

PREFACE

The third 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 a book review.

The issue starts with three papers in the field of FLT. The first one, “Exploring an Indonesian EFL teacher’s identity development: A story of hybridity in liminality” by Carla Sih Prabandari, Ida Fatimawati Adi Badiozaman, and Kristina Turner presents the case study of a teacher who has undergone The Indonesian programme of Pendidikan Profesi Guru (PPG) or the Teacher Professional Education (TPE), thus acquiring a teacher certificate. Using the liminality theory, the authors trace “the experience of an Indonesian in-service EFL (English as a Foreign Language) teacher’s identity reconstruction”. The data for the study consist of interviews, the reflections and all teaching materials developed and produced by the teacher. The study provides an interesting account of the concept of hybridity from the prism of liminality and can be used for other case studies on the same topic.

“Exploring the impact of form and content feedback on EFL writing proficiency: A quasi-experimental study” by Mevlüde Çiçek and Mustafa Naci Kayaoğlu focuses on the significance of teacher-written feedback and how effective it is in the educational process. In order to be able to draw some conclusions, the authors employed a quasi-experimental design. The results they obtained from the experimental and control group showed positive developments and led them to conclusions which could be applied by others in order to improve their students’ learning outcomes.

In addition, “Unlocking the potential of willingness to communicate on the Clubhouse application: Insights from the heuristic pyramid theory” by Fatimah Az Zahra, Shierly Novalita Yappy, and J. Priyanto Widodo presents a case study on the foreign language learner’s willingness to communicate through an online application, namely the Clubhouse Application. The theory used is the Heuristic Pyramid one. The questionnaire employed in the study covers the Motivational Propensities (MP), Affective and Cognitive Context (ACC), and Social and Individual Context (SIC) of the participants. The conclusions reached by the authors show the need for changes that would stimulate learner’s willingness to communicate.

The issue continues with four papers within the field of translation studies. “Beyond the covers: Understanding Arab translator (in)visibility in Jordanian publishing houses” by Abdullah Thalji, Bilal Alderbashi, and Bassam Al Saideen analyses the strategies employed by publishing houses in Jordan in order to acknowledge or not the contribution that translators have. They examine the paratextual elements on the front covers of over 600 translated texts. The authors

establish “a point-based system and [build] a visibility index to comprehend the scope of translator visibility and its ramifications within Jordanian publishing practices” and report on various strategies employed by the publishing houses in terms of the (in)visibility of translators and thus fill a gap in the existing literature on the topic.

The study “Fantastic names and how to translate them” by Irina Stoyanova-Georgieva takes up the interesting and challenging topic of translating culturally charged items from a source text to a target one and the strategies employed in doing that. The focus of the study is a companion book of the Harry Potter series, namely *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them* and its Bulgarian translation. The translation strategies employed by the Bulgarian translator have been analysed and the weaknesses or strengths of the end results have been commented on. The final conclusion reached by the author is that the choice of translation variant is governed by the function and the role of the different denominations in the text.

In “Intercultural communication via translation of tourist-related promotional material” Jurgita Motiejūnienė and Kamilė Mončytė look into the translation of other culturally charged references and the main strategies applied in this respect. The pair of languages compared is Lithuanian and English and the CSRs translated are of different categories: organisations, material culture, social culture, names, and ecology. The authors comment on the suitability of the chosen approach and provide feedback on the justification of each strategy.

“Comparative analysis of color connotations across translated versions of the holy Quran” by Zakaryia Almahasees and Yousef Albudairi focusses on the approaches undertaken in translating colours and their symbolic meanings in four different translations of the Qur’an: two performed by Muslim and two by non-Muslim translators. The authors trace the occurrence of the colours white, green, black, yellow, blue and red and the symbolism they carry. The paper marks a contribution in the field of translation of culturally or religiously charged lexis and the findings can be used for other similar analyses.

The issue continues with a paper in the field of literature. “Identities at the dinner table: Commensality, self-perception, and relationships in Anne Cherian’s *A good Indian wife*” by Nayana George analyses the significance of food in determining or distinguishing from one’s identity. The source for the analysis is Anne Cherian’s *A Good Indian Wife* (2008) and the author traces the experiences of the main characters and the way food defines the different stages in their lives.

The last research paper in the issue deals with the use of social media in a very specific field, namely hospitality. In “‘Our profound apologies’: Building rapport with webcare to online reviews” Ly Wen Taw-Turnbull analyses the

responses hotel management in Malaysia provide to negative online reviews and also analyses this type of feedback based on the star-ratings of the hotels. This is another study that can be used as a sample for other studies on the responses provided by hotel managers in other locations and thus contributes to the understanding of the cultural specificity of the analysed phenomena.

The issue ends with a book review of *Identity Theory* (2023) by Peter J. Burke and Jan E. Stets. Rym Lina Mohammed-Azizi reviews the second edition of the book and compares the ideas on identity developed in it against the background of preceding studies. The review provides a critical stance on the topic of identity formation and a comprehensive review of each chapter of the book and the types of identities analysed by Burke and Stets along with the theories they have based their conclusions on.