementing these "voices" are figures of speech such as irony, litotes, hyperbole or understatement.

Moreover, within these speeches and treatises a plenty of more explicit dialogic structures are frequently inserted. I will use the inventory of dialogic figures as established within classical rhetoric (for example, praemunitio, concessio, interrogatio, subiectio, confessio, sermocinatio, apostrophe; cf. Lausberg 1990) to describe these dialogic structures.

Using a corpus of political speeches and treatises arguing for more social or political freedom freedom ("freedom discourse"; cf. Kienpointner 2024) about two dozen of spoken and written texts from antiquity to our time), I will illustrate these rhetorical strategies with passages taken from both real and fictitious dialogues. I will also try to show how these strategies serve as rhetorical means used for reaching the argumentative goals of the respective speakers/writers by enhancing the persuasive efficiency of their speeches/treatises. In this way, they are typical instances of "strategic maneuvering" as defined by van Eemeren (2010) within the theory of Pragma-Dialectics.

References

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Michael Kranert (University of Southampton, the United Kingdom)

Dialogue across scales: The wicked problem of achieving Net-Zero locally

Bionote

Doctor Michael Kranert | University of Southampton

Abstract

The project presented in this talk focusses on Net Zero discourses in local politics. It investigates how national discourses are adapted in local politics in Germany and the UK, and the role dialogue between different discursive actors across scales plays in policy making.

Broad goals on climate change are largely set at international and national level, whereas the tangible action required to tackle the challenge of climate change is essentially implemented at a local and individual level. The project investigates how national political discourses on climate change are adapted at local government level in different political systems by combining methods of linguistic ethnography and critical discourse analysis. We analyse textual trajectories of climate change discourses between national and local government in Germany and the UK to gain an understanding of how these discourses are adapted locally.

The talk will focus on the pilot phase of the project, analysing a data set from a council debate in Germany about the EU programme "100 Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities by 2030" and the textual and discursive networks created by that debate. The analysis is based on recordings from the council and committee debates, the different versions of motions, as well as the broader textual networks

produced by a debate that did not result in this city taking part in the programme, but initiated a wider dialogue within the urban society. To add a comparative perspective, I will draw on some preliminary data from Southampton.

Jurga Cibulskienė (Vilnius University, Lithuania)

Diverse metaphorical voices in the media: Do they enhance dialogic potential?

Bionote

Dr. Jurga Cibulskienė is an Associate Professor within the Faculty of Philology at Vilnius University. Her research is dedicated to metaphor studies in public discourse with the focus on the evaluative metaphorical narratives surrounding the global economic crisis in 2008, higher education reform in Lithuania, the #MeToo movement offering insights into the intersection of language, power, and ideology. In recent years, her research has expanded to encompass the dynamic socio-political landscape of Eastern Europe, particularly examining the impact of pivotal events such as the Ukrainian crisis in 2014 and the ongoing political conflict between Belarus and the West. By exploring the metaphorical dimensions of these contentious issues, Cibulskienė sheds light on the underlying narratives that shape public perceptions and policy decisions.

Abstract

Cognitively-oriented scholars have demonstrated that metaphors provide a coherent system for structuring our experience (Lakoff & Johnson 1980/2003, 1999; Kövecses 2020; Gibbs 2017). Metaphors allow us to perceive and articulate the same situation in multiple ways (Langacker, 2007; Croft & Cruse, 2004; Verhagen, 2007). Shifting viewpoints may lead to distinct interpretations of the same event (Sweetser, 2012), resulting in varied judgements (Croft & Cruse, 2004). In the studies where Cognitive Linguistics (CL) is blended with Critical Discourse Studies (CDS), such judgements are referred to as framing (Hart, 2014; Musolff, 2016; Brugman et al., 2019; Bogetic, 2019).

The paper examines real-world events depicted in the media, viewing metaphor as an argumentative tool that shows different viewpoints and frames situations to impact audiences (Chilton 2004; Charteris-Black 2014; Hart 2014; Musolff 2016). Specifically, it explores how metaphors contribute to establishing an attitudinal stance in media coverage of two socially contested issues: the #MeToo movement in 2018 in the UK media and the political conflict between Belarus and EU countries in 2021 in Lithuanian, German and Russian media. The methodology comprised three steps. At the linguistic level, metaphors were manually identified in the texts applying the basic principles of MIPVU. At the cognitive level, the identified linguistic metaphors were analysed by assigning them to source domains and linking them to cognitive metaphorical scenarios (Musolff, 2016). At the rhetorical level, the metaphorical

scenarios were investigated for the attitudes expressed in the texts (Charteris-Black 2014; Musolff 2016) and their dialogic potential (Seltzer, Mitrook, 2007; Kent & Theunissen, 2016).

The findings suggest that in the discourses of the #MeToo movement and of the Belarus-EU political conflict, metaphors manifest multiple scenarios depending on the perspective taken. The evaluations attached to the scenarios exhibit polarised attitudes of us vs. them: supporting either women or men in the discourse of the #MeToo movement; the EU's viewpoint based on Western values targeting authoritarian regimes vs. Russian-centric viewpoint positing the Western world as a major threat to Belarusian and Russian societies. These polarised attitudes raise serious doubts about the willingness of the scenario participants to find common ground for dialogue. The study highlights the prominent role of metaphor in media discourse, foregrounding its potential to shape public perception and impact socio-political dynamics.

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Lora Tamošiūnienė (King Sejong Institute and Mykolas Romeris University, Lithuania)

About textuality of grief
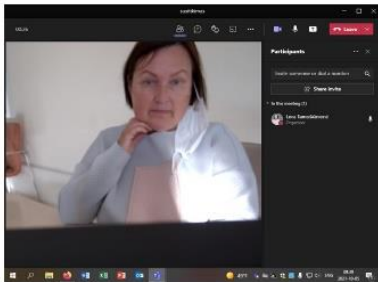
Bionote

Lora Tamošiūnienė is an associate professor at the Institute of Humanities, Mykolas Romeris University, MRU, Vilnius, Lithuania and an administrative Head of King Sejong Institute Vilnius. Tamošiūnienė coordinates one of the Bachelor programmes, *English for Specific Purposes and Korean Studies*. Tamošiūnienė defended her dissertation in 2006 on adult education at Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas, and since has published on adult education, cultural aspects of adult language learning, and multilingual teaching skills. Since 2010, Tamošiūnienė teaches *World Literature* and, since 2018, *Translation of a Literary Text* at the Institute of Humanities, MRU. Her teaching area has invited her interest in to the historical perspectives of editing of Lithuanian translations, world literature, in particular, Korean translations using English as a medium language and the newest approaches to World Literature have invited a deeper study of recent World literature. Her keynote speech is also connected to the Bachelor degree studies carried out in different years by the bachelors in the Institute of Humanities at Mykolas Romeris University.

Abstract

Upon a day, came Sorrow in to me,
Saying, 'I've come to stay with thee a while';
And I perceived that she had ushered Bile
And Pain into my house for company.
Wherefore I said, 'Go forth – away with thee!'
But like a Greek she answered, full of guile,
And went on arguing in an easy style.
Then, looking, I saw Love come silently,
Habited in black raiment, smooth and new,
Having a black hat set upon his hair;
And certainly the tears he shed were true.
So that I asked, 'What ails thee, trifler?'
Answering, he said: 'A grief to be gone through;
For our own lady's dying, brother dear.'

By Dante Alighieri on the 9th of June 1290, translated by Dante Gabriel Rosetti

We are never finished with grief. It is part of the fabric of living. It is always waiting to happen. Love makes memories and life precious; the grief that comes to us is proportionate to that love and is inescapable. This grief has its own exigencies. We can never tell beforehand for whom we will feel grief.

The Strangeness of Grief. By V. S. Naipaul 30th December, 2019

They do not know why.

When Animals Grieve. By Barry Yeoman. Jan 30, 2018

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Covid-19 toll is 4.5 million people worldwide writes Princeton University professor Michale Cholbi on 21 January, 2022; War in Ukraine killed 5000050,000 write BBC reporters Olga Ivshina, Becky Dale & Kirstie Breweron on 17 April, 2024; over 37,000 people perished in Israel-Hamas war is reported on 24 May, 2024 in Google system. Experts estimate that each person who dies is significantly grieved by nine others (Cholbi, 2022). It is hard to deny Cholbi's idea that we face "a flood of grief unlike any the world has seen since the world wars of the previous century." Grief is, and over the centuries has been, a large and important theme in literatures. Because of the growing prominence of the theme, it is important to talk about how grief is represented textually. From the samples of textual presentations which will be reviewed here it becomes visible that grief by its objective power, force majeure, is capable of turning humans and non-humans into one "community of fate", uprotected collectivity affronted by an objective power beyond control (Baehr, 2005). The power of grief to combine human and non-human subjectivity, in this essay, human and animal subjectivity, bond all strongly but to a diverse degree of sentience (self-awereness, self-recognition and ability to built physical and mental perspective of others) (Broom, 2019) as can be seen from selected textual accounts. Grief in this perspective will be revealing new depths of subjectivity in multispecies writings (Mara de Gennaro, 2015). Another perspective of textual accounts of grief will be a comparison of paraliterary (Emre, 2017) samples of writing (writings not recognised or not recognisable as literary) along with traditionally accepted literary genres, e.g. fable. The aim of this review is not only to embrace multiple species based on accounts of grief, not only to focus on canonically approved literary texts but also to sidestep the textual accounts of grief of geographic belonging and of the colour of historicity. A selection of textual accounts is taken from as far back as 1603 covering Queen Elizabeth I's decline in her last days before death, as found in Royal Museums Greenwich (2024); Frances Burney', Madame D'Arblay's letter to Esther Burney, written in March-June 1812 from Paris; V.S. Naipaul's, a Trinidadian-British writer's, personal history writing "The Strageness of Grief", published 30 December, 2019; an American journalist's, Barry Yeoman`s essay "When Animal's Grieve" published 13 January, 2018; and a fable by a Korean writer Sun –Mi Hwang "The Hen Who Dreamed She Could Fly" written in 2000 and in 2013 translated by Chi-Young Kim.

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Methodological Workshop

Different approaches to dialogic research: analysing a multimodal and multicultural embodiment of joint action in real-life and "non-real-life" interactions

Convenor: Keiko Tsuchiya (Yokohama City University)

Abstract

In the *dialogical* turn, language use as dialogue is seen as *acting* (Ilie, 2023)*,* and any dialogue entails a socio-cultural (i.e., temporal or historical) aspect of language and involves interactants and material objects in a particular environment where a dialogue takes place (i.e., spatio-material or *in situ*) as Ilie illuminates the former as *dialogism* and the latter *dialogicality* (ibid., p.111). Dialogism thus concerns *multiculturality* and   dialogicality *multimodality*. This workshop discusses dialogic research, in particular research methods for analysing joint action (Enfield, 2017) in interactions, which is multimodally and multiculturally embodied in various socio-cultural contexts. Multicultural here is not limited to diverse practices involving different ethnic groups but includes fluid and contingent dynamism between any distinctive socio-cultural groups, e.g., a multidisciplinary healthcare professional team. Researchers take diverse approaches to analysing joint actions. Drawing on anthropological perspectives (Malinowski, 1923; Whorf, 1956), discourse analysts are, for instance, intrigued by how people frame interactions (Tannen, 1981; van Dijk, 1982). Deriving from philosophy of language (Austin, 1962; Searle, 1962), pragmatic linguists foreground various patterns in linguistic forms and meanings in distinctive contexts (Blum-Kulka et al., 1989), sometimes utilising corpus data (Adolphs, 2008). While conversation analysts reveal covert social structures by describing turn sequences in interactions in a detail manner (Sacks et al., 1974), which has a bases on theories in sociology (Garfinkel, 1967). Researchers make decision on what research method(s) should be chosen for their research purposes. This workshop provides a platform for scrutinising what different research methods can engender when analysing real-life and 'non real-life' dialogues:

- How do researchers analyse a multimodal and multicultural embodiment of joint action in real-life contexts?

- What research approaches (e.g., sociology- and anthropology-oriented methods) do researchers take and why?

- How do researchers incorporate socio-cultural factors and multiple semiotic resources in the analysis?

- How can researchers apply the methods to dialogical research in "non real-life" contexts, e.g., dialogues via online conferencing or in virtual reality application?

The workshop consists of two parts. In Part I, five panellists elucidate research methods they employ and the inquires above with a case study, emphasising unique viewpoints the method can bring to the analysis.

Panelists

1. *Face-to-face and online communication of Japanese children with Autism Spectrum Disorders*, Kyoko Aizaki (Hamamatsu University School of Medicine, Japan)

2. *Reading medical records aloud: enhancing the validity of announcing lab results*, Satomi Kuroshima (Tamagawa University, Japan)

3. *Managing relations in dialogue between healthcare professionals: Multimodal and multicultural realisation of joint action,* Małgorzata Chałupnik (University of Nottingham, UK)

4. *Analysing gaze behaviours of a doctor and a nurse in simuated emergency: diaglogues between consultatns, information engineers and linguists*, Keiko Tsuchiya[1], Frank Coffey[2], Bise Kazuya[3], Takeshi Saitoh[4] ([1]Yokohama City University, Japan, [2]Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust, UK, [3]Kyushu Institute of Technology, Japan)

5. *Exploring experimental and analytical methods for online communication: an interdisciplinary approach*, Miharu Fuyuno (Kyushu University, Japan)

Data analysis session

Part II of the workshop is a data analysis session. It provides the audence an opportunity to look at a recording of a sample datum in group, exploring potentials and challenges of each research method. This workshop would benefit graduate students and early career researchers in pragmatics, discourse and conversation analysis and other related areas.

Convenor bionote

Keiko Tsuchiya is Associate Professor of School of International Liberal Arts, Yokohama City University, Japan. She is currently leading the EYE WORK II project (JSPS 22H03318), which aims to multimodally investigate surgical team interaction with multiple eye-tracking devices. Email: ktsuchiy@yokohama-cu.ac.jp, Website: http://www-user.yokohama-cu.ac.jp/~ktsuchiy/wp/, Recent

publication: Tsuchiya, K. (Ed., forthcoming). *Exploring Health and Well-being Communication in Japanese context - Culture, Language and Multimodality* (Book series: the Humanities in Asia, Springer).

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Thematic Workshop 1

InTranslation 2024: Humanity, cultures, technologies, and translation – complex dialogic intersections

Convenors: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lora Tamošiūnienė, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vilhelmina Vaičiūnienė, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Viktorija Mažeikienė

This workshop embraces two thematic subsections of *technologies in translation* and *literary translation*. The purpose of this workshop is to discuss new trends in translation globally as well as to analyse literary translation in depth. As Bassnett (2014) puts it, translation is a "movement across time and also across space." Moreover, the concept of translation has become a "travelling concept" which travels across disciplinary borders and academic fields. Another important question to be posed if technologies will replace humans or enhance them.

In the subsection of *literary translation* such issues will be addressed:

- Translation as a dialogue between humanity, cultures, and translation
- Literary translation within societal, cultural, and historical vicissitudes

In the subsection on *technologies in translation* the following questions will be discussed:

- Impact of existing and evolving technologies on translation
- Digital future of translation in the globalization of the 21st century
- Translation as a collaborative task
- Dialogic relations of human vs. machine translation and challenges caused by imperfection of translation software
- Impact of technologies on translator's activities and competences

- Complexities of coexistence between languages and cultures and cultural identity

- Educational issues concerning translation technologies in translator training

Target audience: linguists, translator trainers, professional translators, students of translation and philological study programmes, translation industry representatives

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PART 1 - TECHNOLOGIES, TRANSLATION, AND TRANSLATOR EDUCATION

1. *The impact of AI on the language industry: The transformative shift from translators to language specialists*

Dainius Sabaliauskas (CEO at EUROTRADUS); Aurimas Novikovas (COO at EUROTRADUS)
www.eurotradus.eu

The language industry is going through a transformative period, influenced by advancements in Artificial Intelligence (AI). This presentation aims to explore the critical changes that AI is bringing to the translation industry, analysing the current landscape and providing insights into what the future holds for language professionals.

The presentation will showcase the application of machine translation (MT) and large language models (LLMs) in the workflows of translation companies. These innovations have not only changed the traditional roles of translators, but have also redefined how translation is approached in general. We will discuss how MT and AI are increasing translation efficiency and examine the shift from manual translation to post-editing, i.e. editing of machine-generated translation.

Translators are thus evolving into a new role of language specialists, undertaking additional aspects of work such as post-editing, transcreation, copyediting, intercultural communication, etc. Today we even see the emergence of new professions such as prompt engineers who specialise in creating specific queries for LLMs (prompts). The presentation will analyse where the industry stands at this juncture and will highlight both the challenges and the opportunities for language professionals.

It will emphasise the importance of educational institutions to keep pace with the latest technologies and prepare a new generation of linguistic talents in cooperation with business. AI still relies on the expertise of language specialists because it does not possess real-world knowledge or understanding. AI should be seen as an additional opportunity to perform certain tasks faster while maintaining quality.

2. *Translating legal culture with neural-network enhanced (NMT/LLM) translation technology: near prospects or far future?*
Krzysztof Łoboda, PhD, Institute of Lingustics and Translation Studies, Jagiellonian University in Kraków

Over the past decade, language technologies have continued to disrupt the translation industry. Initially, the introduction of more robust custom Statistical Machine Translation (SMT) systems marked a significant advancement. This was soon followed by neural network-based solutions, namely Neural Machine Translation (NMT) and large language models (LLMs). The emergence of generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) is poised to revolutionise the language services industry, particularly by making significant strides in processing specialist texts.

One such area undergoing transformation is legal translation, which demands a combination of specialised knowledge and an understanding of the legal culture of a specific region, be it national or supranational. In this paper, focusing on the English-Polish language pair, I undertake a comparative analysis of the official versions of three legal acts (EU Regulations) with the automatic outputs generated by custom SMT, generic NMT, specialized NMT, and generative AI tools.

The challenges and outcomes of this comparison will be examined through both qualitative and quantitative methods, with the latter including BLEU scores and stylometric analysis tools. The findings suggest that these advanced methods exhibit a sufficient level of correlation, enabling them to support human translators and revisers in legal translation research and practice in the digital era.

3. *Enhancing reflective practice in the era of automation: a way to approach MT and AI in translator education today*
Dr. Krzysztof Łoboda and Dr. Olga Mastela (Chair for Translation Studies, Jagiellonian University in Kraków, Poland)

In a globalised world, effective translation demands competencies that extend beyond linguistic prowess or source and target culture understanding. This paper advocates for a holistic approach to translator education that develops translation students' technological competence, including the mastery of computer-aided translation tools (CAT tools), translation management systems, and machine translation (MT) and generative AI integration, while fostering cultural sensitivity. We focus on project based learning which encourages students' creativity in problem solving, develops critical thinking and knowledge sharing through collaboration, resulting in a nuanced understanding of technology's power and limitations, particularly when translating culture-bound texts. The goal is to educate translators who are sensitive to potential cross-cultural communication challenges while being able to effectively leverage contemporary translation technologies, if needed.

