ENGLISH

Language

ABSTRACTS

❖ Cristina ANDREI, University of Craiova, Department of Applied Foreign Languages
Consistent Tests – A Keypoint in Achieving Language Accuracy

Tests are as important in a foreign language as the teaching process itself. They are essential in the consolidation and assessment of the knowledge acquired up to a point or, in the case of placement tests, they may help in the correct setting of the level of the foreign language to a certain person. Thus, tests should be administered in a consistent way in order to obtain accurate results. Their frequency and their content help in determining proficiency providing students an impetus in using higher order thinking skills. As a consequence, the teacher should pay much attention to the elaboration of tests, preparing them carefully in advance.

Keywords: *tests, elaboration, consistency, consolidation*

❖ Oana BADEA-VOICULESCU, University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Craiova
Coping with Technical Specialized Texts

Students learning a foreign language for special purposes (English, respectively) need to be able not only to cope with technical specialized texts, but also to manage to have a conversation, either in their future career or in a personal interest. The article analyzes the main characteristics of an informative text and, also, the best conditions in which specialized texts are to be used in order to provide the students with the necessary practice of skills, like reading comprehension, writing, listening and speaking. Thus, among the most important characteristics a specialized text must have, we may enumerate the following ones: it must be interesting, informative, and problematical and also in accordance to the level of knowledge the students possess in their preparing specialty. Specialized technical texts are very interesting and useful in the process of second language learning for special purposes, due to the fact that they provide a large number of technical terms referring to various areas of science and technology. Therefore, we consider specialized texts to be quite of value for students (and not only) both for the practice of technical terminology and also for their knowledge enrichment regarding technical problems and new discoveries.

Keywords: *specialized text, language for special purposes, technical terminology*

❖ Mădălina CERBAN, University of Craiova, Faculty of Letters
Syntactic Dependencies within Relational Framework

The present paper discusses the dependencies of two or more elements in syntactic structures, pointing out the selectional restrictions that can appear between the dominant element and its dependents. There are three general types of dependencies: bilateral, unilateral and coordinate, and our attention is focused on the first one. In a bilateral dependence, neither the Head, nor the dependents can occur without the others. Examples of bilateral dependencies include clause, Prepositional Phrases and possessive-phrase constructions. An important concept in analyzing the dependencies is the valency which refers to the number of dependents a Head can take. Another important aspect is represented by coding properties that may serve a particular grammatical relation. Dependency relations can be expressed both by morphological means, such as verb agreement and case marking, as well as by syntactic means, such as the functions an argument can perform in a sentence according to its place in the sentence.

Keywords: *dependency, restrictions, valency, coding properties*

❖ Iulia Cristina FRÎNCULESCU, University of Medicine and Pharmacy „Victor Babeş", Timişoara
The Romanian Medical Terminology of English Influence – Contemporary Dilemmas

This article presents the results of my PhD thesis on the aspects of the Romanian medical terminology after 1990, with special reference to the English influence. This thesis is quite singular at present in the Romanian linguistic field, as it analyses the medical terminology, little or not at all studied, especially in the last two decades. The PhD paper outlined in this article focuses mainly on the cross-linguistic influence of English on Romanian, at the lexico-semantic level, and highlights both the positive aspects of language contact, such as the coining of new terms, and the negative effects, namely the occurrence of

ambiguities, improper structures or even errors, the latter being the result of the interference processes between English and Romanian. The PhD study also surveys specialized translation, as it uses translations of medical literature, and my own translations of terms, phrases and medical texts, suggested throughout the analysis.

Keywords: *medical terminology, English influence, language contact, medical translation*

❖ Roxana-Petruta GOGA-VIGARU, University of Craiova, Faculty of Letters
Modal Verbs and the Semantic/Pragmatic Distinction

The semantic properties of modal verbs are defined in a manner so vague that the nature of the system is rather hidden than revealed. On the other hand it is clear that any classification that excludes contextual factors is likely to offer a special theoretical interest. Although these problems have not gone unnoticed by scholars, the truth is that in some cases, they have not received due attention at the time of applying a classification scheme and, in others, have not been addressed satisfactorily.

