

Linguistic Studies of Human Language

**Edited by
Georgeta Rata**

**Athens Institute for Education and Research
2013**

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1

Linguistic Studies of Human Language: An Introduction

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and Veterinary Medicine, Romania*

This book is a collection of linguistic studies of human language. They can be broadly broken into three categories or subfields of study corresponding to the three main subfields of linguistics – *theoretical linguistics*, *descriptive linguistics* and *applied linguistics*. However, the partition is far from being perfect because of the high degree of cross-, inter-, multi-, pluri- and trans-disciplinarity character of the studies.

The studies circumscribed to *theoretical linguistics* are most concerned with *developing models of linguistic knowledge*. Three studies deal with different types of approach in *theoretical linguistics*. Thomas ROBERT questions Saussure's theory on the origin of language, proposing an approach of, and not a solution to this issue, according to which "*la parole* has to found *la langue*". V. LOGACHEVA's study belongs to the field of generative linguistics: she deals, in her study, with language modelling, making a linguistic analysis of language patterns and linguistic models in an attempt to differentiate linguistic model and linguistic meta-model (a model of a pattern). Another generative perspective is that of E. N. MALETE who describes, in his study, negation and adjuncts in Sesotho using a minimalist approach. Yoshinori NISHIJIMA's approach is a functional one: the author shows how "seeing-through" utterances are used in a communicative context (Franz Kafka's novels) to show empathy towards and dominance over the interlocutor. Some of the core fields of theoretical linguistics – *lexis*, *pragmatics*, and *semiotics* – are covered by several studies. A first study deals with a lexical issue: Saghar SHARIFI examines 644 Persian nouns ending in *-i* and reaches the conclusion that when including action nouns in dictionaries, using frequency, transparency, semantic change, and not the origin can lead to a more convenient and coherent strategy. The next three studies circumscribed to theoretical linguistics belong to pragmatics: Casilda GARCÍA DE LA

MAZA's study presents a pragmatic approach of the apparent requirement for modification in the so-called "medio-passive alternation" of the "*Math theses type slowly*" type, focussing on the ungrammaticality and unacceptability of such constructions; Nadine BADE focuses, in her study, on obligatory presuppositions and their triggers (such as *again* and *too*); and Evgeniya KOVANOVA analyses the mechanisms (strategies, tactics and techniques) of persuasion in politicians' autobiographies from a rhetorical perspective. Three studies belong to the field of semiotics: R. LAURIOLA focuses on the multiple symbolism of an Aristophanic image (Heracles *Alexikakos* and Heracles *Opsophagos*) while Maaïke VAN DE VOORDE and Martina TEMMERMAN's study presents an analysis of the textual representation of men (*soul mate* and *macho man*) in two popular Flemish women's magazines, examining the textual and linguistic resources used to name men, and how these choices contribute to the representations. and Ella WEHRMEYER's "Explicit and Implicit Affirmation of Animal Characteristics in Children's Literature".

The studies circumscribed to *descriptive linguistics* deal with *the objective analysis and description of how languages are spoken by people in their speech communities*. Three main subfields of *descriptive linguistics* are represented in this section: *comparative linguistics*, *phonetics*, and *sociolinguistics*. Three studies deal with *comparative linguistics*: Melania DUMA approaches the PP and CP domains in her case study of the phases in comparative and other complex constructions in English and Romanian; while the issue of English loanwords and their impact on their host language is tackled by Irina BELYAKOVA in her study on the transformation in the lexical field of beauty in the Russian language as a result of westernization of Russian culture. Finally, Ekaterina TARPOMANOVA compares the derivation, meaning, and functioning of verb aspects in Greek and Bulgarian. The only studies of phonetics belong to Dimitrios KOTSIFAS, who analyses the Greek prosody structure (pitch movements and the way they are perceived) using spoken corpora and Dermeval DA HORA, who analyses the social and structural constraints of Brazilian Portuguese lateral /l/ vocalisation. The studies circumscribed to sociolinguistics describe the effect of all aspects of society (cultural norms, expectations, and context) on the way language is used and the effects of language use on society. Thus, if Gita BERZINA looks back in Antiquity analysing the role of parenthesis in Ancient Greek dialogue; if Maria CHRISTODOULIDOU examines storytelling sequences in spontaneous Cypriot-Greek conversations, and Giovanna ALFONZETTI focuses on compliments and compliment responses in Italian, other authors debate current issues in the human – machine relationship: Siiri PÄRKSON tackles the issue of communication problems and patterns of communication in web; Marianna ZUMMO writes about a new sociological and linguistic reality – web counselling – in her study of the linguistic aspects of online medical interviews; Elena POLIAKOVA focuses on universal and idioethnic ethical concepts in English and Russian moral consciousness; Christoph BUCK, Thomas PILZ and Wolfram LUTHER explain how we can personalize fuzzy