Bionotes:

Krzysztof Łoboda, PhD, is translator teacher, researcher in language technology and specialised translation. Staff member of Chair for Translation Studies, Jagiellonian University in Kraków, Poland, Krzysztof earned an MA in Translation Studies to further pursue PhD studies in linguistics. He also completed postgraduate studies in Research Project Management, and training in Term Extraction and Management at Imperial College London. Translator by profession and passion with over 15 years' experience gained as a full-time translator/reviser of EU legal documents and media content. Manager and member of translation teams involved in the localization of commercial software, games, and translation of specialist texts.

Olga Mastela is Assistant Professor in the Chair for Translation Studies, Faculty of Philology, Jagiellonian University in Kraków, Poland. Interested in the interdisciplinary and social dimensions of translator education, she has published on socially engaged student collaborative translation projects and co-authored papers on reflective practice and the human factor in the era of machine translation. An active member of the Consortium for Translation Education Research (CTER), she has participated in international research projects. In 2022, she completed the "Masters of Didactics in Excellent Teaching" programme at Aarhus University, Denmark, and promotes the ideas of tutoring and supporting students in their academic, personal and social development. In addition to her interest in translator education, she has published on transcreation, pseudotranslation, melic translation and the reception of Shakespeare in Poland.

4. *A study of gender bias when translating professions*

María López-Medel, University of Alicante, medel@ua.es

The masculinisation of profession nouns can increase the gender gap (Sczesny, Formanowicz & Moser, 2016) and diverge from social use (Spanish Ministry of Science and Education, 1995; CGPJ, 2009) and grammatical norm (RAE, 2020). Even the Royal Spanish Academy, reluctant to admit the need to eradicating sexism in language, recommends writing professions and positions in feminine when the holder is a woman (RAE, 2020). Also in Spain, the General Council of the Judiciary insists on differentiating between masculine and feminine gender in professions and activities, and avoiding specifying a woman's profession using a masculine form (CGPJ, 2009).

Linguistic gender bias can be reflected in the use of masculine to refer both to men and women indistinctly, with potential consequences of legal uncertainty and discrimination. In Translation and Interpreting (T&I), gender bias can be perpetuated. Other times, non-existent gender marks are unnecessarily added to the original.

In this study we will compare T&I students' gender bias when translating profession nouns, using an innovative and systematic method designed to assess the gender effects when translating short sentences. The sentences were previously tested in a study done at the University of Alicante (English-Spanish) but this time the scope is extended to more languages: English-German (University of Saarland) and English-Italian (University of Trieste). There will also be a control group in each language which will contain a subconscious prompt embedded in the instructions using non-sexist language that will help us determine to what extent this affects the results.

Our gender-mainstreaming approach to translation research is based on a mixed methodology of humanistic and social disciplines, such as sociology, philology, and translation studies.

The sentences of the study, written in English, are divided into simple and complex syntactic structure, and include stereotypical profession nouns, character descriptions (adjectives such as *nice, delicate, leader, best*), physical descriptions (*good looking*), and activities commonly assigned to men or women (chess, ballet, computers, cooking). Combinations of gender stereotypes can be gendered (feminine-feminine, masculine-masculine) or neutral (feminine-masculine and masculine-feminine).

The ten chosen English profession nouns are considered either masculine or feminine based in the percentage of men and women registered in the corresponding studies at the University of Alicante (Vives Cases & Espinar Ruiz, 2021): biologist, computer expert, doctor, lawyer, mathematician, nurse, scientist, social worker, teacher y translator.

The questionnaire has been designed with the Qualtrics software and includes the sentences of the study and questions with personal information. The students answer the online survey using their mobile devices, laptop or PC in a controlled environment in order to guarantee that they do not open any translation resources which could affect the results.

Each answer is then assigned a code based on a predrafted list with 134 noun options, 26 adjective options, and 11 verbs (designed for English-Spanish). This list will need to be adapted to the two new language combinations. A yes or no error variable has also been added. The coding system comprehensively lists all the translation elements corresponding to the gender element in the original sentence.

The data is then compiled and processed using IBM SPSS Statistics 27. The main and control groups will be compared in each language combination, and between all the languages together.

Besides contributing to the achievement of gender equality under the Sustainable Development Goal number 5 (UN, 2014) through the study of T&I students' gender bias when translating profession nouns, our specific objectives are:

- To analyse T&I students' gender bias from a human, sociological and feminist standpoint.
- To establish the gender effects in English-German/Italian/Spanish translation of profession nouns.
- To study the influence of a non-sexist prompt in translation gender bias.
- To develop a previously tested systematic gender-based method of assessing translations.

Keywords: gender bias, translation, sexist language, stereotypes

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5. *The (R)evolution of Translation Technology: The Status Quo and Trends*
Julija Jančak, Lecturer, Institute of Humanities, Mykolas Romeris University, Lithuania

Translation technology has undergone a significant transformation, from early mechanical devices to today's digital tools that facilitate computer-mediated communication (CMC). This evolution has progressed from statistical machine translation rooted in data-driven methods to human-machine communication (HMC), powered by artificial intelligence (AI) tools based on large language models. This presentation will explore the current state of translation technologies and their future directions, aiming to provide a comprehensive understanding of the (r)evolutionary landscape in human-machine interaction (HMI). The discussion will encompass the strengths, limitations, challenges (e.g., quality assurance, ethics), and innovations (e.g., AI integration) of various translation technologies, including computer-assisted translation (CAT) tools, machine translation (MT) systems, quality assurance (QA) tools, and AI-powered solutions. It will also explore the evolving role of language specialists in this new translation process. The focus will then shift to the latest trends that promise to revolutionize the translation industry, including real-time translation and integration with AI assistants, further enhancing CMC and HMC capabilities. Finally, the presentation will conclude by examining the potential impact of technological advancements in translation on the business and education sectors. It will also address the ongoing debate around human translation (HT) vs. machine translation (MT), suggesting a future where a synergy between advanced translation technology and human professionalism leads to high-quality services in the language industry where human expertise and intervention will (likely) remain essential. Keywords: artificial intelligence (AI), computer-assisted translation (CAT), computer-mediated communication (CMC), human-machine communication (HMC), human-machine interaction (HMI), human translation (HT), machine translation (MT), translation industry, translation technology

Bionote: Julija Jančak is a lecturer at the Institute of Humanities, Mykolas Romeris University (Lithuania), where she teaches Translation Technologies. She also works as a lecturer at Vilnius Business College, teaching Modern Translation Technologies and Translation and Editing, and is responsible for in-company internships. Her scientific interests include translation technologies, terminology management, translation quality, and machine translation post-editing.

6. *Multi-word discourse markers in translation from English into Hebrew and Lithuanian for multicultural dialogue*
Giedrė Valūnaitė-Oleškevičienė, Mykolas Romeris University, gvalunaite@mruni.eu

Chaya Liebeskind, Jerusalem College of Technology, liebchaya@gmail.com

Speakers possess multiple learnt formulaic sequences, which, according to Siyanova-Chanturia et al. (2011), are important in organizing discourse and help the language producer and recipient to manage language processing and are important for ensuring the understanding and dialogue between the interaction counterparts. Based on the evidence of the formulaic nature of language for communication, research has turned to investigating multiword expressions used as discourse markers (Dobrovoljc, 2017), identifying structurally fixed discourse marking multi-word expressions. So, multi-word expressions are of key importance in language generation and processing and they also could perform a function of discourse organization and operate as discourse markers. The aim of the current study is to examine multi-word expressions used as discourse markers in TED talk English transcripts and compare them with their counterparts in their Lithuanian and Hebrew translations, identifying if English multi-word expressions used as discourse markers in social media texts remain multi-word expression in Lithuanian and Hebrew translation and searching for reasons for the changes of discourse markers in translation. The research question under the investigation is how English multi-word discourse markers are processed in Hebrew and Lithuanian translation. Answering the question could shed light on multicultural discourse marker use.

Following the purpose of the research, the objectives were established: to create a parallel research corpus, to identify multi-word expressions used as discourse markers and to analyse their translations in Lithuanian and Hebrew in order to find out if multi-word discourse markers remain multi-word expressions or turn into one-word translations, or acquire any other linguistic forms also looking for the possible reasons for the translator choices. In the research we combine the alignment model of the phrase-based statistical machine translation and manual treatment of the data in order to examine English multi-word discourse markers and their equivalents in Lithuanian and Hebrew translation by researching their changes in translation. After establishing the full list of multi-word discourse markers in our generated parallel corpus we research how the multi-word discourse markers are treated in translation. We apply the method of Corpus research and phrase-based statistical machine translation/ research corpus available at LINDAT/CLARIN-LT repository.

The research proves that the examined multi-word discourse markers due to the different grammatical features of the researched languages have different translation tendencies. There is a tendency for discourse markers to remain multi-word in Hebrew translation, but in Lithuanian they are one-word discourse markers due to the translator choices relying on inflections. Also, there is possible context-based influence guiding the translators to choose a particle or other lexical item to integrate in Lithuanian or Hebrew translated discourse markers to reflect the rhetorical pragmatic layer. Suchobserved phenomenon of "over-specification" of integrating additional lexical items into the translation requires further research.

Beyond the empirical study an extensive parallel data resource has been created to be openly used as a valuable outcome of the research serving the purpose of extending the available resources and providing linguistic processing for several languages by creating a multilingual parallel corpus (including English, Lithuanian, and Hebrew) based on social media texts; the created corpus is shared and interlinked via CLARIN open language resources.

Keywords: Translation; corpus; multi-word expression; discourse relation; discourse marker

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7. *Translator's chances to beat MT*
Darius Valūnas (Mykolas Romeris University)

The trend of internationalization of trade, manufacturing and scientific research of the recent decades has induced a growing need for effective and speedy translation capacities, essential in successful management and administration of multinational and global-scale projects. To address the need, substantial efforts by corporations and research institutions have been invested in the development of machine translation (MT) capable of granting both the speed and high quality of translation. Modern translation applications leveraging the vast capabilities of computer systems have significantly boosted the efficiency, the speed and the quality of translation, allowing MT to a greater extent replace CAT.

However, while the advances have cardinally transformed the translation industry rendering human translation and CAT almost superfluous, modern MT applications still fail to fully address certain linguistic and contextual problems in translation. This is particularly true for so-called low-resource languages, where machine learning opportunities are fewer and machine translations still retain a great deal of errors of different origin. On the other hand, the efficiency of the modern translation software has changed the translator's role from translation to post-editing and proof-reading, hence introducing new challenges to translation industries in

terms of marketing, pricing and allocating resources and to the software developers in terms of decreasing numbers of human translators granting the machine opportunities to improve.

The present paper will examine cases of failure to choose the relevant translation strategy by the machine in translating texts of various genre with the aim to illustrate deficiencies in modern machine translation, emphasize the need for a combined approach involving administration, translation, proofreading and post-editing as a solution in translation project management, which may eventually serve as additional hints for machine translation software developers.

PART 2 - LITERARY TRANSLATION

1. Intercultural communication: Lithuanian Prose Translations to Spanish (2000-2023)

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vilhelmina Vaičiūnienė, Dr. Akvilė Šimėnienė (Mykolas Romeris University)

Many scholars (Baker 2018, Bassnett and Lefevere 1990, Munday 2008, Venuti 1995, 1998/2008, Munday 2008, Pym 2010) argue that literary translation greatly differs from other forms of translation by such aspects as cultural differences, culture-bound items, untranslatable words, cultural and ideological context. Moreover, "translation is seen as a source that brings new forms, enriches and revives domestic literature, whereas its peripheral role is often to import world literature into the target culture" (Šalčiūtė Čmilienė 2011:3). With our investigation we raise and try to find partial answers to the following questions: what translations and why predominated in the first and second decade? What is the impact of those translations in Spanish culture? What is the role of the translator? How the dialogism between Spanish and Lithuanian cultures was fostered trough translation? Bakhtinian dialogism (Kumar 2015) is chosen as the main perspective for our research. If culture can be seen as a text, then studies in cultural encounters lead us to examine the intertextuality and intersemioticity of two or more cultures when they interact with each other. These encounters exemplify a dialogic tension between different cultural forms and practices.

The aim of this research paper is to present the results on Lithuanian prose translations into Spanish from 2000 to the present. The dataset of the translated texts, translators and publishers was created. The research revealed that during the first decade (2000-2010) B. Ciplijauskaitė, a Lithuanian Hispanist scholar in exile, was the only one involved in translating Lithuanian literature. Meanwhile, in the second decade (2010-2023) new names appeared in the field of translation: C. Caro Dugo, D. Kuzminskaitė, M. Santos. The new translators and a clear change in the chosen for translation texts represent a changing cultural situation and an openness to dialogue and intercultural communication.

The prose selected for translations differs from decade to decade: Ciplijauskaitė, as a scholar of phenomenology and feminism at the University of Madison with expertise in European women's writing, chose to translate postmodern women writers, including Lithuanian exiles from the Second World War and voices of writers from Soviet Lithuania.

The last decade has seen a major shift in the type of prose chosen for translation. Professor C. Caro Dugo of Vilnius University selects classical, modern and the most representative Lithuanian prose texts, including anthological perspective and recent texts.

Our findings reveal the changing situation in the field of Lithuanian prose translation and a strong willingness to collaborate with the Spanish cultural tradition, using translations as the main textual and dialogical communication. The influence of the translator, the cultural context and historical perspective are the main factors in the appearance of the translations.

Keywords: intercultural communication, Lithuanian Prose translation, translator's role, history, translation as Bakhtinian Dialogism

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2. Dialogue and discussion through unconventional artistic intervention: Addressing Communist-era heritage

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Emilia Garneva (National Academy of Arts, Sofia, Bulgaria, e-mail: emgarnev@yahoo.co.uk)

Abstract

In Central and Eastern Europe, several governments have actively supported the establishment of commemorative museums that address the political violence experienced during the communist era. However, in Albania, the state's attention to this matter has been relatively minimal. The case study 'Fractura' analyzes how an unconventional artistic intervention is offered as a platform for dialogue and public discussion in the absence of state-level policies. Those policies aimed at memorializing testimonies and rewriting the historical narrative of a place planned to create an identity new.

Fatos Lubonja, a prominent Albanian writer, translator, publisher, analyst, and political prisoner for 17 years until 1991, collaborates with the renowned multidimensional artist Ardian Isufi and invite to the most infamous prison of communist Albania – Spaç. Through this artistic endeavor, they encourage dialogue by incorporating artefacts, installations, memories, objects, documents, and narratives.

The article highlights the significant role of Slow Memory in the ongoing efforts of the collective to contribute to the emotional experience, memory, and understanding of the historical significance of an institution (prison). In theory, it was tasked with administering suffering to "re-educating" prisoners, while in practice, it enforced complete isolation and attempted to annihilate individuals.

From a dialogical perspective, Slow Memory helps the artistic intervention encapsulate the artists' experiences and worldview regarding the past. Simultaneously, Slow Memory connects the hidden ideas of the past to their present estimations and the implications for the future. Slow Memory encourages local, national, regional, and international actors to engage in interaction, acquire knowledge, and initiate an open and tangible discussion regarding the museumization of these significant sites within Albania. The aim is to honor and preserve the voices that were previously silenced - the voices of Slow Memory.

Keywords: *Slow Memory, public dialogue, artistic intervention, Spaç prison in Albania.*

3. Dialogue and non-dialogue in the postmodernism literature (Overview in Ridvan Dibra's novel)

Dr. Enida Godime (Aleksander Moisiu University, Durrës, Faculty of Education, Literature Department, egodime@yahoo.com)

Before the 90s in Albanian literature, dialogue was an instrument of realistic style, to distinguish voices of the characters, like an identification instrument. Dialogue was attached to the narration, but not with power to have as much weight as the narration. It was less in quantity and simple in quality.

After the 90' in the Albanian literature appeared the creativity of Ridvan Dibra writer, which it is translated in some foreign language, it is evaluated with different literary awards. Mostly Ridvan Dibra is evaluated as the writer who has brought small theme, but great associations. His novel has different nature from the contemporary prose created in Albania, but has some dominants features of postmodernism literature.

The dialogue to this writer is in different styles, with different function too. Generally, it is a 'strange dialogue' which come from the hybridization of the novel genre, but also because of the fact that in the postmodern literature the dialogue is not the instrument of individualization of the character, but is the experience of an occurrence.Heterogeneous dialogue is chaotic, disorganized outside, like a word game, but very organized inside. So the reader can obtain different exfoliation. The discourse of dialogue creates a second and more discourses inside the narration.

Through the method of researching different style dialogues, analyzing and interpreting them we aim to determine some characteristics features of postmodern novel, especially in the Ridvan Dibra's novel.

Key words: *dialogue, postmodern dialogue, heterogeneous dialogue, chaotic dialogue, RidvanDibra*.

4. The Role of Dialogue in Contemporary Literature in Expressing the Trauma of Totalitarianism Case of Albanian literature

Marisa Kerbizi (Aleksander Moisiu University, marisakerbizi@yahoo.com)

Fjoralba Satka (Aleksander Moisiu University, fjoralba_s@yahoo.com)

Having experienced for more than four decades the consequences of one of the cruelest totalitarian system in the world (the communist regime), the Albanian writers were eager to express the trauma of the past through writing. During 45 years of communism, writers and artists faced the lack of freedom, terror, imprisonments, exile and even executions. Having lived for a long time in the realm of absurd, in which believing in God was prohibited and the clergymen were executed, gave the writers a longing to write about totalitarian past after the fall of the communist regime. Father Zef Pllumbi, Visar Zhiti, Kasëm Trebeshina, Pjetër Arbnori, Fatos Lubonja, Bashkim Shehu, etc., published their first literary works written after the '90s. They were incarcerated during totalitarian times and their drama was also the drama of the whole nation, whose intellectuals were prohibited to create, publish and even live in freedom. The dialogue plays an important role in revealing the destiny of characters, which carry a part of the collective

trauma suppressed in each survivor of the communist regime. On the other hand, fictional dialogues are used to express essential philosophical ideas about human rights, democracy, the importance of breaking the cycle of history repeating itself, etc.

Key words: totalitarianism, contemporary novels, dialogue, trauma, etc.