Keywords: *modal verbs, semantics, pragmatics*

❖ Adriana LĂZĂRESCU, University of Craiova, Department of Applied Foreign Languages
Business Metaphors: A Sign Negotiator Live by

This paper highlights the importance of business metaphors in specific communication. It focuses on a classification of various business metaphors and their rich meanings, according to their source. The typical metaphorical source domains chosen are: mechanisms and machines, animals, plants and gardening, health and fitness, fighting and warfare, ships and sailing, and sports. All business metaphors are defined and there are examples in contexts meant to show how these metaphors work. The purpose of such a presentation has been to put together metaphors used in business texts and thus offer food for thought and specific corpus for economics students to use.

Keywords: *business metaphors, metaphorical language, business connotations*

❖ Lavdosh MALAJ, University of Vlora, Faculty of Humanities, Department of Foreign Language
The Summery Strategies in Text Composition and Foreign Language Learning

One of the major problems faced by non-native speakers of English is that when they go to university, they find themselves without sufficient skills to summarize textual material.
Nevertheless, the results show that high-proficiency students produce more accurate idea units and are more capable of generalizing ideas than low-proficiency students who prefer to "cut and paste" ideas. Low proficiency students are noticeably unable to exploit pre-summarizing cognitive strategies such as discriminating, selecting, note-making, grouping, inferring meanings of new words and using synonyms to convey the intended meanings.
During the reading process students can become more aware by monitoring their level of understanding of the text by using, for example, the strategy suggested by Schraw (1998) of "stop, read and think". We need to take Sewlall's (2000: 170) advice that there should be "a paradigm shift in the learning philosophy from content-based to an emphasis on the acquisition of skills".

Keywords: *summary, low-proficiency and high proficiency students, cognitive strategies, parts of speech, selecting, grouping*

❖ Diana MARCU, University of Craiova, Department of Applied Foreign Languages
Handling Economic Vocabulary in English

Teaching specialized vocabulary in a foreign language such as English is a never - ending experience in the sense that constant training is needed in order to achieve proficiency. Thus, students in Economics need to be connected all the time to tasks and activities based on texts extracted from recent materials that present importance to them in terms of information in the field they study. Teachers should mainly focus

on paragraphs that contain words which raise difficulties as far as their meaning is concerned and introduce them into various contexts to ensure their proper acquisition and understanding.

❖ Cristina-Gabriela MARIN, University of Craiova, Department of Applied Foreign Languages
Latin Origins in Romanian and English

Latin was an ancient Indo-European language spoken across the Roman Empire. It was also, the de facto international language of science, and scholarship in mid and Western Europe until the 17th century. Through Roman conquest, Latin spread throughout the Mediterranean and a large part of Europe, later evolving into the languages spoken in France, Italy, Romania and Iberian Peninsula and through them to North, Central, South America and Africa. Dacia was amongst the last provinces conquered by Trajan, Roman Emperor. Dacia was conquered as a result of the raids led by Emperor Trajan, who managed to defeat the last Dacian king, Decebal, in 106 AD. Latin was the language spoken by the colonists who came to Dacia from other parts of the Roman Empire. As Dacians learned Latin, this language underwent some changes that made it different from the Latin spoken in other provinces of the Empire. The English language is actually based on the amalgation of regional dialects spoken in Latin, Vulgar Latin, Germanic, Gothic, Celtic, Greek and Spanish a process that took about eight centuries of lingual evolution until the Norman Conquest in 1066.

❖ Mădălina MATEI, Transilvania University of Braşov
Variables of Discourse Marker Use

In what discourse markers are concerned, we can speak about a central use of each marker or about a core meaning that many authors speak about, but we can certainly speak about pragmatic ex-centricities.
Talk in interaction is the instance in which the use of discourse markers is expected to generate variants of use which, under the direct influence of variables such as age, gender or geographical area, could differ to a greater or lesser extent from the core pragmatic meaning (if any) of the respective markers.
This paper will look at the manner in which talk in interaction generates variants of marker use by making a comparison between the core pragmatic meaning of markers, their coordinates of use described by the literature and their speaker-specific variants in real interactional contexts.

❖ Alexandra-Diana OŢĂT, University of Craiova, Faculty of Letters
Lexical Peculiarities ín Drafting Contracts

Taking into consideration that legal English became a common medium of communication within the continuously expanding sector of business investments and the increased occupational mobility, individuals need to adhere to the writing, stylistic and cultural conventions of this language. As part of the legal language, the contract is the genre of legal writing most frequently encountered by ordinary people. Therefore the present paper intends to frame specific lexical features of contracts' language regarding the use of formal words, archaisms, technical terms, common words with uncommon meanings, reduplication of words, deliberate use of vague words, and avoidance of pronouns. Neverthelss, based on typical examples, the paper aims to prove that eventhough more and more people ask for the use of plain English in contract drafing, most of the contracts encountered nowadays provide lexical features of archaic words and technical terms.

