

PREFACE

The second issue of volume 12 of *Studies in Linguistics, Culture, and FLT* for 2024 includes papers on different topics in the fields of linguistics, methodology, cultural studies, literature, translation studies and two book reviews.

The first three articles in the journal are in the field of the media. The first one by Oleksandr Kapranov “Modality in Climate Change and Environmental Discourse by Greenpeace Australia Pacific” deals with the very hot issues on environmental protection, more specifically with the much debated question of climate change discussed by a number of non-governmental organisations in Facebook. It also dwells upon the implications modality through the use of modal verbs carry. The second one is “The Impact of Media on Youth in Shillong: A Socio-Cultural and Linguistic Perspective” by Gordon D. Dkhar and it discusses the interrelation between the intercultural and linguistic contacts between media users having different lifestyles. It also touches upon media and popular culture influence on young people in India through the extensive use of English among/ compared to other languages. The next paper “The Monochrome Tapestry of Solo Existential Travel in 21st Century Hollywood: A Critical Analysis” is by Namitha Nandan. It sheds light on the underinvestigated issue of racism and the absence of racial diversity as depicted in the first two decades of 21st century Hollywood solo existential travel films. Emphasis is put on the significance, relevance and aftermaths of this omission.

Abdul Awal with his “Gender Representation in English Language Textbooks in Bangladesh” analyses 6 to 10 class English course books by applying corpus analysis through AntConc, a textual analysis tool. This tool has been used for identifying the gender-related lexical items in the mentioned resources. A conclusion is made that the male-centred textbooks may lead to a wrong impact on students’ perceptions of gender roles and societal expectations.

In the following article “Systemic Functional Linguistics and Translator Education: A Literature Review” an emphasis is put on the linguistics and translator education from a systemic functional linguistics perspective. Reem Fahad Alshalan presents an overview of most of the references on the discussed issue. Some aspects of register analysis when training translators are pointed out. Comparative analysis for evaluating translations is applied.

The methodologically oriented paper “Assessing Gamification-Based LMS for EFL Students: A Self-Directed Learning Framework” by Joko Slamet and Yazid Basthomi raises awareness about self-directed learning (SDL), i.e. self-management, self-motivation and self-control by using gamification-based Learning Management Systems in facilitating English as a foreign language. The suggestions given to students are oriented towards personalized feedback

mechanisms and collaborative features for boosting learners' SDL skills by using gamified platforms.

Again, with a focus on methodology, Atipat Boonmoh and Intrira Kulavichian dwell upon "the new normal" environment in teaching online. Their paper titled "Enhancing Online and Intercultural Communication Skills through an Online Training Program for Thai Undergraduates in the New Normal" investigates online communication and intercultural communication skills of undergraduate students as well as their satisfaction from this online training program. However, the findings show that this way of training is insufficient for them to change their study habits.

The next paper in line is "Discourse of Dissent: Linguaging Resistance and Consciousness in Subaltern Literatures – Dalit and Black" by Chandan Kumar and Nivea Thomas K. As can be seen, it is literature oriented with a focus on language and culture in subaltern literatures. The method used is Critical Discourse Analysis. The discussed poems are created by using a simple everyday language. The theoretical framework of Subaltern Studies and Distributed Language is also employed for understanding the socio-political motifs behind the items from the corpus.

Yet another paper by N. Berrin Aksoy dwells upon literature issues, this time commenting on modernity. In "Spaces and Places of Modernity and the Modern Artist in Oğuz Atay's Railroad Storytellers - a Dream" the author touches upon Atay's modernist and innovative style expressed in his depiction of space and spatiality and influenced by Western modernists at the time after WW2. She also discusses the estrangement and alienation of the artist/author in the modern world.

The next article "Creating Creative Blends in 21 Century (a Comparative Study of English and Bulgarian)" by Svetlana Nedelcheva covers linguistic issues related to blending as a word-formative strategy applied to the use of newly coined words and phrases in English and English borrowings in Bulgarian. The study uses two databases (extracts from English and Bulgarian dictionaries) with whose help some morphological differences in the construction of English and Bulgarian blends are outlined.

Contrastive analysis is also applied for investigating frequently used idioms found in English and Albanian dictionaries. The study conducted by Agnesa Çanta and Leonora Husaj is based on three types of equivalence: full equivalence, partial equivalence, and non-equivalence. The corpus of idioms contains a number of the same idioms in both languages; however, there are differences in the construction of some idioms because of the different linguistic systems as well as of the different cultural and social backgrounds.

The focus of the last research in this issue is on translator training. Hussein Abu-Rayyash and Raidah Al-Ramadan fill in a void by looking into the models for quality assessment designed specifically for interlingual pre-recorded subtitles for the deaf and hard-of-hearing (SDH). The study at hand aims to develop and validate a quality assessment model explicitly tailored for interlingual pre-recorded SDH. The proposed model is the Linguistic, Orthotypographic, and Technical (LOT) model which has been tested against other established assessment frameworks. To do that the scholars use a sample of 900 Arabic-English subtitles across diverse genres. As Hussein Abu-Rayyash and Raidah Al-Ramadan state, “the specialized LOT model designed for pre-recorded SDH yields markedly higher intercoder reliability and average quality scores compared to general subtitle assessment models, suggesting strong alignment with the multidimensional quality needs of the target SDH audience”. Therefore, if adopted in professional subtitling and training practices the model may enhance accessibility, inclusion, and overall viewing experience for deaf and hard-of-hearing media consumers.

Finally, there are 2 book reviews in the present issue:

One of them is by Desislava Cheshmedzhieva-Stoycheva on Boryana Kostova-Stamboliyska’s *Legitimation and presidential campaign speeches: Discursive and pragmatic aspects* [Легитимация и предизборни речи: Дискурсивни и прагматични аспекти]. It problematizes the issue of ideology and linguistic imperialism implied in presidential campaign speeches of a period of 120 years (1900-2020). The problem of legitimation with its strategies is thoroughly exploited by using Critical Discourse Analysis. The review mentions some of the studies dedicated to concrete political speeches and their specificities on a comparative and contrastive basis. The reviewer draws upon the discussed issue of political discourse with its interrelation between politics and language as well as its characteristic features in general first and at a later stage applied and examined in the concrete materials. She has not disregarded the specificities of epistemic legitimation, epistemic modality, evidentiality, lexical means and personal deixis, to name but a few. Another focus of attention in the book deals with the use of intertextuality and myth-making exploited in the construction of the various speeches. The findings in the author’s book summarise the analyses and end up with a classification of the verbal strategies used for legitimation.

The other book review is by Mihaela Culea on Brîndușa-Mariana Amălăncei’s, *The analysis of gestures. A propaedeutic*. The author puts to the fore the importance of cultural differences and of verbalization upon reception while decoding body language in the form of gestures. She presents an overview of the different meanings attributed to gestures in the specialized literature. The complexity of gestures in communication and their interpretation based on the respective situation together with a classification of gestures are also pointed

out. The reviewer has mentioned the fact that what should be taken into account is various gestures used in different cultures performing different functions and practices. The relation between gestures and words determined by intentionality is also emphasised. Mihaela Culea stresses the idea of Habermas' distinction between communicative action and discourse applied and exploited in the book. She also underlines the interrelation between gestures and the meanings attached to them applied to various contexts of the French presidential debates between 1974-2012.