5. *Understanding a speech act of the features of o`yo´ palace orature*

Adeyemi Roheemat Olabimpe (University of Ilorin, Nigeria)

Praise poetry or eulogy is a uniquely different traditional act among the Yoruba. It serves as a window to the physical, spiritual and even the historical characteristic evolution of man. The Eulogy of king _Alaafin_, the last son of Oduduwa, the progenitor of kingship lineage in Yorubaland is unique because of its literary and linguistic features. This study, therefore, examined how stylistic devices are deployed in _Alaafin's_ praise poetry. The objectives were to: (i) identify the literary devices in _Alaafin's_ eulogy; (ii) discover the embedded linguistic features, especially lexical and syntactic in _Alaafin's_ praise songs; and (iii) discuss how stylistic devices are used to historio-linguistically link all the kings who have ruled in Oyo kingdom. The study used historical research method for data collection while the analysis was descriptive. *Dell Hymes'...* was used as the theoretical tool. The findings of the study revealed: (i) the use of simile, hyperbole, imagery, and personification in _Alaafin's_ eulogy, (ii) lexical choice is informed by the power and influence of the king while syntactic structure in the praise songs shows contraction/deletion, simple and compound sentence and that-clause; and (iii) consonance and assonance as well as rhetoric add to the musical quality of _Alaafin's_ panegyric.

Thematic Workshop 2

Multi-foci analysis of real and fictional healthcare dialogue

Convenor: Catalina Iliescu-Gheorghiu (University of Alicante*)*

Participants

María López-Medel; Elena Pérez; Silvia Sánchez; Sara Garví.

The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine have brought a new global economic crisis. Aggravated poverty is provoking more migration, more human trafficking, more neo-slavery. NGOs warn against the subhuman conditions in which migrants work in different parts of the globe. This multileveled crisis is already having an impact on interpreting studies and especially on community interpreting. As Declerq & Federici (2020) show, vulnerable populations who do not share the societal language of the country they live in become even more vulnerable and often suffer (Montalt 2019) traumas that may lead to permanent mental health problems. Except for countries such as Australia, New Zealand, Sweden, Canada, UK or USA, governments worldwide resort to local agents, NGOs and universities, who come up with partial solutions to improve communication and integration of migrating communities. Pivotal to this communication is community interpreting, a new yet old domain of Interpreting Studies in which practitioners, trainers and researchers are required to adapt to changing situations and reinvent themselves permanently to keep pace with geo-political, socio-economic and linguo-cultural transformations of current society. The reality of community interpreting in Spain was summarized by Iliescu-Gheorghiu (2006) as submitted to variations in terms of: (a) **domain** (standards and ways of providing the necessary resources vary in medical and legal interpreting); (b) **access** (migrating minority's access to professional interpreting services is linked to purchasing power, as long as healthcare premises do not provide interpreting services); and (c) **territory** (urban vs rural areas and regional differences).

Unlike popular beliefs, in 2015 the report on Policies and Programs to Support Immigrant Health in Spain released by the CIBERESP (centre for online biomedical research in Epidemiology and Public Health) concludes that the use of primary care by immigrants is similar to that by locals, with slightly higher frequency in emergencies and **lower in secondary care**. This difference is probably due to the language barrier as well as to a lack of knowledge on how the system works, to doctor-patient communication problems, or to different patterns of addressing healthcare. According to the European Enquiry on Health 2020, this tendency continues today.

Community interpreting (also called *social interpreting* or *public service interpreting*) attracted scholars' attention on a large scale. After Shackman's (1984) handbook that envisaged not only community interpreters but also the other participants (users,

employers), one of the first monographic works was on *Interpreters in Public Services. Policy and Training* by Baker, Hussain & Saunders (1991). One of this book's novelties was its preoccupation with natural interpreters as "bilingual staff who 'help out' with interpreting". A didactic explanatory vocation inspired *Translating Cultures. An Introduction for translators, interpreters and mediators* by David Katan (1999) while *Liaison Interpreting in the Community*, edited by Mabel Erasmus (1999) established parallelisms between Belgium and South Africa as it described interpreters' training and accreditation, their professional activity and the presence or absence of codes of ethics. Issues detected by Mason (1999) as worthy of scientific attention two decades ago (role conflicts, group loyalty, participation frameworks, power, distance, image) remain of interest today, especially with regards to such present-day topics as **visibility, ethics, emotions** and **trauma**. According to Suh and Punnett (2022), increased attention has been given to emotional work demands (also defined as "emotional labour") as related to health issues (mental health) resulting from interactions between workers and clients. So far, the test bed for such field research has been the service sector, according to the International Labour Organization, ILOSTAT Database. Among the sectors found to be more exposed to hazard were **healthcare workers**. The sixth European Work Conditions Survey (EWCS) Report, issued by EU Eurofound in 2017 tackled "emotionally demanding" jobs and their detrimental effects on well-being.

One of the less investigated areas is the interpreter's role and risks when working in highly emotional contexts such as those surrounding the end-of-life situations (bad news, grieving or palliative care). INCOGNITO research group (https://acortar.link/GeOcVw), to which four of this workshop`s presenters belong, carried out the project (AYTOALICANTE4-19TPA) funded by the City Hall of Alicante, entitled "Creation of audiovisual material on linguistic and cultural diversity in order to raise awareness" in 2019. It created audiovisual material on "Interpreting in Contexts of Crisis and Grief" related to migrating populations, more exactly three audiovisual materials (ISAN 0000-0005-909E), each containing 3 communicative situations (Bad News, Final Days and Mourning). The same situations were filmed in three languages (English, Romanian and French, the most widespread in the Valencian Community, a region in south-eastern Spain with 5.3 million inhabitants and 20% foreigners, as compared to the whole country's 13.7%). Each situation presented two variants: (1) patient and nurse without a common language and without an interpreter; (2) patient and nurse without a common language but with an interpreter. The total number of video materials was 18 and the communicative situations and scripts were based on real cases. In her PhD, Elena Perez reached interesting results regarding multilingual communication in the health service under the incidence of variables such as stress caused by the context of crisis. The project's main goal was to design and create audiovisual materials to be used in training courses and awareness-raising campaigns to show the importance of the linguistic factor and the essential role of interpreters in emotionally demanding situations. Patients and medical staff were actors. Interpreters were professionals who faced the situation as if it were real, with no previous knowledge (except for a small briefing immediately before filming) and there was no second shot. Thus, the interpreter's

intervention was as real as possible, (one can notice the level of pressure they actually felt). The scripts were based on real cases that actually had taken place and had been attended by medical staff on our team.

This workshop's goals are:

- To analyse the recorded dialogues between health care providers and patients in emotionally demanding contexts
- To establish the border between real dialogue and fictional dialogue in such simulations
- To analyse discourse and cultural elements in dialogues with(out) an interpreter
- To check the consequences of the lack of interpreters upon patients' wellbeing

Contents:

- Pérez will tackle the importance of language in grieving as compared to empathy; which of them prevails in such a situation (loss of a dear one and mourning). (English and Spanish)
- Sánchez will focus on neighbouring languages and cultures: their similarities, differences and complementarities in doctor-patient dialogues when bad news being given. (French and Spanish)
- Lopez-Medel will adopt the gender perspective (female nurse, male patient) and the discursive signals as well as non-verbal language and sexism. (English and Spanish)
- Garví will delve into quality of interpreting and the "irreplaceableness" of interpreters. (English/French and Spanish)
- Iliescu will tackle cultural and linguistic contrastive factors (Romanian and Spanish).

Target audience:

peers or students from the area of: Languages & Linguistics, T&I, Cognitive psychology, Migration studies, Intercultural communication.

Convenor bionote

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Associate Professor at the University of Alicante where she teaches Interpreting (EN-ES) and Translation (RO-ES). In her areas of interest (interpreting and its training; migration and intercultural communication; theatre translation) she has published over 50 papers and supervised 5 PhDs. She is a conference interpreter (30-year career), literary translator (30 titles) and author of:

Introducción a la Interpretación. La modalidad consecutiva (several editions, e-book, translated, available in 1065 libraries worldwide), *Traducerea textului dramatic* (2009), *Un model polisitemic…*(2018), *Metodología de análisis traductológico…*(2022, Peter Lang), *Relevancia y Traducción. Una retrospectiva con lentes actualizantes* (2022, Comares), and the editor of LAIC (2007, 7:2) *Intercultural Approaches to the Integration of Migrating Minorities* (Routledge). She co-edited with Jose Lambert *Universe-Cities as Problematic Global Villages* (2014, PGET/UFSC). Her latest publications include: "A taxonomic analysis proposal for research in Diplomatic Interpreting", in Across Languages and Cultures (2020); "Body in medical encounters of Romanian female patients in (S)pain" in International Journal of Migration, Health and Social Care (2020); "Power through Language, the Language of Power: Equatoguinean Emixiles Facing Lingua Franca", in Culture & History Digital Journal (2020); "The language of diplomacy and the interpreter's metaphoric and imagological dilemmas" (in Mateo & Yus eds, 2021), Peter Lang; "Romanian migration reflected in recent Portuguese literature: the Roma ethnicity as a case in point", Swedish Journal of Romanian Studies, 5(2), 13–25. (2022); "Translating humour in children's theatre for (unintended) diasporic audiences", European Journal of Humour Research (2023).

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research deal with non-sexist institutional translation and other aspects of gender and language. Since completing her thesis in 2021, she has been the author of multiple solo papers in indexed peer-reviewed open-access journals and book chapters by SPI-ranked publishers, with more in the pipeline. This includes a volume on non-sexist language published by the North American Language Academy. She has worked for 20 years as a freelance translator for agencies and publishing houses, the last 9 years as an approved language services provider (EN/FR-ES) of legal, financial and general translation for the Translation Centre for the Bodies of the European Union, in Luxembourg. She has also translated 20 business books and is a sworn translator. She is registered as an independent expert in gender studies, non-sexist language and translation at the European Commission, European Institute for Gender Equality, Brussels Binder, AMIT, Expertes Genre and Agenda d'Expertes. She is also a professional member of ASETRAD, CEDRO and ESTIDIA.

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Elena Pérez Estevan is a PhD Assistant Professor at the University of Alicante in the Translation and Interpreting department. She obtained a PhD in Translation Studies focusing on end-of-life interpreting in 2022 at the University of Alicante. She holds a degree in Translation and Interpreting (University of Alicante), a Master's degree in Intercultural Communication, Public Service Interpreting and Translation (University of Alcalá) and an MA degree in Healthcare Translation (Jaume I University). She also completed a degree in integrative-relational counselling in grief and loss at IPIR Institute (Barcelona). Her research interests include EOL interpreting, psychotherapy, training in public services and interpreting quality. She has extensive professional experience working as a medical interpreter in Spain for public and private institutions. Member of INCOGNITO research group, AFIPTISP and La XARXA associations.

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Silvia Sánchez Ferre holds a degree in Translation and Interpreting (2015), and a Master's degree in Institutional Translation (2017) from the University of Alicante (Spain) where she has been a Lecturer in Consecutive and Simultaneous Interpreting (FR<>SP) and other subjects since 2018. She has been working as a freelance conference interpreter and as a translator since 2015. She combines her professional activities with her doctoral studies at the UA, focusing her research on the effects of prosody teaching on comprehension skills and their development.

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Sara Garví holds a BA in Translation and Interpretation from the University of Alicante and an MA in Conference Interpretation from the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at California. As a freelance conference interpreter, she has ten years of experience in the private sector in San Francisco and Madrid, mainly in the fields of medicine, banking, and technology and innovation. She is an accredited healthcare interpreter through CCHI and has developed her career in several hospitals and clinics across the US, such as Stanford Healthcare and Mt Sinai. She currently teaches consecutive interpretation at the University of Alicante, where she is also working towards her PhD in interpretation in mental health and emotionally challenging contexts.

Thematic Workshop 3

Intersection of Discourse Studies and Dialogue System Research: Towards an Interdisciplinary Approach for Mutual Development

Convenors: Prof. Dr. Mayumi Usami, Prof. Dr. Ryuichiro Higashinaka, Prof. Dr. Hiroyuki Nishikawa

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Abstract

The purpose of this workshop is to identify the interface between discourse research in linguistics and dialogue systems research in engineering. In other words, the proposal focuses on analyses of real-life dialogues between humans and machines in addition to between humans. We will also explore how investigating the dynamics of complex human interactions in conversation can be applied to the development of dialogue systems. While linguistic research has examined phenomena such as shifts in speech levels, language use tailored to interlocutors, and politeness theories, the current state of dialogue system research in engineering has not fully incorporated these language phenomena and their potential impact on impressions and human relationships formed during conversations. However, with the rapid development of generative AI today, the construction of dialogue systems capable of conversing like humans has advanced significantly. It is imperative to explore how such dialogue systems are created and applied to real-life situations. Indeed, there are attempts to deploy robots providing services such as tourist guidance. In these situations, at the same time, we have to continue to compare the contents and quality of AI's dialogue with human dialogue, considering how much AI understands situations and if we conduct human-centered dialogue. This interdisciplinary workshop invites contributions from both linguistics and engineering to share the current state of "conversation/dialogue" research and explore possibilities for future collaboration. Specific topics of interest include the potential application of politeness theories to dialogue system research, analysis of human-to-human conversations, analysis of human-system conversations, as well as the reports of the current state of practical applications in contexts such as tourist guidance and nursing homes, where dialogue systems are integrated into robots or agents. Further, we encourage potential presenters to consider possible ethical and privacy concerns in all topics. This workshop intends to

envision a better way of harmonious human-AI interactions in a society where humans and AI coexist by providing a platform for exchanging these ideas and knowledge.

Publications

1. Takashi Minato, Ryuichiro Higashinaka, Kurima Sakai, Tomo Funayama, Hiromitsu Nishizaki & Takayuki Nagai (2023) Design of a competition specifically for spoken dialogue with a humanoid robot, Advanced Robotics, DOI: 10.1080/01691864.2023.2249530

2. Yuya Chiba and Ryuichiro Higashinaka (2023) Analyzing Variations of Everyday Japanese Conversations Based on Semantic Labels of Functional Expressions. ACM Trans. Asian LowResour. Lang. Inf. Process. 22, 2, Article 52 (February 2023), 26 pages. https://doi.org/10.1145/3552310

3. Mayumi Usami. (2022) "Intersection of discourse politeness theory and interpersonal communication". Handbook of Japanese Sociolinguistics, edited by Yoshiyuki Asahi, Mayumi Usami and Fumio Inoue, De Gruyter Mouton, pp.355-386.

4. R. Higashinaka, T. Minato, K. Sakai, T. Funayama, H. Nishizaki and T. Nagai, "Dialogue Robot Competition for the Development of an Android Robot with Hospitality," 2022 IEEE 11th Global Conference on Consumer. Electronics (GCCE), Osaka, Japan, 2022, pp. 357-360, doi:10.1109/GCCE56475.2022.10014410.

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5. Hiroyuki Nishikawa (2020) "What AI Dialogue Systems Can Do for Japanese Language Education and What Japanese Language Education Can Contribute to AI Dialogue Systems", 2020 Japanese Language Teachers Seminar (Japan). National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics.

Workshop presentations:

1. **Mayumi Usami**

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Applying Discourse Politeness Theory to the Study of Dialogue Systems

Our research group has promoted an exchange between language researchers and engineers to explore a better way for a near-future society where humans and AI will live harmoniously. In particular, we share the common problem of having conversational agents perform conversations as natural and human-like as possible.

The most important but challenging task for dialogue systems is "politeness" as an act of consideration. In the "Dialogue Robot Competition" held in Japan, participants compete for the ability to serve customers in a travel agency, where requires various forms of interpersonal consideration or politeness. Indeed, as attempts to deploy robots providing services such as tourist guidance are increasing, research on reinforcing politeness has gained momentum in dialogue systems research (Mishra et al., 2023). However, it cannot be said that these studies have fully incorporated theories and findings of language research into dialogue system research.

In this presentation, I will explore the possibility of applying Discourse Politeness Theory (DP Theory) (Usami, 2002, 2006) to studies of dialogue systems. While DP Theory supports the key concepts of Brown and Levinson's (1987) politeness theory, it claims to capture politeness at the discourse level, and the following points were integrated into the theory:

1. Politeness as a state in which there is no impoliteness in the discourse as a whole
(unmarked politeness)
2. The concept of 'marked behaviour'.
3. The 'hearer's estimation' of the degree of face threat for speaker's 'marked
behaviour.'
4. The 'discrepancy in estimation' between the speaker and the hearer for 'marked
behaviour'.
5. The state in which the' difference in estimation' between speaker and hearer does
not exceed an acceptable gap ($0 \pm \alpha$) is considered to be a state in which
politeness is maintained.

After a brief introduction of the outline of DP theory, dialogues between humans and systems in live competitions are analyzed from the perspective of DP theory. The results of comparing the characteristics of these dialogues with dialogues between humans will be reported. In our preliminary study, we found that a well-developed dialogue system can handle sentence-level expressions such as clichés and discourse-level behaviours related to politeness, such as aizuchi (back channeling). However, the inability of the socalled "speech level shift" peculiar to Japanese, that is, switching the politeness of 'linguistic form' according to the interlocutor and speech content, is the cause of the lower rate of "naturalness" and "humaneness" of the dialogue system.

Keywords: *discourse politeness theory, consideration, conversation between humans, dialogue systems, human-computer interaction.*

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2. Takenobu Tokunaga, Yikai Tseng, and Hikaru Yokono

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Lexical level control in dialogue systems

Past dialogue research has revealed that alignment at various linguistic levels is observed in human-human dialogues (Pickering and Garrod, 2006). In our previous study (Tseng+, 2023), we proposed an alignment of the difficulty level of words used in utterances, called *lexical level alignment* (LLA). For instance, we use easier words for children or non-native speakers to help their understanding of utterances. We showed that LLA occurs in the dialogues between first-encountered native and non-native speakers by analysing the BTSJ Japanese 1000-person natural conversation corpus (Usami, 2023). The corpus contains 514 dialogues in various settings, totalling 127 hours. The interlocutors have different demographic properties regarding gender, age, first language, and professions. Relationships between interlocutors also vary.

In this study, we aim to realise a dialogue system with the LLA ability. To this end, we adopt the popular prompt-based large language model (LLM), ChatGPT, for utterance generation. However, our preliminary experiment revealed that only prompting to ChatGPT is insufficient to control the lexical level of generated utterances. We suspect that ChatGPT has not learnt well the concept of word

difficulty. To overcome this limitation, we introduce an external module that creates a list of suggested words of the specified lexical level for utterance generation by ChatGPT. In addition to the lexical level, we need to consider the current dialogue topic in the word selection to maintain a coherent dialogue. To fulfil these requirements, we refer to Word List by Semantic Principles (WLSP), a popular Japanese thesaurus with 96,557 words. Each word is assigned a code with one integer and a four-digit decimal part; the integer denotes a part of speech, and the decimal part represents semantic meaning. The decimal part also codes hypernymy relations. Synonyms share the same decimal part. Familiarity ratings are also assigned to each word (Asahara, 2019). We use the familiarity ratings for the lexical level and the semantic meaning for the topic relevance to create the word list. The created word list is fed to ChatGPT in the prompt so that those words are used as much as possible in the utterance of ChatGPT.

