

Synergy Journal proposes a new issue dealing with important research in linguistics, literature and translation studies, as well as aspects of identity and language teaching. A consistent number of these articles look into facets of Romanianeness, evoked from linguistic, literary, educational or cultural perspectives and have originally been proposed at the *RostUL10 - Translating Romania across the World: Intercultural Dialogues and Movements* International Conference, organized in Lisbon, 6-7 October 2023.

Linguistics and Contrastive Studies is the first section of this issue, which opens with the article ROST AND ROSTO: LEXICULTURAL (DIS)SIMILARITY IN ROMANIAN AND PORTUGUESE by Roxana Ciolăneanu and Esperança Cardeira, who analyze the sociocultural and historical settings which led to the differences in contemporary meaning between two Latin-based words in Romanian and Portuguese: rost and rosto. Similarly, the word gen in contemporary Romanian is analyzed by Roxana Magdalena Preda, as it is undergoing a process of pragmaticalization and transformation under the influence of English (THE WORD GEN: EVIDENCE FROM ROMANIAN). Alberto A. Vela-Rodrigo examines how formulaic language operates on digital platforms within the context of the crowdfunding genre (FORM AND STRUCTURE OF LEXICAL BUNDLES IN CROWDFUNDING WRITING: A CORPUS-DRIVEN ANALYSIS). A very topical theme, political communication, in the context of the presidential elections, is at the centre of the article FACETS OF POSITIVE CAMPAIGNING IN POLITICAL INTERVIEWS: AUTHENTICITY, HUMILITY AND FAIR PLAY. Antonia Cristiana Enache, Marina Luminita Militaru and Alina Maria Seica chose to focus on the costs and benefits of the positive campaigning of the three main contenders of the Romanian presidential campaign of November 2024, as they resulted from three television interviews.

In the first article of the section **Literature in Translation**, *THE ROAD*: TRANSLATING CORMAC MCCARTHY INTO ROMANIAN, Anda Dimitriu presents the challenges of transposing this post-apocalyptic novel into Romanian in the version from 2009 by Irina Horea. Focussing specifically on difficulties of translating humour in children's literature, Lorena-Clara Mihăeş presents different strategies used by Alina Popescu, the translator into Romanian of the novel *Catherine, Called Birdy* by Karen Cushman (2016) in her article "GOD'S THUMBS!" - TRANSLATING HUMOUR IN CHILDREN'S LITERATURE: KAREN CUSHMAN'S *CATHERINE, CALLED BIRDY*. In OVERLAPPING AND VISIBILITY: TRANSLATING DAN LUNGU'S *SUNT O BABĂ COMUNISTĂ* FROM ROMANIAN INTO ENGLISH, Daria Protopopescu and Nadina Vişan investigate the variations between the translations of a contemporary Romanian novel made by 18 Romanian students and their teacher within a cultural translation workshop against the published version of the same text (by Alistair Ian Blyth, 2017).

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The following section, which we entitled **Travelling Identities**, examines issues of Romanian identity formation seen through selective travel memories (as in the article TRAVELLING THROUGH THE WORLD, TRAVELLING THROUGH THE SELF. ANA BLANDIANA'S *SORĂ LUME* – TRAVEL AS AN ONTOLOGICAL CONSTRUCTION OF IDENTITY by Cristina Elena GOGÂȚĂ), recent travel diaries with a teaching value (RÉCITS DE VOYAGE ROUMAINS SUR DES ESPACES CULTURELS INHABITUELS by Paul Nanu), or the Romanian participation at the 1867 Paris Exihibition (IDENTITY DISCOURSE AND EUROPEANISM IN THE ROMANIAN CULTURE OF THE SECOND HALF OF THE 19TH CENTURY by Gabriel Nedelea).

Synergies in Language Teaching is a section dealing with various aspects of teaching Romanian or German as foreign languages. The Learner Corpus of Romanian (LECOR) is the result of a project developped in 2019 and represents a corpus of Romanian oral and written texts produced by international students in their preparatory year of Romanian at the University of Bucharest. The authors of the article ASPECTS REGARDING THE USE OF THE LEARNER CORPUS OF ROMANIAN (LECOR), Carmen Mîrzea Vasile, Ana-Maria Barbu, Valentina Cojocaru, Mihaela Cristescu, Elena Irimia, Simona Neagu, And Vasile Păiș, introduce us to some ways in which LECOR can be used. With a case study at the same University of Bucharest, but this time in what concerns teacher training of teachers of German as а foreign language, the article AUSBILDUNGSMÖGLICHKEITEN ZUR PROFESSIONALISIERUNG ANGEHENDER DaF-LEHRKRÄFTE IN RUMÄNIEN. KONTEXT UND PERSPEKTIVEN by Eleonora Maria Boldojar and Cornelia Pătru offers a clear picture of a successful programme to profesionalize teachers in the field of German teaching in Romania. Moving on to another highly prestigious Romanian university, Babeş-Bolyai in Cluj-Napoca, Maria Parasca presents the results of a survey of German as a Foreign Language students at the Faculty of Business and Economics into their learning behaviour in digital media usage and developing their media competence (LERNPLATTFORMEN, VIDEOPORTALE, SOZIALE NETZWERKE ODER APPS? ZUM LERNVERHALTEN RUMÄNISCHER DAF-STUDIERENDEN).

The **Book Reviews** section includes the review by Anca-Teodora Şerban-Oprescu of the volume *Transcultural Mirrors*. *Literary and Cultural Perspectives (I)* (ed. Marius Miheţ, 2024), reuniting 31 single-authored chapters in literary and cultural studies, and *Jane Austen's Dark Side: Northanger Abbey* (authored by Alina Buzarna-Tihenea (Gălbează), 2021) by Nicoleta Stanca. A final proposal by Angela Tarantino deals with a bibliographical review of the Italian translations of Romanian literary texts published in the 'Proposta di lettura' section of 'Romània Orientale', the Romanian studies journal of the Sapienza University of Rome in between 1988-2023.

We hope you will find the content of this first issue of **Synergy** Journal for 2025 relevant and thought provoking, and we invite you to access it online and/ or read its paper version.

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