search in historical texts with non standard spelling Jacob S. TURNER examines the relationships between emergent social media use (instant messaging programs, online social networking websites, text messaging applications on cell phones) and formal written discourse; and Dalia HAMMOUD analyses the use of SMS by Egyptian educated youth – message content, language variety (English, Arabic whether Modern Standard Arabic or colloquial, English with some Romanized Arabic words, Romanized Arabic with few English words, and Colloquial Arabic with few English words). Other fascinating sociolinguistic perspectives are those of Maria CHRISTODOULIDOU, who analyses the linguistic accommodation to Greek morphology of Greek Cypriots, of Dimitris EVRIPIDOU, who focuses on language attitudes towards the Greek Cypriot variety and standard Modern Greek of three different age groups in Cyprus, and Cristiana CHIARINI, who approaches IsraEnglish in food features.

The studies circumscribed to *applied linguistics* identify, investigate, and offer solutions to language-related real-life problems. The relationship between translators and fiction texts ranges first among the topics approached in this chapter. Some of the studies focus on the passage from different languages – classical (Latin) or modern (Spanish) – into English: Agnieszka FRANCZYK writes about the changing idea of women starting from some remarks on the English translation of the *Sixth Satire* of Juvenal while Gys-Walt VAN EGDOM focuses, in his study, on the poetry of Vicente Huidobro, re-evaluating the modern notion of translation through the prism of *translatability*. Sara VERBEECK describes cultural specificity in translation through otherness starting from the work of the Flemish Louis Paul Boon in French. Other authors focus on the impact of the English language on some modern languages: Moussa AHMADIAN analyses the effects of intertextuality awareness on literary text translation from English into Persian; Elaine Y. L. NG compares the styles of three Chinese translators of Ernst Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea* (translation of material processes and circumstantial elements) and examines the rendering of diction in the three versions; Despoina PANOU analyses the way English idioms in financial discourses are translated into Greek, reaching the conclusion “*the stronger the metaphorical gloss, the greater the chances for the expression to retain its idiomaticity in the target version*”; Katarzyna NOWICKA focuses, in her study, on the problems of translating light romantic fiction from English into Polish, an issue for which the solution adopted in Poland is *transediting* (shifting responsibility from the translator to the editor). Two studies focus on children's literature: Gabriela STOICA describes the creative nature of translating it and Agnieszka KAŁUŻNA analyses the translation of the Bible for children. A considerable number of studies are dedicated to second language acquisition. Slava KALYUGA writes about the role of prior knowledge in language learning from a cognitive load perspective, Marika KALYUGA shares her experience with teaching foreign languages (English to native speakers of Russian) using etymology as a mnemonic and explanatory device, and Ana NUNES and

Custódio MARTINS write about the perception of European Portuguese minimal pairs by Chinese speakers. Two authors focus on vocabulary learning in foreign language education: Ming-Yueh SHEN suggests contextual referencing as a strategy for vocabulary acquisition in second language reading (with a focus on the student's behaviour) and Bahman GORJIAN, Abdolmajid HAYATI and Farokh Lagha HEYDARI emphasise the impact of awareness of vocabulary learning strategies on reading comprehension among pre-intermediate EFL learners. Charoula GKIOKA approaches the issue of constructing the self in the context of a second language. Ronald L. BROWN's study shows how teachers of languages can develop performance-based instruction for foreign language education. Other authors focus on the use of modern tools in second language acquisition: María MUÑOZ RAMOS explain how information and communication technologies can be involved in the teaching-learning process of a foreign language and Ambigapathy PANDIAN, Debita Ai Lin TAN and Bee Choo LEE study the relationship between the use of electronic news and language competence. Other studies focus on the teacher of English as a second language: Mahdi DEGHAN, Kaveh JALILZADEH and Fatemeh Zare ZADEH investigate the students' attitude towards an "ideal teacher", while Jeannette DICKENS-HALE presents the profile of the teacher of foreign languages who is also a translator and interpreter.

This collection of linguistic essays is the reflection of the concerns of educators and researchers related to the fate of language in our increasingly globalised world.