We evaluate the effectiveness of the proposed external word selection module using the BTSJ 1000-person corpus. We set up ChatGPT to play the role of one of the interlocutors in a dialogue of the corpus and provide ChatGPT one-half of the dialogue to generate the next utterance by specifying a lexical level calculated from the former half of the dialogue. The control case, vanilla ChatGPT, uses just the former half of the dialogue to generate the next utterance without being provided with the explicit lexical level. We can see the effectiveness of the external module by comparing the lexical level of generated utterances by both ChatGPT. We follow our previous study to calculate the lexical level of utterances (Tseng+, 2023). We will discuss the difference in behaviour of the two ChatGPTs both quantitatively and qualitatively.

Keywords: *dialogue systems, large language model (LLM), ChatGPT, lexical level, alignment*

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Mayumi Usami (ed.). 2023. Building of a Japanese 1000 person natural conversation corpus for pragmatic analyses and its multilateral studies, and NINJAL Institute-based projects: Multiple Approaches to Analysing the Communication of Japanese Language Learners.

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Prosodic Attitude Recognition for Spoken Dialogue Systems on Reading Speech and Spontaneous Dialogue Corpora

Paralinguistic features of speech convey essential messages in spoken dialogue not only between humans but also between humans and machines. Human speakers can express different attitudes using paralinguistic features, such as pitch and speech rate, even with the same sentence. Moreover, human listeners can accurately recognize prosodic attitudes [1]. A spoken dialogue system that cannot recognize the speaker's paralinguistic attitudes often fails to make appropriate responses. Thus, the users are forced to communicate their attitudes solely through linguistic information without ambiguity to avoid such dialogue breakdowns. This limitation hinders natural interaction between humans and machines. We aim to provide spoken dialogue systems with the ability to recognize paralinguistic attitudes. In this study, we focus on four prosodic attitude classes: agreement, disagreement, question, and stalling. Previous studies on prosodic attitude recognition have focused on questions [2], while we cover four attitude classes essential for determining system responses. Although the comparison between acted and spontaneous speech has been conducted for emotions [3], less is known for prosodic attitudes. To develop a prosodic attitude recognition model, we used two Japanese speech corpora: a reading speech corpus and the corpus of everyday Japanese conversation (CEJC) [4]. We collected the reading speech corpus by asking crowd workers and actors to read aloud balanced sentences with the four attitudes. We filtered quality utterances based on classification by listeners who did not participate in the recording. Consequently, we obtained 21,427 utterances from 144 speakers. CEJC is a corpus of spontaneous daily conversations between humans. We selected utterances that can be categorized into one of the four attitudes from CEJC based on the annotations, yielding 6,272 utterances from 109 speakers. Previous studies on prosodic attitude recognition used acted speech [2], while we also used spontaneous speech. We compared the patterns of prosodic features between the reading and spontaneous corpora, focusing on the pitch movement at the end of the utterance. Our analyses revealed more diverse patterns of prosodic features in spontaneous speech. We also trained and evaluated a neural network model. Our experimental results showed that the model accurately classified the utterances with the prosodic features characteristic of spontaneous speech when CEJC was included in the training data, in addition to the reading speech corpus. Specifically, the accuracy measured on the spontaneous speech was improved from 0.65 to 0.80 because of CEJC. Here, we did not include linguistic features in the input to the model because they highly depend on the domain, such as speech register and language. Therefore, the prosodic attitudes in this study are different from conventional dialogue acts. Our model can be combined with natural language understanding models to realize a more

sophisticated spoken dialogue system regardless of the target domain. Prosodic attitude recognition opens up the possibility of a new channel in human-machine communication. The evaluation of spoken dialogue systems where our model is incorporated is a subject for future research.

Keywords: *paralinguistic information, prosodic attitude, attitude recognition, human-computer interaction*

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Analysis of Human-System Interactions in Dialogue-System-Related Competitions

Dialogue systems capable of engaging in natural language conversations with humans are increasingly commonplace due to advancements in speech recognition and synthesis technologies, as well as natural language processing techniques. In particular, the introduction of large language models in recent years has led to notable improvements in text-based dialogue systems. However, dialogues that incorporate multimodal information and physical environments still present significant challenges. This presentation details the findings from two dialogue-system-related competitions—the Dialogue System Live Competition and the Dialogue Robot Competition—and presents an analysis of the dialogues that occurred therein. The Dialogue System Live Competition [1] invites audiences to observe and evaluate live interactions between dialogue systems and humans. This event has been an annual fixture in Japan for the last six years, with the most recent two focusing on multimodal dialogues facilitated by computer graphics (CG) agents. The "Situation Track" of this competition evaluates systems on the basis of their ability to conduct dialogues that are convincingly human-like within prescribed situations. These situations are modeled after the Oral Proficiency Interview to assess linguistic performance. This year's situation involved a user and a system collaboratively planning a party to express gratitude to their advisor;

the system has to take into account not just verbal exchanges but also non-verbal cues such as gestures and facial expressions. The Dialogue Robot Competition [2], on the other hand, employs dialogue robots— androids with a human-like appearance—to gauge customer service proficiency within a travel agency context. Here, the robots are situated in actual travel agencies, engaging customers who visit the establishments. The challenge for these robots is to assist customers in planning a trip to Kyoto, with performance measured by customercompleted questionnaires assessing both task completion and satisfaction levels. In this competition, the system must not only employ facial expressions and body postures to

convey various attitudes but also effectively use the physical environment, such as the display next to the robot that shows tourist spots.

Currently, both competitions have concluded their preliminary rounds for the year, and the subsequent rounds will determine the superior systems. Many of the systems in question utilize large language models, enhanced by various supplemental innovations. This presentation aims to shed light on the state of dialogue systems through error analysis and comparisons with human-to-human dialogue based on system logs. For instance, I intend to scrutinize data concerning discrepancies in human utterance timing and gestural responses between CG agents and dialogue robots, strategies for managing the real-time processing of dialogue and multimodal data—a perceived weak point of large language models. For this analysis, I will use statistical analyses to determine the definitive difference between humans and machines in timings of speech and gestures. The correlation analysis will also be performed to analyze how the timings affect subjective evaluations by the users. It will also be useful to perform error annotations to the collected data by using such taxonomies as [3] so that the frequencies of errors can be quantified. Specifically, with respect to the Dialogue Robot Competition, I will explore the degree of social acceptance for robots engaged in customer service roles, qualitatively analyzing the questionnaire results obtained from users.

Keywords: *dialogue system, competition, large language model, multimodal processing, dialogue robot*

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D4AC: A Multimodal Dialogue System Development Tool That Does Not Require Technical Knowledge for Interdisciplinary Collaboration

Keywords: Dialogue system, multimodal, development tool, emotion, engagement

Abstract: Recent advancement in large language models have enabled people who do not have expertise in dialogue technologies to easily develop text-based dialogue systems. However, developing multimodal dialogue systems still needs help from engineers because it needs integrating various modules that process different modalities. Multimodal information, especially non-verbal behaviors, are known to play an important role in human-human communication (Knapp et al., 2013, Vinciarelli et al, 2009), so multimodal dialogue systems that can exploit the user's image are expected to better interact with the user by changing the course of dialogue depending on the user's attribute and status such as age, gender, emotions, and engagement (Bohus and Horvitz, 2009; DeVault et al., 2014). The experiences in organizing a series of Dialogue System Live Competitions (Higashinaka et al, 2019) have suggested that the knowledge on human dialogue discourses of researchers in humanities is effective in building both text-based dialogue systems, so we expect that it is also the case for multimodal dialogue systems, and that a tool for enabling non-dialogue system experts to easily develop multimodal dialogue systems is desired. Our presentation will introduce the D4AC toolkit, which can be used in conjunction with a text-based dialogue system, and makes it possible to develop multimodal dialogue systems that exploit the user's status, such as emotion and engagement, to change dialogue flow. D4AC can be installed, invoked, and configured without technical knowledge. D4AC estimates the user's age, gender, emotion, and engagement (hereafter user status) from the user's face image captured by a camera. Then it sends the estimated user status with user utterance recognition results to a text-based dialogue system, so that the dialogue flow can be changed depending on not only user utterances but also the user status estimation results. The timing of sending the user status estimation results can be configured with a graphical user interface. D4AC can also display

images according to the request included in the output from the text dialogue system. D4AC is assumed to be used with text dialogue systems developed with a tool such as xAIML-SUNABA, which allows people without technical knowledge to develop dialogue systems. This means that non-experts can build multimodal dialogue systems using both D4AC and such a tool.

Our presentation will also mention the student projects in which students from various disciplines of the TMI (Transdisciplinary Mobility Innovation) program of Nagoya University used D4AC to develop multimodal dialogue systems in their respective fields. The students had not had knowledge of dialogue systems technologies but they developed systems in a short period of the projects. This indicates that D4AC is effective and has the potential for the realization of multimodal dialogue systems in various disciplines.

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6. Hiroyuki Nishikawa

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Speak or Silence. Communication during blood sampling: A comparison between Japan and Vietnam

It will elucidate the similarities and differences in communication between Japanese and Vietnamese utterances in clinical situations as the object of study. The data to be analyzed is communication during blood sampling. The results of this research will be used as fundamental research on human-machine conversation.

Conversations between humans and machines may have a different discourse structure from those between humans. If this is due to differences in the attributions of the participants in the conversation, the study of human conversations from different backgrounds will provide fundamental research for human-machine conversations.

We assume the following three phases of human-machine discourse.

The first phase is that the human controls the machine. This includes not only having the machine follow the human's instructions, but also having the machine instruct the human to move in order for the machine to take the next action.

The second phase is that of humans and machines chatting with each other. The creation of discourse is an activity that is an end in itself.

The third phase is for the machine to do something autonomously. It includes activities in which the machine autonomously takes care of the human.

These are communication for humans. In addition to this, it is possible to envision communication for machines, but we will not discuss them now.

As an example of the third phase, we will analyze conversations between humans as fundamental research in the study of human-machine conversations, using clinical situations as the research subject.

In this study, the attributions of the members participating in the conversation are important information. In a conversation between a nurse and a patient during a blood draw, differences in discourse structure are observed depending on the backgrounds of the participants.

The data for this study consisted of video and interview data. Video recordings were made of nurses drawing blood from patients in hospitals in Japan and Vietnam. Nurses in the videos were also interviewed.

The analysis focused on the nurses' side. We observed and analyzed the following three aspects: gathering information for appropriate medical treatment, giving instructions to the patient to facilitate the medical treatment, and giving consideration to the Patient. The results revealed the following:

Regarding the means of information collection, in Japan, information is collected through verbal channels, whereas in Vietnam, verbal channels are used less regularly. In Vietnam, nurses collect information by touching patients. It was found that nurses utilize information obtained from the nurses' own fingertips and from the patients' facial expressions.

It was observed that instructions to facilitate medical treatment were given verbally in Japan and by nurses touching the patient's hands in Vietnam.

In terms of consideration for the patient, it was observed that in Japan, conversation is aimed at easing the patient's tension. In Vietnam, the interviews elucidated that in Vietnam, the action chosen is aimed at communicating to the patient that the nurse is making an effort to finish treatment in a short time.

Keywords: *communication, Japanese and Vietnamese, clinical situations, blood sampling, verbal instructions*

7. Hirotaka Osawa

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Analysis of discourse structure and idea support in science fiction prototyping

Science Fiction (SF) Prototyping is a concept proposed by Brian David Johnson in 2010, in which experts and creators collaborate in workshops to create science fiction and share their vision of the future. The emphasis is on inspiring people through the act of creation, and fragmented plots, illustrative suggestions, and negative narratives are acceptable in the process. Several organizations, including the speaker, have promoted similar concepts in Japan since around 2021. As a result, more than 20 companies and government agencies in Japan are currently applying SF prototyping to their own vision creation, education, and public relations, creating new ways to use fiction and an ecosystem that includes SF authors and experts. The authors studied the evolution of SF prototyping in Japan and found that SF prototyping in Japan is more focused on moving the emotions of readers and participants than on the vision

of the future itself. values, that participants gain support for their ideas from their empathy for the drama, and that fiction is particularly effective in facilitating the representation of minority opinions in a way that avoids social pressures. We have also found that the world of science fiction prototyping has more power to promote a shift in values than general science fiction works. This study examines the current state of SF prototyping in Japan and possible forms of SF prototyping in Japan by analyzing an analytical survey of SF prototyping by the speakers. We will analyze how the discourse among participants changed during SF prototyping.

Abstracts of paper presentations

In the alphabetical order of the author(s) surname(s)

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"But you just watch mainstream media, don't you?" Conspiracist strategies of dialogic contraction in online comments by Putin's supporters

This paper analyses the comments of Russian backers posted on Australian charity sites raising money for Ukrainian needs. It relies on findings about conspiracy theory discourses (Demata, Zorzi, & Zottola, 2022) suggesting (1) conspiracy theorists engage in social critiques that pose a challenge to social structures and power relations; (2) conspiracy theorists shift the discussion of facts to a discussion of the credibility of their opponents. The research tests the hypothesis on matches between the interactional patterns of Putin's supporters and the discursive practices of conspiracy theorists. The paper reviews the strategies of pro-Russian discourse participants for shutting down the dialogic space and compares these strategies to the discursive practices of conspiracy theorists.

This investigation looks at patterns of (1) factual distortion in subversive assertions; (2) the discrediting of opponents, (3) self-presentation, and (4) alignment with expert positions. The study shows that the dialogic engagement (Martin and White, 2004, p.93) of the pro-Russian discourse participants enacts rejection of authorities and replacement of community beliefs.

The findings allow conclusions on similarities between the refutational patterns of Russian supporters and the argumentative techniques of conspiracy theorists uncovered in Demata, Zorzi, & Zottola (2022). Conspiracy theorists put forward subversive claims by twisting the structure of events. They construct a self-image of intellectual and moral superiority through *ad hominem* attacks on their opponents and through demonstration of their "underground" wisdom which is buttressed by opinions of experts who were ignored or "victimized in the mainstream media".

The purpose of pro-Russian conspiracy theorists is to undermine trust in political, cultural, and media authorities, reverse public preferences, and legitimize deplorable actions and disreputable means. On the generic level of its presentation, this purpose is not different from the one pursued by other conspiracists such as Covid deniers, anti-vaxxers, or believers in the USA Presidential elections rigged in favour of Biden.

This comparison of discursive practices can stimulate further studies of the similarities and differences of dialogical contraction in virtual and face-to-face interactions such as presented by Herman & Oswald (2022).

Keywords:

virtual dialogue, conspiracy theory discourse, dialogic contraction, disclaim, superiority image, dialogic engagement

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Dialogic Forms and Societal Transformations in James Joyce's *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man (1916)*: Insights for Contemporary Relevance

This study presents an analysis of the dialogic forms employed in James Joyce's *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man (1916)* with a focus on Stephen Dedalus' stream of consciousness and his dialogues with authority figures. The objective is to explore the resonance of these dialogues with the broader societal changes during the early 20th century. Building upon Hughes' work (2005) on the significance of dialogue in literature, the study integrates Bakhtin's dialogism (1981) and adopts a semiotic approach to analyze the semiotic markers, particularly the name Stephen Dedalus, to provide a comprehensive framework for analyzing the dialogues and their impact on societal transformations. By examining Stephen's stream of consciousness and his interactions with authority figures, the research aims to reveal how Joyce incorporates dialogues to reflect the discussions and interactions within the public sphere of the time. The analysis seeks to shed light on the diverse perspectives, conflicting ideologies, and evolving thoughts and experiences

of the protagonist. These dialogues serve as a means for Stephen to engage in intellectual debates, challenge societal norms, and shape his identity. Furthermore, the semiotic markers within the novel are indicative of the broader societal milieu, where clashes of ideologies were prevalent. This mirrors the growing influence of the public sphere, where individuals from diverse backgrounds actively participated in intellectual discourse, consequently shaping the cultural and political landscape. By delving into the diverse dialogic forms in *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*, this study contributes to our understanding of Joyce's novel while providing a broader perspective on the societal changes of the early 20th century. It emphasizes the significance of dialogue as a tool for exploring multiple perspectives, negotiating conflicting ideologies, and portraying human experiences across different historical periods.

Key words : *Dialogic forms, Societal changes, Individual, Ideology, Identity formation.*

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The collaborative construction of humour in Romanian Reddit interactions

The paper presents a qualitative analysis of Romanian forum interaction with the purpose of documenting several forms and functions of humour in Romanian forum interaction. I present a case study of five humorous forum interaction in Romanian, covering conversational humour phenomena such as verbal play, puns, allusions and fantasy scenarios. Although my findings suggest these interactions are similar, in many ways, to their oral counterparts, I believe humor in forum exchages is enhanced by way of multimodality and platform-based features of mediated communication. I focus on the description and qualitative analysis of conversational humour, as it emerges in computer-mediated communication and discourse (CMC and CMD; Herring 1996; Herring and Androutsopoulos 2015). It is well known that CMC/CMD has both scriptural and oral features (Herring 2004; Crystal 2006, 2011), thus simulating a face-to-face interaction within the digital environment. Conversational humour consists of various humorous phenomena created in spontaneous interaction, such as banter, verbal play, or puns, following Dynel (2009). A major type of conversational humour is fantasy scenarios (Kotthoff 2009) created by joint dialogic construction in interaction i.e. by creating a ludic narrative in which each turn amplifies and enriches a humorous scenario (see also Kotthoff 2007). My data is extracted from the Romanian-language community of Reddit called Reddit Romania. I have randomly sampled the data (Herring 2004) by collecting forum threads issued in this community from 2020 to 2023. During this period, my research process was informed by ethnographic observation (Androutsopoulos 2006). I have thematically restricted my analysis to humorous forum interaction on two conspiracy

theories. These are theories with global or local spread, such as the conspiracy surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, and, subsequently, the theory of a glorious Dacian proto-history of the Romanian people (Rom. teoria protocronismului dacic). The results suggest that although both theories are humorously (re)shaped by way of interaction, either by verbal competitive play, fantasy scenarios or puns, forum exchanges allow for the multimodal enhancement of interaction. Moreover, users engage in co-creating humorous play by appealing to multimodal elements such as maps and images, while benefiting from platform-based features of communication, such as the built-in reply function of Reddit, among others.

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Cultural Mosaic in Zadie Smith's *White Teeth*: a postcolonial aspect

Keywords: postcolonial literature, hybridity, cultural identity, multiculturalism, cultural diversity

Postcolonial literature gives us an insight into the thrilling and ever-lasting process of the construction of hybrid identities through cultural contact. It is the postcolonial domain that has started very active and effective debates on the dynamics related to the notion of cultural difference and cultural identity. Cultural hybridity as such presupposes a dialogue of cultures which may be exposed in different ways. Thus, a dialogue can be seen as a way to define one's cultural identity. An intense preoccupation with the issues of multiculturalism and hybridity is foregrounded in the works of contemporary British writer, Zadie Smith.

