

PREFACE

The third and last 2022 issue of volume 10 of *Studies in Linguistics, Culture, and FLT* titled “Problems and Solutions in English Studies and FLT” contains five papers focusing on various aspects of literature, discourse studies and methodology.

The issue opens up with a literary topic that introduces readers to a comparative study focusing on the portrayals of the sea in Sylvia Plath’s and Petya Dubarova’s works. The topic is not a new one for the author as Hristo Boev has dwelled on it in a greater detail in his monograph *Feminine Selves in Sylvia Plath’s Prose and Poetry: The Perspective of Compared Lived Experience in Fiction*. The paper in this issue presents the main points in a more concise way. Despite the fact that the two poets grew up in different realities, the sea had an equally significant presence in the lives of both of them and was frequently personified as benevolent to the narrator and served as a harbour that helped sustain both Plath and Dubarova through adolescence. In addition to the general similarities and differences in the presentation of the sea, Hristo Boev shares his own translation of “A Sea Tale” („Морска приказка“) by Dubarova, which is an additional contribution of the study.

The issue continues with two papers on the use of politically correct language. The first one analyses the Macedonian media discourse on women politicians, namely the Minister of Defense and the Mayor of the city of Skopje. Using Critical Discourse Analysis Silvana Neshkovska analyses 40 articles on the two women politicians and comes to the conclusion that the media in the Republic of Northern Macedonia still resort to both overt and implicit sexist language, which, in turn, depict female politicians as ill-suited for this type of professional occupation.

The next paper titled “To Use ‘He/She’ or ‘They’: That is the Question” by Cătălina Bălinișteanu-Furdu is also focused on the use of politically correct language; however, this time among students of English in Romania. The analysis presented in the paper is based on the findings from a questionnaire given to Romanian students in an attempt to find their attitude towards the use of politically correct language. Some of the conclusions reached by the author show that “students (young respondents) consider politically correct lexis necessary when this refers to more ‘serious’ issues, such as race, gender, religion, and disabilities”, while “‘minor’ issues such as sexual orientation, or anxieties regarding someone’s looks, intelligence or position are sometimes looked at with scepticism and quite rarely laughed at”.

Elena Bonta and Raluca Galita provide an overview of the different problems and solutions encountered by teachers worldwide during the pandemic. In their “Online teaching during Covid-19 Pandemic – challenges and solutions

around the world” they analyse the “voice of scholars” as presented in 62 pieces of research published all over the world. Using a qualitative method based on a purposeful sampling technique, the authors reached the conclusion that countries “tried their best to make teaching as effective as possible and offer students the opportunity to learn, although the approach was a difficult one, for both teachers and students, with repercussions (that were not necessarily positive) on the learning process”.

The next paper in the issue presents a review of some of the main publications on the essence of humour and adds to those the opportunity of said phenomenon to be also studied from the perspective of conversation analysis. Nimet Çopur and Cihat Atar state that CA could be used as a tool for humour analysis mostly through its principles of looking at interaction. Conversation analysis is also viewed as particularly suitable as it “enables researchers to gain insights with regards to what is produced/treated as humorous by the participants in the stretches of talk-in-interaction through unpacking the sequential details (verbal, nonverbal, and situational) of interaction”.

The issue finishes with an analysis on cognitive metaphors used in some British and Bulgarian articles on catastrophic events, mainly floods. In “In the mind’s eye: Mental conceptualization of floods by the British and the Bulgarian media” Ivaylo Gorchev, who is a PhD student, uses a corpus of 19 articles extracted from four newspapers – two for the British discourse and two for the Bulgarian discourse, argues and later on proves with examples from his corpus that the employment of FLOODING CRISIS IS WAR metaphor in the Bulgarian and the British media is similar. This comes to confirm the claim that thinking patterns, governed by similar bodily experiences result in similar linguistic expressions, as stated at the beginning of the study.