❖ Claudia PISOSCHI, University of Craiova, Faculty of Letters
The Stylistic Register Influence on the Pragmatics of English Personal Pronouns

The article is concerned with the correlation between the stylistic register and the case forms of personal pronouns in contemporary English. The focus is on the degree of interchangeability between Nominative and Accusative forms of English personal pronouns in contemporary spoken and written English. A special attention is paid to the diachronic factors which have influenced the direction of evolution of English personal pronouns both formally and pragmatically. A series of highly frequent syntactic structures in English are analysed in point of the choice of pronominal case forms according to the focus in communication, at the same time providing the Romanian equivalent structures in order to emphasize the (dis)similarities.

Keywords: *personal pronouns, stylistic register, Nominative, Accusative, diachronic factors, syntactic structures*

❖ Vlad PREDA, University of Craiova, Department of Applied Foreign Languages
Using Statistics in ELT (II)

This paper presents an approach on using statistics in teaching English as a Foreign Language. It aims at promoting verbal interaction in the target language while at the same time making this sort of activity challenging and rewarding. Students have the opportunity to use their background knowledge on the subject and their language skills to defend their arguments in a setting that allows them to be as explicit or creative as they wish to be.

Keywords: *statistics, ELT, communication, lesson plan*

❖ Georgiana REISS, University of Craiova, Faculty of Letters
Lexical, Syntactic and Stylistic Characteristics of English Written Legal Language

Legal language counts among languages for specific purposes which are highly specialized, having many specific features. It may be divided into two categories: the *spoken language* used in courts and the *written language* used in case law, law reports, prescriptive legal texts. In this paper we shall focus on *English written legal language* and we shall try to point out and discuss the most important characteristics from the point of view of its *lexicon* (e.g. high frequency of archaic words, Latinisms, technical jargon; common words with different meanings in legal language; repetitions, etc.), *syntax* (e.g. sentence length; extensive use of prepositional phrases; modal auxiliaries, etc.) and *style* (impersonal and formal rendered by the impersonal "it", the passive voice, etc.). Moreover, we consider that it is necessary for Romanian translators to be familiar with all these peculiarities of English legal language in order to decipher it properly and to produce good, functional translations.

Keywords: *legal language, languages for specific purposes, legal lexicon, legal syntax, legal style*

❖ Alina RESCEANU, University of Craiova
Issues in the syntax and semantics of Amount Relative Constructions

The aim of this paper is to present some aspects pertaining to the interpretation of a special kind of relative clause construction, which is distinguished from restrictive relative clauses and appositives, namely degree relatives. Degree or amount relatives show restriction in the relativizers they allow, in the determiners that can combine with them and in their stacking possibilities. We start by presenting Carlson's (1977) amount interpretation, continue with Heim's (1987) degrees, Grosu and Landman's (1998) maximalizing relatives and draw some conclusions regarding the possibility of a unified approach.

Keywords: *syntax, semantics, relative clause constructions, amount relatives*

❖ Andreea Mihaela STOIAN, University of Craiova, Department of Applied Foreign Languages
Is Spoken English more useful than Written English for ESL Students?

Saving time is a critical issue in nowadays and therefore oral communication tends to replace written methods in any language including English. Teaching English based only on written translations or different types of grammatical exercises may not be enough for someone who needs to use the language in oral conversations with native or non-native speakers. Focusing attention on the development of conversational skills, rather than checking to see if the basic English grammar rules have been memorized by students, has become a necessity for the English teacher who lives in an era in which "spoken language […] is more prevalent than ever, due to our technological means of communication. The mobile phone, the video phone, the internet with its use of both sound, spoken words, and pictures to convey information, Myspace, Youtube, Facebook, live tele-conferencing […], all add to the presence of spoken English in everyday situations everywhere."

Keywords: *spoken English, oral communication, written English, teaching conversations*

❖ Bledar TOSKA, University of Vlora "Ismail Qemali", Faculty of Humanities, Department of Foreign Languages (Albania)
Enthymemic Argumentation Process and Connectors in Discourse

This paper aims at discussing the nature of enthymeme and its representation in the process of argumentation. Being dynamic and a two-way interactive process between interlocutors, the enthymeme is best represented in discourse through connectors, which, we believe, is an interconnection and interdependence that has been neglected somehow in the contemporary literature.
The first part of the paper provides a general and critical overview on enthymeme and connectors, while the second part seeks to show the interaction between them, supported by linguistic analysis of several examples. The third and last part draws some conclusions, which need to be further supported with additional insights in future studies.