The present paper analyses Zadie Smith's novel *White Teeth* from the postcolonial point of view as a site of cultural, linguistic and textual hybridity. Zadie Smith plays with the notions of hybridity, cultural identity, roots, cultural assimilation and history portraying the postcolonial London as the heart of cultural hybridity. Engaging with the notion of hybridity the novel illustrates the complex relationship between culture and identity. The aim of the paper is to demonstrate the ways in which the novel discloses and conceptualizes the idea of hybridity. This paper extends a path of inquiry begun by the critics who have the tendency to accentuate the notion of cultural hybridity in this novel.

The analysis refers to the close reading technique of the text and is mainly based on Homi Bhabha's concept of hybridity; additionally, it refers to Stuart Hall's theory of cultural identity, Bill Ashcroft's rhizome metaphor and Michel Foucault's poststructuralist concept of heterotopia. The analysis demonstrated that the novel exposes the idea of hybridity in terms of the heterogeneity of forms. Thus, cultural hybridity is assumed to be reflected on different levels: from linguistic, ethnic, via symbolic, textual to visual. The configuration of the characters, representation of space, language of the narrative, intersections of various texts and implantation of visual elements – these aspects in particular herald and foreground the novel's pivotal concern with cultural hybridity. The analysis revealed that *White Teeth* is turned into a site where different cultural paradoxes are explored. Delivering hybridity as a process and product, the novel offers a view of culturally hybrid society as a mosaic of cultures, linguistic varieties and/or texts that turn to be in dialogue with each other.

Bezlaj, Lucija Zala and Janja Žmavc

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The Importance of Rhetorical Perspective in Conversation Analysis: A Classroom Discussion Case Study

This study presents a comprehensive analysis of a classroom discussion in a Slovenian high school, centered around a divisive incident perceived as either racist or humorous by students. The objective is to explore the role of persuasive elements in the conversation, emphasizing the teacher's contextualization and moderation, mediation between diverse opinions, and students' articulation of conflicting perspectives.

The research is grounded in Vygotsky's social constructivism, highlighting the central role of interaction as a locus of knowledge formation with a specific conversation structure and assigned roles (Koole, 2013; Mori & Zuegler, 2008). It introduces the notion of classroom interaction as fundamentally rhetorical, incorporating classical concepts such as kairos, Aristotle's means of persuasion, Bitzer's rhetorical situation, and Burke's dramatistic pentad.

Using a case study approach, the authors analyze a classroom interaction involving a teacher and 19 students. The lesson, audio-recorded and transcribed using the Jeffersonian method, undergoes conversation analysis (Sacks et al., 1978; Heritage, 2015), followed by rhetorical (Bitzer, 1968; Burke, 1968; Žmavc, 2018, 2021) and argumentation analyses (Toulmin, 1958; Govier, 2010). The combined methodology explores speaker interactions, reference to previous statements, conveyed attitudes, argument development, implicit assumptions, emotional stances, and credibility establishment.

Results indicate the teacher's leading role, with students frequently self-selecting for turns. Themes shift between general racist representations and the specific incident. Emotional expressions vary from indignation to nonchalant amusement, contributing to the rhetorical construction of ethos and pathos, influencing sequence progression. The analysis reveals intricate patterns of affiliation and disaffiliation, emphasizing the importance of combined sequence expansion analysis.

This approach offers insights into the pedagogical process, illustrating how knowledge is rhetorically constructed and opinions exchanged through turn-taking, emotional expressions, credibility building, and argumentative shifts. The study underscores the

significance of a rhetoric-informed approach to conversation analysis, particularly in understanding turn-taking dynamics in discussions.

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Folktales and Focus group discourse in Dagaare: frequency of passives and middle constructions

Passives and middle constructions are more frequent in focus group discussions than in folktales. This phenomenon is observed in Dagaare through data collected on verbs of disintegration. This raised the question of how we can account for the variation in frequency of passives and middle constructions. The discussion is relevant as it will guide linguist in prioritizing which instrument to use to gather data on respective constructions.

The data is taken from the northern dialect of Dagaare. The data was gathered from told stories and focus group discussions, among other sources (which are irrelevant herein). The stories were recorded from radio session. The radio station has schedule dates for riddles, proverbs and folktales. The focus groups were discussions the researcher had with groups of speakers (3 groups each of 5 members). Topics were raised around activities that involve disintegration.

To account for the variation, the role that passives and middle constructions play in discourse becomes relevant. It was found that subjectivizing a non-agentive argument, has the effect of topicalizing that non-agentive subject. Their purpose is not just to give information, but to make a comment about an entity (acting as subject). The comments describe a state or a quality of the topicalized entity.

For example, in (1a) the agent is the subject and in (1b) a non-agent is the subject. In (1b) therefore, the non-agent subject is presented to the listener as the prominent item and the predicate is then a comment made about this subject that has been topicalized.

(1) a. Agentive subject construction

bɛˋ ʧɛˇ nãˋ dD ŋmãˋãˋ

3PL hack DECL log cut

They hacked the log and cut it.

b. Middle construction

ʊˋ ʧìˋɛ̀-rɪ́ mɔ̀lɛ̀ gã́w gDC

3SG hack-PROG easy than ebony

It hacks easily than ebony tree. (It is easier to hack than the ebony tree)

(2) Inchoative construction

D vCCr súór-D

DEF leaf-PL pluck-DECL

The leaves pluck off from the tree.

Constructions like (1b) are found more in the focus group discussions than in folktales. I conclude that the low frequency of passives and middle constructions in folktales in Dagaare is because these stories focus more communicating the actions of characters (thus active sentences) than making comments about the state of entities (thus few passive) or describing what it is like for an object to undergo a particular action (thus few middle constructions). This is then evidence that in Dagaare the subjects of passives and middle constructions are topicalized slots. Constructions like (2) are found in folktales more frequently than passives and middle constructions. But this is because they capture actions that really did not involve a subject, such actions are spontaneous.

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Interactivity in online presentations in educational settings

During covid pandemic, online presentations became an important large part of the academic and business world. Presenting in an online environment will remain an important skill even in post-pandemic times due to many advantages it has, such as flexibility,

saving time and money, larger access to a wider audience, etc. But challenges are also numerous. Technical knowledge is only the start; for a successful online presentation, the presenters also need to adapt the presentation's content, their speech performance, and non-verbal communication to better fit the screen and virtual context. One of the biggest challenges according to the literature is divided attention of the audience in a virtual environment (Spanić, Mitrović & Jakšić, 2021). In educational context, this can be connected with research about student's (lack of) motivation for online classes and low interactivity in the virtual classrooms (Croxton, 2014; Spanić, Mitrović & Jakšić, 2021). There are three types of interactivity in online classes: between students, between students and professors, and between students and the content (Croxton, 2014). Spanić, Mitrović and Jakšić (2021) found the greatest activity of students when all three types of interactivity were included in online classes. So, to be a good presenter, in any setting, one has to be skilled on a verbal, non-verbal, technical, and dialectical level. Dialectical skill assumes enhancing audience's interactivity with the presenter, content and other audience members.

To examine how interactivity and success in online presenting are connected, a survey via Google forms was conducted among lecturers with experience in online presentations. The survey examined what lecturers changed in the presentation content, their non-verbal communication and communication with the audience while presenting online in comparison to in-person presentations. They were also asked to (self)evaluate their success in online presentations and the most challenging parts of presenting online. The participants (N=105) were lecturers from different educational institutions from Croatia (elementary and high schools, university and lifelong learning institutions), with various years of experience in teaching and presenting in a virtual environment and from different fields of teaching.

Results show that participants encouraged interactivity most strongly between audience and themselves (M=3.85) followed by interactivity between audience and content (M=3.69) and then between members of the audience (M=3.38). The more participants encouraged different types of interactivity, the more successful they perceived their online presentation skills (r=0.46, p<0.01). Furthermore, the more experience they had in presenting online, the more they encouraged different forms of interactivity (r=0.52, p<0.01), while on the contrary there is no significant relationship between experience in teaching and encouragement of interactivity in online setting (r=-0.01, p=0.95). In terms of adjustments to presenting in an online setting, participants who encouraged interactivity were significantly more likely to adjust their voice, speech tempo, pauses, brightness, quiet surrounding and internet connection. Finally, participants who received formal training in online presentation reported more interactivity encouragement in all forms (t=-2.90, p<0.01). In conclusion, the results show that for being successful in online presenting it is not enough to only have the technical skills or experience in teaching, but that it is a separate skill which is improved with years of experience in online presenting and with formal training.

Key words: online presentation, education, interactivity, audience

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Pre-Electoral Discourse on Facebook; a Romanian Case-Study

This study proposes an original approach of a doubly-mediated dialogue, in a specific context: the dialogue under analysis is mediated by the use of the FB communication support, considering both its technical and social nature (Herring, 2007) on the one hand. On the other, it deals with pre-electoral verbal strategies meant to undermine a virtual adversary.

The specific context underlying our analysis corpus refers to the 2024 Local Elections to be held in Romania. Thus, we are interested in the early campaign undertaken by the present-day Mayor of Bucharest (Capital of Romania), Nicusor Dan (supported by the right-wing parties) who intends to run for a new mandate.

The main objective of this research is to find out the linguistic features on which pre-electoral strategies rely, such as engaging a "dialogue" with a political adversary "in absentia".

Theoretically, our scientific article will draw on specialized literature concerning the specificity of FB communication in the political field (Boicu, 2017) as well as discourse analysis literature on verbal violence (Fracchiolla, Moïse, Romain and Auger, 2013; Moïse, 2012).

The corpus proper consists in the FB text including Nicusor Dan's main posts, followed by 83 comments, for or against the achievements or failures of Bucharest's Mayor. It is worth mentioning that this dialogue has a chronological significance, as it intersects with a real-life political event which leads to the virtual adversary's taking a more realistic shape. We will attempt at comparing and contrasting pre-electoral verbal strategies, before and after the occurrence of the above-mentioned real-life event.

Methodologically, we will embark upon both a quantitative and a qualitative text analysis, mainly relying on linguistic recurrent practices, attempting at drawing up an inventory of linguistic items containing degrees of more or less aggressive verbal attacks.

Concerning our expected results, since there are two distinctive halves of the corpus (see *supra*: real-life "turning point"), our main hypothesis is that the latter half displays more adversarial force than the former.

Keywords: *FB political communication, pre-electoral discourse, virtual contexts, real-life events*.

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Pregame speeches in movies: motivational rhetoric through the lenses of screenwriting

The presentation aims to highlight complementarities between real-life pre-game speeches and pre-game speeches in sport films.

Both psychological research and linguistic research on pregame speech (Vargas-Tonsing and Bartholomiew 2006; Vargas-Tonsing et al. 2011; Gonzalez et al. 2011; Savović et al. 2018; Smith et al. 2018) overlook the presence of the narrative component in coaches' motivational words. Yet a cursory reading of the speeches analyzed by scholars is enough to realize that this component is very much present. The research question at the basis of my contribution is therefore twofold: a) what rhetorical advantage does the use of storytelling give to a speech? b) what developments does the focus on the narrative component open up to the research on pregame talk?

To answer on both points, I will focus on movie speeches, some of which are often cited in studies on real-life speeches. To do this, I will use the Screenwriting Studies approach (Maras 2011). More specifically, the criteria of the theoretical-practical texts that reflect on the forms of a successful screen story (McKee 1997; Truby 1997).

Regarding point a), I will analyze the famous speech given by coach Tony D'Amato (Al Pacino) in *Any Given Sunday* (directed by Oliver Stone, 1999). I will show that it complies with the rules of cinematic dialogue: brevity, a natural and uncontrived language, carrying subtext, advancing the story, establishing internal correspondences, producing a visible impact on the audience. Most of all, like every good movie scene, the speech is structured like a well-crafted plot: it consists of three acts, it addresses dilemmatic choices, it reveals a theme by reframing the protagonist's perspective regarding the values that he must accomplish in order to fulfil his "true self". It is precisely this last element that allows the speech to produce a profound effect that screenwriting manuals call "emotional transition."

Regarding point b), in the last part of my presentation, I will sketch a classification of lockerroom speeches based on contemporary American cinema. When seen through the lenses of story, motivational rhetoric appears to take four major different forms, with the speaker (the coach) playing in each one a specific archetypical oratorical role: the Fighter, the Inspirator, the Pioneer, the Fustigator. The four genres of pregame speeches also concentrate on different narrative scripts (Schank 1972): the eventual triumph of the underdog (the Fighter); team as brotherhood (the Inspirator); the essence of the game (the Pioneer); the athlete who rests on his laurels (the Fustigator).

Keywords: *film dialogue; motivational rhetoric; pregame speeches; screenwriting; movie speeches*

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Performing antagonism: Dialogues with the far right on reader comments pages

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Discourse-based research on right-wing populism has often centred on ideological aspects of the representation of social groups, or on solo performances of populism by well-known political figures. Much less is known about how ordinary people develop and express their political allegiances and interact with members of other groups. This study focuses on how ordinary people enact political positions in dialogue with each other, on reader comments pages about newspaper articles about right-wing politics. I thus take a dialogic approach to analysing populist discourse, focusing particularly on antagonism between readers who support right-wing groups and those who oppose them. Notably, antagonistic exchanges in online forums of this kind often involve many different participants, who align with each other, building a sense of 'community' (De Koster and Houtman, 2008), and even compete with each other to attack or insult other groups, in a phenomenon that has been described as online 'tribalism' (North et al., 2023).

In concrete, in this paper I investigate the phenomenon of dialogic antagonism and alignment in a dataset of over 800 comments from *Mail Online*, from an article concerning a leader of the far-right Eurosceptic party UKIP. To conduct my analysis, I first build a taxonomy of moves that occur regularly in this type of dialogic online confrontation, and illustrate how the participants appear to self-organise around certain keywords or concepts. In this, insults play a key role. Following Mateo and Yus (2013), I take the view that insults are culture- and context-dependent, and that, although insults present an ostensible face threat (Bousfield, 2013), there are some ritualistic situations where insults are used for verbal duelling in order to prove superior skills in language use or greater bravery at provoking the other side (Labov, 1072). Moreover, in social practice, it is clear that insults are not only used to attack others, but by doing so, also to defend oneself, to express in-group solidarity, and to assert one's own position within the in-group. In the political sphere, use of abusive language is a way of stoking inter-group rivalries, by combining ideological, personal and emotional factors. Such conflicts often lead to ritualized "overt displays of rivalry", helping to foster in-group bonding and group cohesion (Ilie, 2001). In my conclusions, I discuss some possible consequences of the heightened political antagonism found in online forums, in terms of social polarization and the possible degeneration of informed political debate.

Keywords: *populism, antagonism, alignment, reader comments*

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Ukrainian refugee voices in Romania: the use of metadialogic practices in independent media documentaries

Following the invasion of Ukraine by Russia on 24 February 2022, Europe was confronted with one of the largest refugee flows in recent history: over 8 million Ukrainians are recorded across Europe (UNHCR, 2023), many of whom are in neighboring countries. More than half of the internally displaced people are women (IOM, 2022), and more than half of all children in Ukraine have been forced to leave their homes (UNICEF, 2022). The refugee crisis encouraged cross-European and national dialogues about symbolic threats to the European security model, the implications of migration (framed in terms of economic costs), and identitarian (re)positionings towards historic rivals and aggressors. After the outbreak of the war, Romania, as a refugee receiving or transit country, witnessed a large-scale mobilization at the individual and national levels to support Ukrainian refugees. Currently, the country hosts 117,393 Ukrainian refugees (European Council, 2023). Evidence of initial symbolic support for Ukrainian refugees

appeared in the public space in Romania, such as the Ukrainian flag hanging on public and private buildings, #StandWithUkraine stickers, or graffiti art. In this dense narrative field, occupied by political and social actors with various agendas, the media launched campaigns aimed at changing the collective imaginary towards refugees.

The present study focuses on media discourses, which activate "modes of engagement at a distance, fashioning themselves as sites of symbolic power" (Beciu et al., 2017, p. 258). The paper's main analytical take is that dialogue on Ukrainian refugees happens between different types of actors and between different discursive genres. Therefore, we are looking into how the dialogic performance of Ukrainian refugees in independent media documentaries interfaces with metadialogic practices (Ilie, 2022) in the Romanian context. More specifically, the study will analyze how the questioner (the journalist) and the respondent (the Ukrainian refugees) evaluate, challenge, and/or contest the validity of each other's input to the dialogue. The research questions underlying our research are: how are Ukrainian refugees being constructed in the Romanian media? How are different discursive genres being used to present the stories of Ukrainian refugees? Ultimately, our analysis will allow a discussion on how new identitarian positionings towards migrants are being created.

To answer these questions, we will focus on independent media documentaries about Ukrainian refugees and the strategic narratives used to build the identity of the Ukrainian refugees for the national public, launched between March 2022 and March 2023. In terms of methodology, we employ multimodal discourse analysis (MMDA) (Kress, 2010, 2012; van Leeuwen, 2013) to explore the narrative strategies and the dialogue between publics and genres, along with the metadialogic practices used by independent Romanian journalists. The results show that the feminization of Ukrainian forced migration (Isański & Marek, 2023) also applies in the Romanian context. This is tied to narratives of empowerment and successful stories, thus challenging traditional representations of refugees as victims. Independent journalists have an active role in presenting the stories of Ukrainian refugees in relation to cultural and political references.

Keywords: *Ukrainian refugees, media documentaries, metadialogic practices, genres, multimodality*

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Interactional humour in YouTube comments section: The construction of joking threads

When investigating online humour, researchers tend to focus mostly on memes and audiovisual material (e.g. video clips) as well as on informal interactions among various group members in the social media where humour seems to be a pervasive strategy (Tsakona 2020). Less often is humour investigated in social media or platforms where it is not commonly attested (Vásquez 2019). In this context, our study explores the humorous interaction occurring in a YouTube comments section. The data examined here consist of the online reactions to and discussions of a YouTube video clip produced by a popular atheist activist after the burning of the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, France (April 2019), and commenting on the jokes generated after the burning, in particular their limits and 'in/appropriateness'.

More specifically, we investigate (1) what kinds of humour online commentators employ to recontextualise the public event in question; and (b) how such interactional humour is jointly constructed by them in YouTube comments section. Two sociopragmatic dimensions of the analysis of humour are taken into account: the macro-perspective including the social norms, cultural contexts and ideological frameworks relevant to the processing of humour; and the micro-perspective, namely the actual realisation of humour in a specific communicative situation (Tsakona & Chovanec to appear).

