

**EDITORIAL**

Once a new publication has entered the world of journals, reviews and other periodicals, *going ahead* becomes a serious challenge for its editorial board. Contributions need to be read through and selected, the flow of suggestions filtered and put into practice and each issue turned into a meeting place of different perspectives and innovative ideas for research and professional development. This second issue of **SYNERGY** has passed through all this and, no doubt, the issues that will follow cannot escape the process.

Nevertheless, it was easier for **SYNERGY, volume 2, no. 1/2006** to meet requirements due to the context that facilitated its appearance: the National Conference “Teaching foreign languages in the *global village*”, organised by the Business English and German Department of the Academy of Economic Studies of Bucharest, which brought together teachers from universities around the country, in a rewarding atmosphere of emulation, which the participants positively referred to in their comments. Many of the articles published in this issue have resulted from the conference presentations, reflecting the expertise displayed by their authors in a variety of fields.

The first section, devoted to *Languages for Specific Purposes (LSP)*, brings together several contributions examining different aspects of the language of business and economics, whether looking at the way standardized and non-standardized metaphors are used in Financial English, in the article signed by Alexander Hollinger, attempting a German-Romanian contrastive analysis of the range of professional terms belonging to the “Kaufmann” word family, provided by Cornelia Pătru, or building a complex framework for translating the language of advertising texts, suggested by Violeta Negrea. Meanwhile, with the scope of LSP being virtually unlimited, Antonia Scurtulescu looks at an entirely different area, identifying some of the features of political discourse in extracts from the verbal confrontations of the main candidates engaged in the latest presidential elections in Romania and the USA.

The articles included in the second section of the journal, *Considerations on LSP Teaching*, are focused on various ways of improving the teaching/learning of LSP. In this context, Lora Constantinescu investigates the language of different types of visual representations of data and their role in teaching German for economics, while Mihaela Parpalea discusses the inevitability of making mistakes in language learning and identifies reasons for their occurrence. In her article, Roxana Ciolăneanu applies her experience and documentation to the eternal dilemma concerning the teacher’s role in the classroom, examining the art of facilitation as an essential component of the teaching process. In her turn, Doina Irina Simion suggests intriguing ways of synergizing the areas of language teaching and of computer-related behaviour, by providing a number of “e-tips” meant to give support to specific teaching decisions in the language classroom.

The section devoted to *Developments in Education* hosts two contributors from the UK who have been recently involved in the unfolding of educational programmes and projects in Romania. Ann Simpson, the initiator of the English for the World of Work (EWOw) project run by the British Council Romania, looks at the way in which the project was implemented, highlighting its distinctive features and pointing out, as a key element, the synergy between the world of work and vocational education, achieved through innovation in English language teaching and learning.

The other article in this section, signed by Tony Luxon, from Lancaster University, is an outcome of his valuable research on teachers as “reflective practitioners”, which formed the basis of a series of lectures delivered during the Mentoring Programme of our Department, in co-operation with PROSPER-ASE Language Centre and the British Council Romania. The article emphasizes the value of the inter-relations between theory and practice, reflection and action in the teacher’s work.

Various synergetic connections are to be found among the cultural studies and the two essays devoted to exploring works of fiction that we have included in this issue. Though in different contexts and from different perspectives, the article by Maria Enache, looking at gender-specific language and suggesting ways of avoiding the use of sexist language in business, and Roxana Marinescu’s study of violence in the former colonial space of the Indian sub-continent, both touch on gender/sex differences and discrimination and their impact on communication and human relationships.

The latter article moves in the same geographical and cultural area as that of the Indian writer Arundhati Roy’s novel *The God of Small Things*, discussed by Lucia Grosu, the two studies shedding light on each other. And, in turn, Roy’s universe and those of Leonard Cohen’s *Beautiful Losers* and Michael Ondaatje’s *The English Patient*, explored in the article by Diana Ioncică, though geographically worlds apart, are spiritually quite close, marked by a quest for love, unification and harmony, by longing and loss, sorrow and despair, by transgression and reconciliation. These literary essays are likewise an invitation to (re-)discover the three novels and look at fresh interpretations of the writers’ purpose and vision.

A similar invitation is made in the *Reviews* section, which we have added to our journal starting with this issue. It is designed to draw attention to new titles of interest to our professional community or to comment and reflect on books which made an important impact at the time of their publication and which retain the significance and full relevance of their message.

We conclude this run-through of this issue’s contents with a word of thanks to all contributors, encouraging colleagues who might be willing to dedicate some of their time to contribute to future issues of our journal. We hope this edition of **SYNERGY** will come up to your expectations and look forward to receiving any feedback on contributions, either as suggestions or in the form of other articles and letters for publication.

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