Keywords: *enthymeme, the process of argumentation, connectors*

❖ Ana-Maria TRANTESCU, University of Craiova, Faculty of Letters
Cognitive Poetics – a Linguistic Approach to Literature

The paper briely presents the new and challenging domain of cognitive poetics. Cognitive poetics is an interdisciplinary approach to the study of literature employing tools offered by cognitive science. Cognitive poetics has developed over the past twenty years from several different strands and as a consequence, it embraces a broad array of theoretical and methodological approaches. The foundations of cognitive poetics lie most directly in cognitive linguistics and cognitive psychology, together forming a large part of the field of cognitive science.
Cognitive poetics is also defined as an exploration of how cognitive processes shape and constrain literary response and poetic structure. It has a linguistic dimension, which means we can engage in detailed and precise textual analysis of style and literary craft. Cognitive poetics offers us a means of describing and delineating different types of knowledge and belief in a systematic way, and a model of how to connect these matters of circumstance and use to the language of the literature. It also demonstrates the continuities between creative literary language and creative language in everyday use. Cognitive poetics can be seen as a bridge between the literary studies and linguistics.

Keywords: *cognitive poetics, cognitive models, conceptual metaphor, text worlds*

❖ Rodica VELEA, University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Craiova
The English Influence in the Romanian Medical Vocabulary

The present paper takes into discussion a series of English words which can be ranged among the recent borrowings in the Romanian medical vocabulary. The English influence, even if a new one, cannot be neglected since we observe its presence in more and more disciplines of the medical field. And it has an important contribution to the enrichment and modernization of the *living body* of the medical language. The paper presents some of the problems connected to the adaptation of the English medical neologisms.

Keywords: *pronunciation, spelling, false friends, English borrowing*

❖ Titela VÎLCEANU, University of Craiova, Faculty of Letters
Cultural implicitness and translatorial action

Encyclopaedic and cultural knowledge represent essential dimensions of the translator's competence. Starting from this assumption, the paper aims to identify the degrees of cultural implicitness in the translation of informative texts from English into Romanian, more precisely in the translation of newspaper articles. Therefore, translatorial action involves the development of strategies securing the target text referential accuracy as well as intercultural implicature. Special importance will be attached to the identification of opaque culture-bound elements as well as to deceptive transparent cultural loads that are likely to distort meaning in translation if the target readership is not assisted via explicitation. Such strategies may equally be required in order to observe the level of naturalness.

Keywords: *translatorial action, intercultural implicature*

❖ Alina-Maria ZAHARIA, University of Craiova, Department of Applied Foreign Languages
Equivalence Problems in Translating Legislative Documents between English and Romanian

This article attempts to describe some translation theories which can be used when working with legal documents. The principle of legal equivalence is very important in the translation of Community law, because the same legal effect from the target text can be preserved in the source text. The aim of this paper is to investigate the potential difficulties which may arise when translating legislative texts between English and Romanian and to identify which translation theories are applied in these cases. The translation of legal documents involves more than linguistic knowledge of specialized vocabulary. A legal translator has to adapt the content of the source text to that of the target text and to preserve the same structure of the original documents. An important attention should also be paid to the cultural aspects regarding the legal systems of those countries and the system bound concepts.

Keywords: *typology, equivalence problems, stereotypy, translation, specialized vocabulary, linguistics, common words*

❖ Roxana ZAMFIRA, University of Craiova, Department of Applied Foreign Languages
Features of Presuppositions, Inferences and Implicatures in Magazine Advertisements

The use of presuppositions, a term used in both semantics and pragmatics, allows copywriters not to make everything explicit in ads by relying on receivers to recover meaning. Implicatures and inferences are analyzed as originating with speakers and listeners respectively in the process of conveying and deciphering meaning in advertisements. In the case of ads, where paralanguage is involved, we deal with pragmatic presuppositions; the context of ads makes of them instances of particularized conversational implicatures; there is a relationship between inference and Relevance Theory, as inference accounts for the effort that the hearer needs to make in order to reverse the apparent lack of cognitive effects triggered by the producing of utterances in ads containing rhetorical figures.

Keywords: *pragmatic presuppositions, paralanguage, particularized conversational implicatures, Relevance Theory*