The analysis reveals that both disaster and religious humour emerge from the same public event, even though these kinds of humour do not have salient similarities. In the present case, they both allow speakers to momentarily defy social norms and conventions about what can/not be said in public. Disaster humour enables speakers to laugh at events which are more often than not perceived and represented as tragic and disastrous, while religious humour enables them to ridicule religions including their prominent figures, doctrines, practices, values, etc. Furthermore, the joking threads constructed by commentators in the data examined appear to consist of an initial attempt at humour, which is usually followed not only by similar (and sometimes antagonistic) attempts, but also by several *metapragmatic comments* (after Culpeper & Haugh 2014: 239–240, 252–253) more often than not positively evaluating the preceding humour. Even when such comments are negative, the joking thread appears to continue as long as there are some interactants who express their disagreement with such negative comments and offer positive metapragmatic comments of their own in return.

Keywords: *humour, YouTube, joking threads, metapragmatics*

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Partnership: An Illustration of Modal Behavioural Dialogues in *Knorr Chicken Cube*® Advertising Communication in Nigeria

This study examines *Partnership* of modes (historical-cum-sociocultural semiotic resources of meaning-making) in the *Knorr Chicken Cube*® video, which represents a form of dialogue that interactional modal entities display to persuade the audience (Draft, 2000). Dialogue elongates its strengths to communicate mutual relationships (Banathy & Jenlink, 2005). This is also applicable to modes of a complex semiotic system, distributing their latent potentials to generate meaning. The historical-cum-sociocultural norms are common denominators interfacing dialogue with mode, parallel to and mitigating the choice and analysis of the *Knorr Chicken Cube* video, available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zt401H9nHsg, as a communicative object (Jaworski & Coupland, 2006). That motivates the research question: At what frequency/sequence have the modal resources dialogued and associated to generate meaning in order to inspire viewers into consumption? The procedure of answering this question commences by employing the snipping tool of the computer to transcribe the *Knorr Chicken Cube* video into 51 shots. The *Transitivity, Mood,* and *Theme-Rheme* systems are employed to interpret the linguistic devices (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014) before the concept of *Participants* are applied to describe the behavioural dialogues of the visual images (Kress & van Leeuwen, 2021). A combination of *Transitivity, Mood,* and *Theme-Rheme* exhibits the dominance of Theme, being the platform of Transitivity's and Mood's operations. However, Transitivity's Relational processes and Material processes are the major content-mechanisms of the communicative events, as Subject and Finite are the foremost structures of the Mood system (Patton, 2015). This study reveals that the designer of the communication deploys the importance of mother-in-law in the Nigerian family to culturally-stimulate viewers (Forceville, 2020). As the linguistic structures (spoken and written) of *Chicken, Mama* and *Hmmm*) and visual images of the *Knorr Chicken Cube's* sachet and wraps, a *daughter-in-law,* and a *mother-in-law* recur many times, the rhetor employs the significance of mother-in-law to acknowledge the cooking performance of the daughter-in-law, applying the *Knorr Chicken* condiment to her food. The nodding endorsement-cum-commendation serves as a reference point for other women and cooks to consistently-apply *Knorr Chicken Cube* to their food, being the fascinating and selling point, appealing to viewers. Nevertheless, for a reason of *hygiene,* tasting of food in the kitchen should not

be done through the mixing spoon. Those intending to taste food in the kitchen should use separate utensils (plate and spoon) to do that.

Keywords: *advertising, dialogue, Knorr chicken cube, participants, partnership, three metafunctions*

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Enunciation Strategies in Hip Hop Music: A Case Study of Kanye West and Cedry2k

Considering that hip-hop "is a cultural marker that, brought to Romania, fits perfectly the current social and violent context and the sexualization of language" (Cesereanu, 2003, as cited in Doboş, 2014), I want to find out if there are more hip-hop artists in Romania as well, similar to international artists, for example, Kanye West (Pyon, 2015, Chaney, 2018), who are vocal about the way they perceive aspects such as God, religion, spirituality, and heaven.

Through my PhD thesis, I aim to provide an overview of the representation of the divine in Romanian hip-hop music. I intend to identify references to religious cosmology, religious practice, religious concepts and doctrines, religious texts, and religion in general in Romanian hip-hop music, starting with Cedry2k's music (an artist who often talks about religion in his music, according to Chirilă and Chaney, 2018) and extending to the entire Romanian hip-hop scene from 1993 to the present.

Given that hip-hop allows for open discourse (Perry, 2004), and musical experiences can generate strong emotions (McKimm-Vorderwinkler, 2010), it is noteworthy that hip-hop culture serves as a religious and theological meaning-making center for those who seek a connection with God but do not trust or prefer traditional spaces for such endeavors (Hodge, 2016).

Therefore, acknowledging that the lyrics of hip-hop songs serve as a medium through which artists engage in a dialogical exchange with their audience, expressing their perspectives on God, religion, spirituality, and heaven, for this conference, I aim to conduct a comparative analysis of enunciation strategies (Charaudeau, 1992) used in all of the lyrics of Kanye West and Cedry2k. This analysis aims to observe the similarities and/or differences expressed by these artists, considering they belong to different cultures (and perhaps religions).

By delving into the dialogues presented in the hip-hop genre, it can be discerned how the sacred is interwoven into what might be perceived as profane music, revealing a multifaceted relationship between religious themes and the linguistic characteristics for which hip-hop is renowned. This intertwining involves both real and/or imaginary experiences of the artists with those of the listeners, who may or may not agree with the messages conveyed through the music.

Keywords: *enunciation strategies, hip-hop music, religion, spirituality*

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The Imagery of the migrant: A social constructionism Strategy

In a video on TikTok, a crying 17-year-old expresses his grief for being caught in Libya before being smuggled and reaching to Italy. He is concerned with the money his family has collected to ship him off to Italy imaging an easier life. On the other side of the Mediterranean there is another video of an Italian respondent whose back is to the Mediterranean confirming that there has to be Stricker measures taken to stop those endless waves of immigrants. Each immigrant imagines a better life only if they cross that sea, while they are considered a threat to the hosting country. The Mediterranean has seen migrations to the south that it is the white sea to the Arabs, and migrations to the north that it is the black sea to the Italians. These dynamics of knowledge and controlling the imaginaries, Michel Foucault (1966) coined it as "épistémè", which is the power of the language to construct imaginary and its representation, to which it becomes a "real". Jean Paul Sartre (1943/1962) defined the imaginary as the negation of the real – it is what reality not yet is but could be. Migrations historically build up the imaginary of territories and mold national identities. This research unwraps the social constructionism of migrants and their imaginaries. Social constructionism sees our knowledge of the world as an understanding that people construct between them (Burr 2014, 4), the theory and its application in the paper stands in the intersection of philosophy, psychology, and language. The paper analysis articles in French newspapers that reflect the official imaginary about the migrant and TikTok videos that reflect the personal imaginary of the migrant. The research combines close reading method and discourse analysis to analyze the images presented in the articles as an example of their constructionism. The paper attempts to shows how the official sources justify the image of migration as a threat, when the videos/immigrants' discourses justify the image of migration as an act of heroism. The paper attempts to answer the question: Under what conditions can knowledge about self and others about migrants be constructed from abstracted and incomplete representations of objects and events, capture our imaginaries, as it does, and prove highly functional, as it does?

Keywords: *social constructionism, imaginaries, migrants, self and others, Foucault.*

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"Uh, I'm a pretty sick guy": Adapting the dialogue of *American Psycho* for screen

At the time of its publication, Bret Easton Ellis's American Psycho (1991) was met with severe accusations of depravity for his portrait of the nauseating crimes of Patrick Bateman, a prototypical Manhattan yuppie by day and a sadistic murderer by night. Since then, the narrative has been re evaluated as a sharp satire which uses grotesque transgression – not gratuitously but to make disquieting observations about the hollowness of the consumerist society. An important step towards the redemption of the novel was the eponymous screen adaptation by Mary Harron (2000), which highlighted some satirical aspects of the novel and thus made it more obviously a piece of a satire. The film was well received despite its contentious literary source and also led to more positive and overtly allegorical reinterpretations of the novel. It has, however, a revisionist attitude to Ellis's portrayal of a psychopath, which is apparent in the protagonist's conversational manners. Fictional conversations are an important means of characterisation, as they give us insight into the character's relationship with others. This paper contrasts several corresponding scenes from the book and the film versions of American Psycho to analyse how the dialogues shape the reader's/viewer's implicit understanding of Bateman's psychopathic mind and contribute to the reinterpretation of the character on screen. The tools of pragmatic stylistics are extended to include multimodal analysis in order to account for the non-verbal storytelling of the screen adaptation. In the novel, the dialogues in Bateman's elite social circle lack any proper content as the participants exchange superficial, ready-made answers about trivia,

such as famous people, fashion brands, and popular culture. Their communicative practices are shaped by an obsession with appearances to the point that their conversations fail to fulfil the primary function of communication – to establish meaningful contact with another person through a cooperative exchange of information. As Bateman gradually begins to violate conversational norms by talking ever more openly about his killing sprees, he fails to disrupt the conversational vacuum as the addressees do not respond to his shocking revelations. This communicative behaviour leads the reader to infer that Bateman is someone who tries to reach out and elicit a meaningful conversation but fails to provoke a response, which sends him spiralling down into ever more atrocious asocial behaviour. In the film adaptation, however, Bateman does not make an effort to establish contact with the outside world in the first place. He is a psychopath, completely dissociated from the reality outside his deranged mind, and someone who ignores any opportunity to make a meaningful connection with others. If the one-sidedness of the conversations in the film is a result of Patrick's disinterest in other people, the lack of cooperation in the novel is attributable to everybody else. In the film, Bateman's psychotic behaviour is no longer spurred by the state of the society but by his mental perversion alone.

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A case study: dialogic interactions between a Japanese visual impaired student with local resources in Malta island

This study explores the intercultural and interdisciplinary learning experiences of a visually impaired Japanese student as he immerses himself in the local resources, people, heritage, food, and interactions with his peers on the island of Malta. The research aims to elucidate the multi-dimensional development of this visionary impaired student during his first encounter with a foreign culture, drawing upon the concept of Communities of Practice (Lave and Wenger, 1991). The application of this concept allows the researcher to view the student's learning as a product of dialogic interaction rather than merely individual cognitive development. The student's interactions with peer students, local English teachers, hotel employees, and the tourism resources of Malta serve as mediators of his learning journey. The project-based course examined in this study serves multiple objectives. It primarily seeks to foster students' understanding and proficiency in intercultural and interdisciplinary communication. Given its practical orientation, this course also has real-world applications as students collaborate to develop a software application aimed at promoting their respective departments to high school students. Teams composed of students from two different fields, International Studies, and Informatics, gather data through interviews, photographs, movies, and narratives from residents. Furthermore, the course intends to

enhance students' English communication skills. To achieve these objectives, students engage in extensive discussions before their departure, brainstorming software ideas, and gaining a deeper understanding of the area's history and geography. Past research on cognition has highlighted that visually impaired learners approach the understanding of terms both semiotically and morphologically differently due to their lack of visual cues for comprehending concrete objects and grammatical rules (e.g., Ramons, 2017; Kao and Mzimela, 2019). These differences suggest that a conventional classroom setting may not be the most effective learning environment. Instead, it can be argued that participating in a discourse community may be more beneficial for visually impaired learners in acquiring a language. In our study, we employ the concept of language socialization to analyze the student's learning process. Language socialization posits that cognition is a social phenomenon rather than an individual one. Initially, this theory focused on children's linguistic development, observing how young children gradually acquire the language and behavior patterns of competent cultural members within their discourse community. Recent research in this field has extended the concept of language socialization to other domains, including higher education and professional contexts. Additionally, the concept of distributed cognition (Muntanyola, 2014) is adopted as a framework for this research.

Through social interaction, visually impaired learners can learn and apply shared linguistic practices specific to social activities in foreign settings. This presentation offers a detailed account of the learning processes of visually impaired students through dialogic interactions with local individuals and members of the project team.

Keywords: language socialization, visual impaired, multi-sensory, project-based learning

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Talking to each other, but how?

The article deals with two research questions: RQ1) What kind of society is it that produces the discourse on the conflict in the Middle East that we are reconstructing? and RQ2) How does this discourse in turn affect society? To answer the questions, we need a middle-level concept that mediates between the examined discourse(s) and actors on the one hand and the social structure on the other. This concept is **dialogue**, which etymologically connotes a flow of meaning through the interaction of individuals as a collective, their search for connections and the attempt to build bridges between different 'worlds' in challenging situations, and from which new insights may emerge (cf. Bohm 1996: 6). According to Bohm (1998), the basic idea of dialogue is not to convince 'the other', but rather to achieve a certain level of mutual understanding in the face of different views and to simply understand. To find out how this notion of dialogue applies in real life, I analyze the 23-minute speech by the Slovenian philosopher *Slavoj Žižek* at the opening ceremony of the *Frankfurt Book Fair* on October 17, 2023. During his speech, *Žižek* articulated and emphasized very different views on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict compared to mainstream policymakers and their advocates in Europe and worldwide, provoking a strong and contradictory response from the audience (from applause and laughter to leaving the room and loud protests). To paraphrase Arendt (2002: 249): *Žižek's* speech forces thoughts about the conflict in the Middle East out of the solitude of thinking and into 'talking to each other', but the question is 'how'? The answers are obtained by studying Žižek's rhetoric, which is characterized by (1) the use of various figures of appeal (*rhetorical questions*, *hypophora*, *exclamations*, and *apostrophe*), (2) argumentation based on examples, comparisons, referring to official sources, personal authorities (*Moshe Dayan* and *David Ben-Gurion*) and role models (*Marek Edelman*), and (3) a high degree of emotionality. The results of the analysis show that the pragmatic functions of the above-mentioned dialogue strategies lie in (i) the anticipation of possible objections from the audience, (ii) the invigorating expansion of the topic and (iii) the demand for a change of perspectives in today's society. The results also show that *Žižek's* speech is dominated by the hypotactic structure of the utterances, indicating a logical causal, functional, conditional, temporal and concessional connection.

The answers to research questions RQ1 and RQ2 derived from the results of the analysis are as follows: The society that shapes the mainstream discourse on the conflict in the Middle East is a hierarchical, hive-like society, partly unwilling to put events in the Middle East into context. As a result, such a decontextualized discourse impacts our society in a bipolar way. However, as *Žižek's* speech illustrates, any differences in thoughts, perspectives, beliefs, values, and assumptions can only be recognized in a "genuine dialogue" that "allows participants to create a degree of understanding across unresolved differences" (Burbules & Rrice 1991: 409).

Keywords: *Žižek*, *Frankfurt*, *speech*, *Middle-East*, *dialogue*.

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Syntactic alignment correlates with task success in dialogue

Research on dialogue interaction has noticed that dialogue task success and the extent of mutual understanding secured between speakers can be reflected in the dialogue language patterns. The Interactive Alignment Model (Pickering and Garrod, 2004; Pickering and Garrod, 2021) describes the co-activation and priming mechanism in language production and comprehension, which leads to a convergence in word choices and syntactic structures among speakers, and it is argued that convergence in language use drives mutual understanding. Others have provided evidence that seeming syntactic aligment is best explained as lexical (Healey et al., 2014). Alignment has also been approached from the perspective of engagement, proposing that even though the actual level of mutual understanding might not be possible to measure, linguistic repetition can be used as a proxy measurement of mutual understanding (Vogel, 2013). This work evaluates the correlation between syntactic alignment in task-oriented dialogues (the HCRCMapTask(Anderson et al., 1991)) and task success. Part of speech (POS) sequences corre sponding to words spoken are analyzed. A context vector (Finch and Chater, 1992)(normally used to calculate contextual co-occurences with words, to approximate word meaning) is constructed for each POS shared by each speaker in a dialogue, and the cosine similarity of resulting vector pairs is computed. At dialogue level, the mean cosine similarity of the shared POSs is used to measure syntactic alignment. Similarly to word context vectors, the POS context vectors record co-occurrence frequencies, here with each POS in the inventory at 4 context positions (target POS-2,-1, +1, +2) as the dimensions, and the relative frequencies of cooccurrence as the val ues. Our POS context vectors capture the cooccurrence in sequences of 5 POS symbols, and the cosine similarity reflects how the POS arrangements, syntactic structures, are aligned between interlocutors. The Spearman correlation coefficient between the cosine similarity and the task error measure is -0.225 with $p = 0.0108$ (N = 128), indicating that for a dialogue in which two speakers have higher POSsequence alignment the task success tends to be greater. Pragmatic factors contribute much to the explanation of the task success. In the Map Task data, pragmatic factors in a linear regression model explains task success with adjusted R-squared of 0.266. Including the cosine similarity measurement gives a higher adjusted R-squared of 0.301 and the anova test gives a significant result ($p = 0.0045$), favoring the more complex model. By allowing an interaction between cosine similarity and eye contact, the adjusted R-squared increased to 0.318 with

a significant anova result (p = 0.0459). That is, similarity of POS context vectors– syntactic (rather than lexical) alignment– adds significant value in explaining task success. It has been observed that questions (Q) and statements with a rising tone (RISE) also increase the level of engagement and thus task success, and naturally involve syntactic similarity between those utterances and their responses (Levelt and Kelter, 1982; Geluykens, 1988). Our tests show the percentage of tokens from Q or RISE does not have a significant correlation with task perfor mance and the cosine similarity at the same time, thus ruling out the possibility of Q or RISE as a confounder in the explanatory value of POS cosine similarity. This work contributes to the understanding of human interaction in dialogues in that alignment in syntactic construction is correlated to task success. This correlation is consistent with the proposal that linguistic alignment reflects the mental alignment and task success. Additionally, 1 the similarity of POS context vector provides a convenient and light-annotation method to compute the syntactic alignment.

