

## EDITORS' PREFACE

The domain of contrastive studies has recently witnessed an increasing interest, from academics and practitioners alike. Frequent scientific endeavours offer valuable insights into the differences in the structure of linguistic systems and principles of language use based on the contrastive analyses of either pairs of socio-culturally related languages or larger language groups. The present special issue of *Annals of Arts* contains a collection of thirteen papers which reflect the developments in the discipline of contrastive studies, addressing recent challenges in the field. The articles discuss issues relevant to contrastive studies in accordance with recent advances in the discipline.

In her article Anna Bloch-Rozmej addresses the question of phonotactic conditions governing the structure of North West Lovari Romani word-edges. She looks into the inventory of word-initial and word-final consonant clusters allowed by this system and tries to establish what lexical representations they manifest. The structural settings attested in Lovari Romani are contrasted with the phonotactic conditions governing the structures of Polish, English and Irish phonological domains. The analysis is couched within the framework of Government Phonology.

Bożena Cetnarowska's paper "The Concept of Conversion in Cross-Linguistic and Contrastive Studies" presents a comprehensive overview of various approaches to conversion in linguistic literature. Particular stress is laid on how conversion has been and should be treated in contrastive studies, especially when languages in different typological groups are compared. The Author suggests that the most effective way of dealing with conversion in contrastive studies may be to select specific lexical categories to be compared in fine-grain, rather than attempting a wholistic comparison of conversion in particular languages.

Katarzyna Cybulska-Gómez de Celis delves into the problem of the language policy priorities set by the EU to advance language learning within European higher education as well as their implementation in the Polish educational system. She specifies both Poland's challenges and accomplishments in the domain of language learning. Importantly, the study both points out good

practices implemented in Polish educational institutions and discusses reports evidencing the need for institutional improvement to meet the EU standards.

Marietta Izdebska explores gender differences in the metaphorical use of COOKING TECHNIQUES terms in English. The Author employs the frame-semantic and lexico-grammatical approach, and her analysis is framed in terms of the Conceptual Metaphor Theory. The article investigates metaphors drawn from the verbs *grill*, *stew* and *roast*. This study is corpus-based, so authentic data are drawn from the British National Corpus (BNC).

Kristýna Lorenzová, in “Focus Groups for Investigating Discourse Markers: A Case Study of Czech and Slovak Learners of Italian L2” discusses the relevance of the focus group method in teaching a second language. Specifically, the use of discourse markers by focus groups and in other methods of communication in a foreign language are studied and compared. The material used in the study consists of two distinct corpora containing recordings, in which discourse markers are identified and counted. The findings support the claim that the focus group method, as evaluated on the basis of the use of discourse markers, may contribute to an improved, more natural use of a foreign language.

The aim of Monika Łodej’s study is to facilitate a contrastive analysis of dyslexia awareness levels, both within the Polish sample (comparing undergraduate and graduate students) and between the Polish and Spanish/Peruvian educational contexts. The Author’s contrastive analysis is based on the assumption that greater dyslexia awareness among pre-service teachers is needed to ensure effective language support for dyslexic students. The study employs a replication methodology used in McManus (2023).

“Royalty in Mind: A Diachronic Contrast in the Lexicogenesis of *King*-Derived Formations in Medieval and Modern Times”, written by Sylwester Łodej, connects lexical creativity in its diachronic dimension with historical socio-political changes in England. Particular periods in the development of the institution of monarchy and its significance for the people of Britain find their reflection in the lexicogenesis of *king*-derived lexical items, beginning with formations pertaining mostly to royal administration of the country, then enriched with more metaphorical developments going into the realms of zoology, botany, entertainment, etc. The Author stresses very strongly that socio-political context cannot be overlooked in any studies of lexicogenesis.

In his article, Wojciech Malec examines the quality of multiple-choice (MC) vocabulary tests generated with the help of artificial intelligence (AI). The Author compares their psychometric properties to those of human-constructed

tests. The research findings indicate that the use of AI is beneficial as it significantly improves test practicality. The time and effort needed to develop the tests is greatly reduced. However, it turns out that human-constructed tests exhibit superior psychometric qualities. The potential of AI consists in its being a valuable support tool for test developers.

“Morphological and Semantic Properties of Homonymous De-Adjectival Verbs in Polish: A Distributed Morphology Account” by Anna Malicka-Kleparska is written within the model of Distributed Morphology and dedicated to the contrastive study of like-sounding verbs of existence and change of state verbs. The analysis aims at modelling distinct structures for the two classes of verbs, while focusing on the Kimian state semantics characterising verbs of existence. Based on the Polish data, the paper addresses a general issue regarding the representation of Kimian states within the theory of Distributed Morphology.

In “Negation in Albanian: N-Words”, Leonardo Savoia introduces extensive material coming from various dialects of Albanian, relevant to the study of negation phenomena in syntax. In particular, syntactic properties of sentences with negative identifiers and negative markers are studied in great detail. Contrastive data from other Romance languages allow the Author to draw general conclusions concerning the representation of negation within the Chomskian approach to the theory of language structure and function.

Jerzy Skwarzyński devotes his paper entitled “Developing a Hermeneutic Model of Translating Fantasy Literature: A Case Study of References to Polishness in *Uprooted* by Naomi Novik and Its Polish Translation” to the problem of creating a model for literary translation of fantasy literature. While discussing translations of Polish cultural references in the novel *Uprooted*, he employs elements of J. R. R. Tolkien’s set of values of fantasy literature, George Steiner’s hermeneutics and Antoine Berman’s text-deforming tendencies to develop his own standard for both translating and analysing translations of fantasy. Throughout the text, Skwarzyński advocates creating translation series, resulting in the literary polyphonic effect.

In his paper Adam Świątek offers a thorough theoretical, contrastive insight into the dynamic concept of the teacher with a view to revealing the changes this definition has undergone over the last hundred years. The article discusses the complexity of this profession affected by constantly emerging trends, expectations and demands of the contemporary educational context that has to respond to new challenges created by the rapidly growing use of modern, often AI-driven, technology.

Barbara Taraszka-Drożdż and Grzegorz Drożdż examine phytonyms – vegetable names across three languages, each from a different language group: English (Germanic), French (Romance), and Polish (Slavic). The Authors propose that vegetable colours can motivate the use of vegetable names to designate specific hues. The colour of vegetables, which constitutes one of their salient perceptual dimensions, may give rise to further, often figurative, senses that these names develop. The study focuses on conventionalised colour terms. The data that are subject to analysis have been found in the relevant dictionaries.

The present volume reports on interesting research in progress conducted by linguists of different persuasions, yet significantly tied up with the field of contrastive studies. We hope that the ideas and research findings presented on the forthcoming pages will both stir and enrich scientific debate. We wish to express our thanks to all the Contributors to this volume for sharing with us their valuable analyses and research proposals.

*Anna Bloch-Rozmej and Anna Malicka-Kleparska*