

**EDITORIAL**

We are inviting you to reflect upon the varied topics included in this issue of *Synergy*, and hope to stimulate a mutually beneficial exchange of ideas in a highly challenging academic context.

The first section, *Literary and Translation Studies*, includes three literary analyses of modern and contemporary novels from a cross-cultural perspective, which adds unexpected and revealing aspects of the respective works. The first article – “Romance and Belligerence Behind the Iron Curtain. Cold War Gender Identities in Anglo-American Perspective” (Roxana Oltean) – examines the relation between traveller and foreign visited country from a gender postcolonial perspective in different fictional and non-fictional writings of authors of Anglo-American origin, referring to Cold War realities in East-European countries. In “The City of Love and Violence: Harlem in Toni Morrison’s *Jazz*”, Ioana Stamatescu looks at how identity construction and the city are reflected in the above-mentioned novel, in the *Roaring Twenties*, with eroticism and violence as main themes. Raluca and Mihai Șerban add another article to their *Moby Dick* series and focus on the love/ hatred relationship between Captain Ahab and the monster whale (“Love/ Hatred Dynamics in *Moby-Dick*”). Translation Studies is represented by Carmen Ardelean’s article “Difficulties in Translating the Political Discourse: An Approach to Specialised Registers”, in which she argues for training translators as cultural mediators, by trying to answer whether they should give their own interpretation of translated texts or stay invisible, without getting personally invested in their work.

For the first time, we have a *Film Studies section*, with two articles, which complement each other: one a rigorous nine-item survey of the reactions of sixty Hispanic American college students towards adultery, based on showing a film containing this theme (“Reaction to Sexual Infidelity in a Film - *The End Of An Affair* (1999): A Survey of Post-Adolescent Hispanic Americans” by Sharaf Rehman), while the second presents a personal opinion of the author Monica Toma of the film *Blade Runner*, interpreted in a gothic key (“Gothic Elements in Ridley Scott’s *Blade Runner*”).

The *Interdisciplinary and Cultural Synergies* section also includes two articles: in the first one, Adrian Solomon delves into political manipulation and how, through invented enemies, it sparks feelings of hostility and violence (“Commitment in Hate”). Lucia-Mihaela Grosu-Rădulescu explores the Romanian-Canadian-American cross-cultural intersectional space in a survey in which she included 251 undergraduate and master’s students from The Bucharest University of Economic Studies, with the main finding that Romanian students’ perceptions of Canada are

distorted due to its close association with the United States (“Perceptions of Canada And the USA – An Analysis of Cultural Awareness Among Romanian Business Students”).

In *Applied Linguistics*, you can read the article “The Influence of English on Morphological Compounding in Romanian And Portuguese”, in which its authors, Roxana Ciolăneanu and Alina Villalva, look at possible incipient morphological borrowing in Romanian and Portuguese from English, due to the increasing influence of the latter, as a global exporter of scientific and technical terms and structures.

In the book review, Anca-Teodora Șerban-Opreșcu focuses on a Springer Nature publication in the ‘Multilingual Education’ Series, entitled *Foreign Language Teaching in Romanian Higher Education Teaching Methods, Learning Outcomes* (ed. Lucia-Mihaela Grosu-Rădulescu, 2018). It addresses foreign language teaching and learning at university level in Romania from a multitude of angles: social-cultural, economic and political, and presents numerous practical examples and illustrations.

We are inaugurating a new section, *Recommendations for Teaching Resources*, with two articles. In the first one, Mihaela Arsene introduces TED Talks, a textbook for proficient students by Pual Dummett, Helen Stephenson, Lewis Lansford (2017), which she considers a perfect textbook for millennials, thanks to its challenging topics and innovative methods. In the second article, Monica Condruz-Băcescu presents different open educational resources and their role in building, disseminating and sharing knowledge.

We wish you happy reading!

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