Keywords: *syntactic alignment, part of speech, task success, context vector*

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From appeals for help to demands for action: changes in President Zelenskyy's international discourse in the course of war in Ukraine

It has been two years since Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine. From the outset of it, President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy has been relentless in his efforts to gain support for stopping the destruction of his country and the killing of its citizens. His line of argument carried over different geopolitical audiences was bounded to prove that Ukrainians belong to the European society and share the same democratic values. The hypothesis of the study is that the concept of shared identity that Zelenskyy used to construct in his anti-war global discourse during the first year of the war has given a way to the re-conceptualization of his international narratives since Ukraine began to get ultimate moral support and constant military aid from its allies. Focusing on the scopes of ESTIDIA 2024, this research deals with the new patterns that President Zelenskyy tries to build up in his culture-specific and dialogic communication within the European Union. It is observed that his previous interaction has been changed, and he navigates a significantly different dialogue in the political context. The study rests upon the fundamental approach to the language as a form of social practice, and thus, it sends us to Critical Discourse Analysis of the corpora as an orientation to the study of language means within the processes of social change in their discourse aspect. Discourse theories are used here to develop the conceptual frameworks for Zelenskyy's cross-European anti-war discourse as well as linguistic theories are employed to model its argumentative power. As the study material, this research is structured to analyse the addresses and speeches of the Ukrainian President given by him within the second year of the war, since January 2023 till February 2024, particularly, his authentic pleas to such social institutions as national parliaments, collective European political bodies and business forums (the whole of 90 source texts). The findings show that the shifts in President's conceptualization of the war in Ukraine are explained by his determination to make Ukrainian initiatives become global initiatives. Such ideas he introduces in global public consciousness as the Peace Formula, updating the statutes of the institutions of global governance and security agreements, urging special war crime tribunal on Russia, presenting Ukraine as a role model for reconstruction, etc., will outline the post-war existence, or at least will form into the concepts that can shape some new geopolitical models. The outcomes of President's social interaction practices in cross-European dialogues will positively open new paradigms in pooling the efforts of the European community against the war and can become the fertile ground for the Ukrainians as a nation to integrate into European cultures.

Keywords: *President Zelenskyy, war in Ukraine, discourse analysis, political argumentation, concept, re-conceptualization.*

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Peace journalism as dialogue. The case of alternative journalistic reports on the war in Ukraine

Diverse global crises that the world is now undergoing require high quality journalism in order to inform the public about the flow of affairs in reliable ways. This is a demanding task for journalists, who are expected to mount the top of professional standards so as to

maintain neutrality, as a core value in any journalistic work. This paper focuses on the journalistic job performed by two Polish travel journalists, who in response to bottom-up requests from their multiple viewers, conduct spontaneous online surveys of the situation in Ukraine at the beginning of the 2022 war. The purpose of the surveys is to observe the authentic flow and climate of events on the first days of Russia's invasion in Ukraine. The outcome of the journalists' fieldwork are two media reports that convey 'facts as they are', i.e. as watched by young travellers from outside the field of politics, and that provide to the Polish public alternative news independent of mainstream channels. The material gives a symmetrical coverage of both the Ukrainians' views on Russia and the Russians' views on Ukraine at the critical moment of the conflict eruption.

It will be shown, with the help of the Transformative Approach to Conflict (Bush and Folger 2005) and Narrative Mediation (Winslade and Monk 2000), how the journalists are trying to reach the stance of neutrality and objectivity with their recipients. The authors' 'dialogic action' (Ricoeur 1992, Arendt 1998) is reconstructed according to their use of discourse cognitive, relational and ethical strategies, which altogether build communication oriented to 'reaching understanding' (Habermas 1984). It materializes through the rhetorical claims of truthfulness, rightness and truth actualised by the reporters, who validate the principled inclusion in this discourse of, respectively, the subject matters, the Other and the Self. The discursive integration of these three dialogic components in the texts studied makes it possible for the journalists to give 'personal assistance' to their message content. Not only does this assistance testify to the speakers' 'lived presence' in the dialogue thus performed (Levinas 1979), but it also articulates their summons for responsibility in journalistic work. The analysis demonstrates that the discursively structured attitudes of being 'present for' and 'responsive to' the Other, as targeted by the journalists observed, is a safe way to 'peace journalism' (Aslam 2016, Youngblood 2017), whose professional virtues rest on the expression of, inter alia, reliability and respect in the public domain.

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Bridging Knowledge Asymmetry: Terminology Preferences in Expert-to-Layperson Dialogue

Terminology is the core instrument for transfer of specialised knowledge, encoding a conceptual framework of a specialised domain which is essential in conducting communication among experts. Beyond its fundamental function in expert-to-expert communication, terminology plays a vital role in fostering a dialogue between experts and the general public and disseminating specialised knowledge.

The dialogue between the experts and the general public is characterised by significant knowledge asymmetry, i.e. substantially different amount of knowledge of the subject field (cf. Kastberg, 2018). The success of such dialogue depends on a range of factors, most notably the expert's assumptions about the layperson's knowledge level and expectations, on the basis of which the expert makes choices about the intention of the message and its linguistic means (cf. Sager, 1990).

The usage of terminology is directly linked to efficiency of such dialogue, as terms serve as the most important linguistic means for encoding the units of knowledge. The choice of terms is critical in facilitating an interactive dialogue between the experts and the general public and enhancing knowledge dissemination. To address terminology needs of communication parties, it is essential to delineate terminology preferences among different user groups and reasons back these preferences.

The paper will present the results of the survey conducted by researchers of two universities in Lithuania (Mykolas Romeris University and Vytautas Magnus University), the aim of which was to investigate the impact of knowledge asymmetry on terminology preferences

by user groups with a different level of domain-specific knowledge. The cybersecurity domain was chosen for the survey research as it is one of the most rapidly evolving domains with great demands for terminology development.

The idea of performing the survey stemmed from the analysis of the data collected from the English-Lithuanian cybersecurity corpora compiled by the same team of researchers (Utka et al. 2022(a); Utka et al. 2022(b)). The analysis of these corpora revealed a huge variation and usage inconsistency of the Lithuanian cybersecurity terminology which prompted a deeper investigation into the preferences of synonymous terms among different user groups.

Ten cybersecurity concepts were chosen for the survey. Each concept was presented by providing its definition in Lithuanian and its English designation. The respondents could select a terminological designation from the provided list of synonymous terms or suggest their own designation in the free option slot. In addition, the respondents were asked to indicate the reason for choosing a particular term.

593 respondents from various organisations (universities, state institutions, private companies, business associations, etc.) took part in the survey. Their age spans from 17 to 69 years: 66% of the respondents fall within the age range of 17 to 29, while the remaining 34% are aged between 30 and 69. The respondents provided their areas of expertise, and this data served as the basis for categorising them into two distinct groups: experts (individuals with expertise in the cybersecurity domain or closely related domains, 41%) and the general public (individuals with expertise in domains unrelated to cybersecurity, 59%).

The answers of the respondents constitute both categorical and textual variables as a considerable number of the respondents opted for the free option slots and provided their own suggestions instead of selecting terms and reasons given in the lists.

The quantitative and qualitative analysis of the collected data enabled the comparison of the types of terms preferred by experts of the cybersecurity domain and the general public, as well as the exploration of reasons behind the respondents' choices. The results of the research, alongside with the insights into the dialogic perspective in the expert-to-layperson communication, will be provided in the presentation of the paper during the conference.

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Making informal invitations in French: a contrastive analysis of dialogues in real-life conversations, textbooks, TV shows, and AI-generated texts

One of the primary challenges faced by speakers of foreign languages is the persistent disparity between real-life conversations in an L2 and their experiences as L2 learners. In contrast to genuine interactions, dialogues found in foreign language textbooks often exhibit an excessive degree of control. This incongruity arises due to the absence of key characteristics inherent in authentic conversations, including discourse particles, hesitation markers, blanks, and overlaps (Ravazzolo *et al.*, 2015: 149). Besides, the introduction of the topic in the dialogues has almost an inaugural nature, with very brief opening and closing sequences. *(Ibid.*: 147). On the contrary, genuine interactions are contextualised, anchored in a scenario with continuity, and refer to the past exchanges of the interlocutors ("*histoire interactionnelle*") (Vion, 1992). Furthermore, the lexical and phraseological choices offered in textbooks can sometimes be inadequate, advocating for expressions that are seldom used in actual conversations, particularly when expressing emotions (Ronci & Moallemi, 2022). Consequently, L2 learners frequently find themselves ill-prepared to engage in dialogues with native speakers or develop a communication style that may come across as artificial or unconventional.

When textbooks fall short in providing appropriate examples, educators often turn to alternative sources to bridge the gap. For instance, various contemporary media, such as certain TV shows, mirror more closely the primary linguistic features of genuine

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interactions, offering a more natural dialogue experience, whilst still presenting some differences (Quaglio, 2009). Additionally, the utilisation of artificial intelligence chatbots has been explored in L2 classrooms to enhance both written and oral communication skills (Alharbi, 2023; Zou et al., 2023).

Our study aims to investigate how different sources depict the same speech act in French, specifically an invitation in an informal setting. Indeed, inviting in French is a complex and delicate activity (Traverso *et al.*, 2018) that requires linguistic, pragmatic, and social skills. This research draws upon conversational analysis and linguistics to initially define the key features of informal invitations by analysing spontaneous real-life interactions and virtual interactions in French, with our primary corpora being CLAPI and 88milSMS. We subsequently examine the same speech act in two distinct corpora: the first comprising French as a foreign language textbooks at various proficiency levels, and the second encompassing French TV shows of varying lengths and genres. Finally, we input the same contexts and instructions provided in the textbooks or the context and narrative intentions of dialogues in TV shows into an artificial intelligence platform (Chat GPT) to compare the results and explore their similarities and differences.

Preliminary findings indicate that while some textbooks attempt to replicate characteristics of real-life conversations, they frequently fall short of expectations. In these textbooks, invitations are primarily expressed through direct questions, which is less common in spontaneous dialogues (Traverso *et al.*, 2017). Additionally, hedges and vague language are conspicuously absent, while specific lexical choices are more prevalent compared to real-life conversations. Explanations and contextual background, present in both face-to-face and virtual interactions, are lacking in textbooks, contrary to sitcoms and artificial intelligence applications, the latter of which, however, lacks certain oral traits and delivers very standardised dialogues.

Key words: *real life conversation, language textbooks, AI, TV shows, invitation, conversation analysis.*

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Reproduction of dialogues in monologues: a semantic-pragmatic analysis of questions

Speakers often reproduce dialogues when delivering monologues, like in (1) and (2), for different reasons, namely, to narrate an experience or to exemplify an argument.

(1) Approaching my daughter's third birthday, my wife said, "Hey, why don't you take Sabina back to New York and make it a father-daughter trip, and continue the ritual?" This is when we started asking passing tourists to take the picture. You know, it's remarkable how universal the gesture is of handing your camera to a total stranger. (1634/17)

(2) And I think there are some cases. For example: mental arithmetic. I still do a lot of that, mainly for estimating. People say, "Is such and such true?" And I'll say, "Hmm, not sure." I'll think about it roughly. It's still quicker to do that and more practical. So I think practicality is one case. (1007/147)

Many of those reproductions of dialogues, as we can observe in the previous examples, include interrogatives of different types such as *wh*-questions, *yes/no*-questions, alternative questions or tag questions. The main goal of this talk is to present the results of a contrastive study of the semantic and pragmatic values of questions in the reproduction of dialogues in monologues in four languages. The ultimate objective of the study is to determine what the role of those questions is in the genre monologue and whether there are differences across four languages, British English, European Portuguese, Lithuanian and Hebrew.

Our theoretical framework combines two parts of ISO 24617 - *Language resource management – Semantic annotation framework (SemAF*, part 8 - *Semantic relations in discourse, core annotation schema (DR-core)* (ISO, 2016; Bunt and Prasad, 2016) with a plug-in to Part 2 *Dialogue acts* (Bunt et al. 2020, and ISO 2020) (Silvano et al. 2022). The former provides a list of discourse relations, which allows us to understand the meaning relation that the question establishes with the previous utterances, and the latter a set of communicative functions related to the dialogue acts they perform. As far as we know, this framework is innovative regarding annotating questions in monologues. As a matter of fact, most research on monologue annotation resorts to either discourse relations (Stoyanchev and Piwek (2010), Mendes and Lejeune (2022), a.o.) or to dialogue acts (DialogBank), and sometimes with approaches different from ISO (Moniz et al., 2011; Celle, 2009), or that do not focus on questions.

The study is conducted in a multilingual parallel corpus of spoken monologues, extracted from the TED Talks transcripts, with English as the pivot language, and the examples aligned in all four languages based on the occurrence of an interrogative. The methodology of the study was the following: (i) definition of the annotation guidelines; (ii) annotation by two linguists of the English dataset; (iii) validation of the annotation with the inter-annotator agreement; (iv) discussion of the cases where there was disagreement until a consensus was reached; (v) annotation of the Portuguese, Lithuanian and Hebrew datasets by native speakers; (v) quantitative and qualitative analysis of the results.

Our results reveal that the questions used in a reproduction of dialogue are mainly *yes/no* questions (2), followed by *wh*-questions (1). Regarding their value, for the great majority, they convey solely a pragmatic value, being the most frequent communicative functions *propositionalQuestion* (2), *setQuestion* or *testQuestion*. Seldom do they establish a discourse relation with the previous utterance.

Keywords: *dialogues, monologues, questions, ISO, discourse relations, communicative functions, parallel multilingual corpus*

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"It is not inconceivable you might see the Dakserpensis Monoculus": Joint fantasising and the construction of group membership in online communities

Conversational humour, a multi-faceted phenomenon, can be used to achieve various goals, whether to amuse, criticise, bond or exclude. The bigger the community that is exposed to an attempt at humour, the more complex situation becomes, which is the case of humour (co-) constructed on social media (e.g. Baym 1995; Demjén, 2016). This paper explores one type of conversational humour – joint fantasising – as an interactional practice, during which the participants co-construct impossible absurd scenarios (Stallone & Haugh 2017: 10; Kotthoff 2007; Tsakona 2018; Mullan 2019). The data comes from multi-party interactions on the Facebook public event page entitled "Mt Coo-tha Ski Field Opening Day 2019" that attracted the interest of 37 thousand Facebook users and was supposed to take place in June in Brisbane, Australia. The topic of the event and the geographical location (temperature in Brisbane during the winter is 20°) create visible incongruity between what is claimed and the real-world condition (see Stallone & Haugh 2017). In this study, drawing on interactional and interpersonal pragmatic approaches, I examine in detail 28 posts (from January to June 2019) that generated 497 comments, including verbal comments and image-based comments (gifs, photos and videos). The aim of this paper is two-fold: to provide a detailed analysis of (1) how joint fantasising is co-constructed as a collaborative interactional practice and (2) how the fantasy reality can be employed to create clear boundaries for group membership in online spaces. Overall, the results show that the absurdity of the event, in the form of text or images, is collectively constructed through a variety of fantasy scenarios that point to the participants understanding of what constitutes a skiing resort. This is done on two levels: (1) through fantasy escalation and (2) interpersonal dimension, i.e. inviting personal contacts to join the online interaction. Compared to the cases of joint fantasising emerging among people with already existing interpersonal relationships, and thus common ground, in face-to-face or close-communities (see Stallone & Haugh 2017; Mullan 2019), this dataset shows how a number of users distance themselves from this interactional practice and explicitly construct themselves as non-participants by questioning the event's genuineness, and overtly challenging and criticising such fantasy scenarios. Consequently, joint fantasising is employed and escalated in order to take the piss out of non-participants and seemingly convince them that the event is indeed going to take place, thereby resulting in clear boundaries regarding a group membership as linked to the understanding and co-construction of joint fantasising.

Keywords: *joint fantasising, humour, Facebook, pragmatics, group membership*

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Humor and enjoyment reducers

In this research, I am trying to define for the first time, a new concept which I shall call **Enjoyment Reducer**, referring to verbal or visual content, incorporated into comic situations, which may offend or disturb the viewer's enjoyment (see for example the Mel Brooks' films, *Young Frankenstein* and *High Anxiety*, and Monty Python's *Meaning of Life*). There are comic situations that are only partially enjoyable and, at times, even cause embarrassment to the point of adversely affecting our enjoyment. These types of comic situations include what I term **Enjoyment Reducers** since they operate contrary to the main function for which the comic situations were intended, which is to cause the viewer enjoyment (see Hall 2007; Morreall, 2009; Sover 2014). It should be noted that practically every comic situation includes Enjoyment Reducers because they are based on incongruities which disrupt our normal order or values. The fact that we laugh at humorous situations means that their enjoyable effect is stronger than the Enjoyment Reducers' effect. Additionally, Enjoyment Reducers are both culture-dependent and contingent upon the viewer's personality traits. Therefore, what

one person perceives as an Enjoyment Reducer might be understood differently by another. The research findings reveal various types of Enjoyment Reducers that relate to human values, prohibitions, and taboos. This research focuses on film comedy, although the results are also relevant to theatre and all types of comic shows.

Key words: *comedy; cinema; theatre; humor; taboo; enjoyment*

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Ethos and Persona in Human-Robot Relationships

"Star Wars" the "original" trilogy (1977–1983) by George Lucas and "Tales of Pirx the Pilot" (1959–1971) by Stanisław Lem are both generally classified as works of science fiction, exploring the relationships between humans and machines. However, at first glance, they appear to be significantly distinct. They not only differ in terms of their medium and language but also present vastly divergent fictional universes. "Tales of Pirx the Pilot" belong to the lighter side of Lem's oeuvre, not as overtly philosophical as "Solaris"; nevertheless, they are still a more intellectually substantial work compared to "Star Wars."

I will utilize these two popular fiction works to delve into how human-robot relationships are portrayed in fiction. In particular, my focus will be on the rhetorical concepts of ethos and persona.

Ethos plays a crucial role in enhancing the effectiveness of communication. The objective of this research is to analyze the portrayal of both effective and ineffective dialogues between humans and machines in these two works of fiction, offereing two different

perspectives. In contemporary discourse, ethical considerations are recognized as one of the most significant challenges in human-machine collaboration, and these issues have been explored in fiction for over half a century.

An innovative perspective that will be explored is the potential connection between ethos and *chora*. While these two concepts originate from different philosophical and rhetorical traditions, interpreting *chora* as a conceptual space in which ethical ideas and values can emerge may an interesting perspective for analysing ethos in human-machine communication.

Keywords: *science-fiction, ethos, persona, rhetoric, robots*

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"United we stand, divided we fall". Political slogans in the face of modern crises

Following the fall of communism in 1989, Romania gradually gravitated towards new democratic principles and values in the form of a representative democratic republic with power allocated to legislative, executive, and judicial branches. However, this process of change is still ongoing and not without turmoil. During this period of political change, the country witnessed a great deal of incidents where democratic values such as human rights and freedom of speech were blatantly disregarded by those in power. In its short-lived democratic history, Romania went through various political crises[1], where people took to the streets to criticise the status quo of political governance.

The purpose of the research is to look at two of the largest political crises which took shape in post-communist Romania (between 1990-2023) and to analyse the pragma-linguistic content and subsequent strategies identified in protest slogans and billboard signs. In this regard, I have chosen to discuss the 'Colectiv' club tragedy (2015) and the passing of the controversial Emergency Ordinance 13 (2017). The incident at the 'Colectiv' nightclub fire can be viewed as a tipping point when public opinion reacted swiftly and

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[1] Among the protests that had a significant impact on today's society it is important to mention *The 'Colectiv' nightclub tragedy (2015)* - a deadly fire in Bucharest, Romania, which killed 64 people and injured 146. This event generated political protests, as more than 100,000 people took to the streets and accused Romanian politicians of corruption and poor judgment in dealing with a crisis of this amplitude-; and the passing of the Emergency Ordinance 13 (2007) which aimed to change the Romanian Criminal Code and partly decriminalise some corruption offences. At the height of the protests, it is estimated that more than 600,000 rallied together against the political class.

violently against the political ruling class and their decision-making processes. It was for the first time in the country's history when, the SDP[2], the de-facto government at the time, was forced to resign due to the power exercised by public opinion. This was quickly followed by another crisis, in 2017, when the re-elected Social Democratic Party, passed an ordinance that would decriminalise some corruption offences, an action that would have legally protected the leader of the party at the time, Liviu Dragnea, investigated for electoral fraud. The actions and the scale of the protests led to three major government changes within the ruling party. Viewed in conjunction, the two political episodes symbolise the collective power of citizens in generating political change in their fight against corruption and political inefficiency. The corpus of the study comprises 10 public statements delivered by the political leaders in times of crises and approximately 100 slogans and billboard signs gathered from various sources, such as websites, TV stations (digi24.ro; lozinci.ro; adevărul.ro) as well as a book of photographs titled *#rezist. Protests against OUG 13/2017*.

To conduct the analysis, I draw on Weigand's Mixed Game Model (2010) which stems from the idea that language should be viewed as fluid and ever-changing in various cultural surroundings.

Applied to the present study, I intend to look at how some of the defence strategies employed by the representatives of the SDP through televised political statements i.e. face-saving acts, attempts to de-mobilise the crowds or explanations for their actions, were scrutinised and met with scepticism by representatives of public opinion. As a result, public opinion responded by going on the offensive and formulating various attack strategies meant to criticise, ridicule, and discredit the political leaders involved in these decisions, further deepening the political crises. This active and reactive dialogic dimension between the statements of the politicians and the reaction of the crowds (visible in protest slogans and signs) gradually evolved into some of the biggest political crises in Romania's modern history.

The research objectives are three-fold. Firstly, I aim to present some official public statements delivered by politicians, in conjunction with the two events in question and analyse the subsequent rhetorical strategies employed by speakers. Secondly, I put forward some of the reactions of public opinion by analysing the pragma-linguistic features of protest slogans and billboard signs. To highlight the dynamics of dialogic interaction, I will also underline how public opinion reacted to the official statements provided by politicians throughout the crises. I contend that this approach would allow me to observe how these events took on new dimensions to gradually become political crises. Lastly, I investigate the primary functions of protest slogans and billboard signs in the Romanian context. The dialogical dimensions of slogans will be categorised on main topics and will include aspects such as (but not limited to) historical and socio-political references, ridiculing through the use of colloquial language, word-play, rhyming structures, and intertextuality. I

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[2] The Social Democratic Party (SDP) is the largest social-democratic political party in Romania and also the largest overall political party in Romania.

intend to show that protest slogans are highly creative dialogical instances which showcase the public opinion's concern about the societal well-being of the country's future.

To address all of these aspects, I use the framework of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), with contributions from dialogue studies and pragma-linguistics. The study aims to show that slogans are powerful tools meant to convey discontent and take the political message further, achieving strong national and international echoes. The study shows that people's responses to these crises encapsulate the public opinion's repressed feelings of dissatisfaction and outrage. This critical position was projected through linguistic cues as the individually crafted slogans speak for the group of people, one that wholeheartedly believes in a better political future in post-communist Romania.

Keywords: *protests, slogans, rhetoric, crisis*

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Dialogue in public speaking pedagogy: the case of Croatia

Public speaking pedagogy encompasses three levels of dialogue: a) the dialogue between the speaker and the audience (the audience being instrumental for the measure of success in public speaking) b) the internal dialogue of the speaker during the preparation process based on the application of critical thinking skills; and c) the dialogue about communication competence within the educational context.

Public speaking pedagogy in Europe has been less developed when compared to the United States (Carlos de Oliviera, 2014; Olha, 2020), by predominantly focusing on historical overviews (Conley, 1995) or implementations of American public speaking traditions. Croatian public speaking pedagogy, developed by professor emeritus Ivo Škarić, presents a unique approach, as it was based on interdisciplinary approach, atypical at a time for the European public speaking education. Škarić's work (Škarić, 1982, 2000) integrated classical rhetoric and American public speaking handbooks (Jaffe, 2016; Lucas, 2008; Osborn, 2012) with communication science, which can be particularly evident in his approach to audience profiling and general objective or speaking strategies (Marsh, 1983). Including the work of contemporary argumentation theorists such as Chaim Perelman (Perelman & Olbrechts-Tyteca, 2006)

and Stephen Toulmin (Toulmin, 2003), as well as his interest in the media resulted in original public speaking pedagogy. Content-wise, Croatian public speaking pedagogy includes ancient rhetorical canons; phases of speech preparation following the American public speaking approach; phonetic approach to speech delivery; foundations of argumentation; scholarly descriptions of figures of speech; special occasion speeches; parliamentary speech, debating skills and other dialogue genres. Giving students an insight into the aforementioned pedagogical theories and practices serves as a possible tool for application of public speaking skills and, hopefully, creation of successful democratic society.

This type of pedagogy is applied in formal education at major Croatian universities (Zagreb N=5, Osijek N=2 and Split N=3) with slight content adaptations depending on the course characteristics and objectives (i.e. course volume in hours and ECTS credits). The aim of this study is to analyze the available course descriptions of public speaking courses at three major Croatian universities, using criteria such as the aim of the course, topics selection, type of instructions, number of hours and the number of ECTS credits, number of speech assignments etc.

The results indicate that the courses cover a broad spectrum of topics, requiring a workload of two to four hours per week and including one to three speech assignments. These findings prompt further questions about the aims and learning outcomes of the course, as well as their assessment. We find ourselves asking: what is the purpose of public speaking courses, and what are our goals for the future? These questions reflect those raised in the USA decades ago, yet they remain unanswered (Bailey, 2018; Goulden, 2002; Johnson, 2004; Putman, 2019). More specifically, some of these questions address the amount of rhetorical theory in the courses and its alignment with the course objectives, while others concern skill development. Therefore, it becomes imperative to start a dialogue about the implementation of public speaking pedagogy at the university level. We must primarily ask ourselves whether this pedagogy truly teaches competent public speakers, employs critical thinking skills, and aligns with the 21st-century competencies framework in Europe.

Key words: *public speaking pedagogy, Croatia, university courses*

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Teacher digital skills in online language teaching and learning: dialogue or silence?

Technology driven language teaching and learning is closely related to the need to integrate digital technologies into the language classroom. The technological advances are also evident in the work of the European Commission with the acknowledgement of the use of digital technologies to empower learners and launching numerous EU-funded research projects focused on the ICT use in teaching and learning. The OECD Program for International Student Assessment in 2021 ICT framework states that "technology profoundly transforming people's work and professional life, significantly affects multiple facets of education, and provides new opportunities for students to learn outside of school and can change teachers' pedagogical approaches and the learning experience of students in school" (PISA, 2021). Deacon et al. (2017) stress the need to integrate digital technologies into the language classroom as universities have the main goal of preparing learners for 21st-century employment with the necessary language and digital skills. In this context, improving teacher digital skills becomes one of the essential elements for teachers' personal professional perspective and identity (Esther T. Canrinus et al., 2012) as it is related to improvement of the digital skills of the learner and improvement of the language teaching and learning process. According to the PISA framework 2021, educators' ICT skills "depend on the availability, accessibility, and quality of ICT resources" and are important in improving learner digital skills (PISA, 2021). The changing didactic leadership in applying digital skills, i.e. the improvement of the digital skills of the teachers and the improvement of teaching alternating with the augmented digital agility of the learners create a new didactic dialogue in the learning process. Teachers and learners enter a dialogical relation in a digitally enhanced classroom. Teachers' self-evaluation of their digital skills is an important factor in this new relationship and in teachers' self-identification as professionals. The current study aims to overview the change in the language educators' perception of their own digital skills in Lithuania. To address the teacher status in this new didactic experience a digital questionnaire on Google Forms was employed for collecting and analysing the data in the current study. Based on the theoretical assumptions the following research questions were formulated: How do language teachers in Lithuania assess the development and the perspectives of their digital skills? What digital resources and apps do language teachers in Lithuania use in teaching and learning languages? The research results reveal that educators feel the need to improve their digital skills related to language teaching and learning and see this as part of their professional identity. The study reveals that language educators possessing a higher level of digital skills have the tendency to use more complex digital resources and lead in the digital classroom settings. The determination to further foster acquisition of digital skills necessary for teaching and learning reveals the presence of language teacher

motivation to develop new professional competences in application of ICT. Also, two thirds of the respondents developed their digital skills without institutional or peer support which reveals that digital skills appear to be a valuable part of their professional context and efficacy as well as motivation and, eventually, part of their professional identity.

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The use of Telegram bots during the war in Ukraine

The Russian invasion prompted the Ukrainian Government to implement quick and efficient ways to gather information and to stay in touch with its population. Ever since the start of the war, the Security Service of Ukraine has used social media, and Telegram in particular, to create networks of citizen informants. While there are several other ways in which social media users help Ukraine fight the invasion, this study will focus on publicly available initiatives that were started by governmental organizations, specifically Telegram bots. We explore how with the help of digital literacy, especially knowledge of platform affordances, the governmental agencies were able to employ a workable dialogical interface that employs digital surveillance and builds distanced communication with threatened citizens. Our study explores the mechanisms and implications of human-bot interaction during wartime communication.

Telegram was already in active use among Ukrainians as a source of news and updates, and its scope has further skyrocketed since 24 February 2022. Important in connection to wartime communication, the platform has weaker censorship regulations than Meta, and it combines both state media and independent channels.

To counter the Russian invasion and to encourage citizen participation, the Ukrainian Security Service incorporated a tool available within Telegram's digital platform affordances. Among the initiatives were @stop_russian_war_bot to inform the Security Service of the positions of Russian troops on Ukrainian territory, @traitor_search_bot to stop suspicious behavior, and @stop_maraudeur_ua_bot for preventing looting in occupied and non-occupied territories. This paper documents the original surveillance goals, and argues that the bots have also facilitated other communicative functions, such as accommodating virtual comfort and the feeling of being helpful and heard in the ongoing streams of war-related news, expanding people's digital literacy skills, and online activism practices.

The dialogical responses from the bots were automated and set up to encourage safe and fast communication with users. Since the start of the invasion, citizens tried to report a lot of information meant to prevent attacks on fellow citizens. To structure this, there was a need for a clear and supervised way to build communication among the government and its citizens. The bots managed to cover this function by first informing the user of the rules of communication. The programs would outsource a governmental initiative to expand the scope of users' wartime digital literacy skills by guiding them through the process. For instance, a bot might state the

importance of mentioning the geographical location in addition to the volume and personnel of the occupying force. The program also messages the user about other ways of following the Security Service and offers ways to fix any malfunctions. The dialog a user would build with a bot in their Telegram is private and simple – it resembles any other chat within the platform and facilitates information exchange.

The current research explores this newly emerged dialogue genre. Taking the practice of Telegram surveillance as a case study, we will discuss the roles and goals of dialogue participants and the way their platform affordances facilitate this new communication genre. By focusing on bot chats in the context of the war, the research will examine novel communication strategies and wartime digital literacy. The study will show how Telegram was repurposed by the State and the role of bots as a novel tool in wartime communication

Keywords: *war, Ukraine, Telegram, digital affordances, surveillance*

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Reporting a hiking trip to (hyper-?) active hearers

Among all texts available in the existing printed and electronic corpora of Russian spontaneous speech (Zemskaja & Kapanadze 1978, Kitajgorodskaja& Rozanova 1999, Šalina 2011, Rasskazy o snovidenijax, ORD 2009), the Rasskaz o poxode ('report on a hike') from 1978 (i.e. reaching back to Soviet times!) is unique in offering a conversational story (transcribed on tape-recorder) that triggers an amazing amount of various hearer activities: Taken all together, these interventions number 61 within a total of 117 turns (typographically marked by the editor); such behavior would probably strike a Central European audience as pretty impolite. The report is embedded in a small talk about coffee drinking and involves the teller Sveta and three hearers, all of the same age and sharing the same institutional and educational background and closely related with each other. Sveta reports a recent five-day hiking trip of a group of young people known to the hearers through the Crimea. In terms of tellability, the story offers no climax but several minor incidents: one of the participants (a little girl) falls into the water, the group has to change their itinerary, a strange person from outside in a bizarre helmet repeatedly tries to frighten the group by shocking information about the path ahead of them, and a male participant acts as an entertainer with witty comments and proposals. The description of the breathtaking landscape along the route provides an additional attraction. The narration is delivered in spontaneous speech abundant in small disruptions, such as false starts, cut-offs, unmotivated repetitions and pauses, fillers, self-repair, and replacing the appropriate word by gesticulation. The numerous hearer interventions do not show a regular turn-taking system but are structured by many stronger or weaker prosodic-phonetic cesuras (Bart-Weingarten 2013) coinciding or not with syntactic and semantic-pragmatic discontinuities (Auer 2010). The narrator does not use tension-building devices but employs other staging techniques (reported speech partly marked by voice shifts, historical present, witty formulations, expressive wording including reduplications), still by maximally belittling her own significance by apologizing for her formulations and ignorance and other modesty markers. This narrative style invites multifarious hearer reactions which reach from mere display of recipiency and laughter to requests for clarification, emotional or cognitive assessments of content and form to cognitive processing (conclusions, comparisons) and autonomous continuations of the report.

Despite the lack of multimodal data and the poor quality of the tape record, this conversation calls for an analysis in terms of talk-in-interaction (Couper-Kuhlen and Selting 2018). It will address the following questions: (i) What impact do the permanent interferences have on the principal teller and relational work (Locher 2013, Kress 2019)? (ii) May the hearer reactions partly be described as co-construction (Grenoble 2013), or do they threaten the narrator's exclusive ownership and tellership (Van De Mieroop 2020)? (iii) Are the interruptions to be considered impolite, if not face-threatening acts (Culpepper 2011), or rather as the humoristic

and face-preserving meta-message 'This is play' (Thielemann 2013)? (iv) Which parts of the narration trigger what kind of hearer reactions? (v) How often do the latter elicit a rejoinder by the narrator, and which and whose interventions does she ignore? All in all, this conversation confirms that "Listenership is not a passive state, but an active involvement in the storytelling process" (Norrick 2007).

Keywords: *talk-in-interaction, conversational stories, hearer involvement, turn taking, Russian conversational culture*

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Would you laugh with us? Internet humour and mutual (dis)trust in the dialogue process (case of Ukraine in 2022-2023)

My research focuses on the issue of establishing mutual (dis)trust in the process of dialogue mediated by humour. To this aim, I have chosen the context of war humour in Ukraine in 2022-2023. Military conflicts exacerbate the problem of mutual (dis)trust and the (re)construction of collective identities in everyday communication. In contemporary conditions, the Internet 128ealo of the main platforms for disseminating humour also brings corrections to its creation, distribution and consumption. What specificity has the war brought to the process of frivolous communication in Ukraine and the establishment of (dis)trust between dialogue participants? What is the difference between a virtual exchange of jokes and a face-to-face one?

Interactional and pragmatic approaches have become the basis for my research. I also use the studies of Rod Martin and Salvatore Attardo, focusing on establishing an emotional connection between the participants of a dialogue mediated by humour, setting a regime of trust or alienation. I also apply humour theories such as incongruity theory, the theory of relief stress, and dispositional theory. I analyse Ukrainian internet humour (memes, cartoons, anecdotes, sketches) collected on social networks like Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Telegram, YouTube, comments on humorous publications, interviews with cartoonists, officials' speeches and posts, etc.

The participants of humour-mediated dialogue are the initiator of the joke (the speaker) and the 128ealo ne128o f the joke (the listener). The speaker exchanges jokes with the recipient and simultaneously sends a message to the target of humour (someone or

something they laugh at). The listener, approving the idea of the joke, joins the speaker in this (un)imaginary dialogue with the joke's target (sometimes the 129ealo ne1290 f the joke and its target coincide). In this way, humour becomes a mediator in the imaginary dialogue between jokers and their targets. Suppose humour achieves its goal (speakers and recipients receive positive emotions by understanding and sharing the idea of the joke); it establishes mutual trust between interlocutors, relieves stress due to common laughter practices and popular culture, and achieves collective superiority over the ridiculed enemy. Internet humour allows mutual trust between even more people due to the speed of dissemination and creation of multimodal humour, the asynchrony of dialogues, and the common ownership of Internet humour. The most popular memes become culturally significant symbols, markers of confidence in face-to-face dialogue. For this reason, in times of war, officials also actively use humour in their speeches and social media posts. By using humour as a common code of communication with citizens, the politician seeks to establish mutual trust with them in the process of (a)synchronous dialogue and personifying mockery of the enemy, thus breaking the anonymity of Internet humour and leading the ridiculing process and transform (a)synchronous conversation into performance.

In times of war, failed humour can also lead to distrust of the interlocutor due to the inevitable increased vigilance towards ‚insiders' and ‚outsiders'. Failed humour, in this case, may mean that the interlocutor, virtual or real, does not understand either the literal meaning of the joke or the 129ealo ne. If, in times of peace, such an interlocutor can be qualified as simply without a sense of humour, in times of war as a stranger or even enemy who does not know your language and culture.

Keywords: *dialogue mediated by humour, Internet memes, war in Ukraine, mutual (dis)trus*

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Hate speech acts in Turkish youtube comments about the Israel-Hamas war

With developing digitizalization, the social sites on the internet have been used as a communication channel known as computer medaited discourse by people all over the world. As a consequence of this the pragmatic analysis of digital discourses that focus on how human beings communicate with each other via the internet have gained importance. Although the digital discourses' capacity to perform speech acts is the main interest of the pragmatic analysis, a few studies (Guillén-Nieto 2023, Parvaresh 2023, Paz et al

2020) have been carried out on the usage of the speech acts in specific digital communication situations. The study aims to analyse the speech acts of hate speech on the You tube comments related with the war between Israeli and Hamas produced by Turkish pro-right wing people and pro-left wing people based on the illocutionary speechact theory proposed by Searle (1976). A central concern will be to identify, analyse and explain how the opposite groups reproduce otherness via speech acts. In line with the aim of the study, the research uses a descriptive survey design. Quantitative and qualitative methods are applied using the methodologies of both Corpus Linguistics and Critical Discourse Analysis (Baker et al 2008 and Wodak, 2013). The data will consist of approximately 3000 comments underneath Youtube videos related with Israeli-Hamas videos posted from October 2023 to April 2024. Results reveal that although all commenters use similar linguistic devices when commenting on the war between Israeli and Hamas, they have different discursive strategies due to their varying ideological viewpoints.

Key words: *computer mediated discourse, speech acts, hate speech, Turkish, Youtube comments*

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