EDITORIAL

The present issue – *The Multiple Faces of Linguistic Research* – brings together studies that reflect the multiplicity of approaches, theoretical orientations, and empirical domains that define contemporary linguistics. The 13 articles, ranging from formal syntax to discourse analysis, lexicography, and educational linguistics, illustrate how the present-day research paradigm continues to integrate structural, functional, and socially grounded perspectives.

The first section, *Formal and functional approaches to syntax*, opens the issue with four contributions that revisit grammatical phenomena in novel theoretical frameworks or at the grammar – semantics – pragmatics interface, capturing both the systemic and the expressive dimension of language. **Alexandra Cornilescu** investigates the phenomena of free inversion and raising to object in Romanian infinitive constructions, within the Exfoliation approach developed in recent models of generative syntax. She sets out to explain how these operations result from the structural properties of Romanian infinitives. The article explains both the availabilities and the restrictions of inversion and object-raising, contributing to a better understanding of clause structure, argument distribution, and cross-linguistic variation in Romance languages. In her article, **Adriana Costăchescu** examines the so-called "anaphoric" present tense in Romanian, often considered evidence for the lack of strict sequence of tenses. The author argues that similar uses of the present tense can be found in English and French, especially when direct speech is transposed to reported speech. In Romanian, as in English and French, the present tense can have a deictic or an anaphoric reading, depending on the context. While the

purely anaphoric use of the present tense is rare in English, it is common in French and Romanian, where it occurs in literature, journalism, political speeches, and in everyday conversation. Furthermore, Romanian extends the use of the deictic present beyond reported speech: it is frequent in complement clauses but absent in relative clauses. The article concludes that Romanian exhibits two types of tense concordance, each with its own domain of application. The "metisized" concessive constructions described by **Carmen-Elena Duță** refer to hybrid/mixed concessive structures in Romanian, which combine elements from different types of concessive or adversative expressions. These constructions typically emerge when speakers blend grammatical forms or pragmatic markers to express nuanced contrasts, unexpected outcomes, or to soften the opposition between clauses. Such hybrids often reflect the speaker's intent to convey a more complex relationship than standard concessive connectors typically allow. The specific structure and functions of these constructions illustrate the flexibility and creativity inherent in natural language, as well as the subtle ways meaning and argumentation can be shaped through syntax and discourse. **Victor Grigoraș** makes an inventory of several patterns based on repetition, describes them in point of their lexical and morphosyntactic features, examines their expressive functions – such as emphasis, emotional intensity, and stylistic nuance –, and comments upon their impact on everyday communication.

The second section, *Discourse and society*, explores how discourse practices shape and reflect social realities. Specifically, the corpora analyses reveal how rhetorical strategies, media narratives, and humour function as powerful instruments in constructing institutional, national, and corporate identities. These studies demonstrate the critical role of discourse in mediating ideological positions and negotiating power in contemporary communicative settings. **Anca Gâță** explores a subtype of the diplomatic discourse genre: the public addresses by the NATO secretary general to advocate strengthening NATO's military capabilities. She argues that objectivity and restraint in tone, along with a balance between promoting collective security and addressing concerns about conflict escalation aim to build credibility among member states and the public. In her view, such a style is intended to unite the alliance and to justify policy shifts towards a more robust military posture. **Maria Michali** and **Villy Tsakona**

analyse how Greek media portray Ukrainian refugees in Greece, focusing on the way in which life narratives shape public perceptions of who is considered a "desirable" or "acceptable" refugee, or reinforce hierarches and selective empathy. Through critical discourse analysis, the study reveals the mechanisms by which inclusion and exclusion are negotiated in the media, shedding light on broader issues of racism, national identity, and European border politics. **Andreea-Nicoleta Soare** shows how Ryanair utilizes aggressive humour to engage audiences and strengthen its brand presence online. The study highlights the use of sarcasm, irony, and bold comedic tactics to differentiate the company in a competitive market. The article discusses both the potential benefits of this marketing strategy, such as increased visibility and customer engagement, and the risks, including negative public perceptions or backlash, depending on consumers' expectations.

The third section, *Mapping the lexicon: Methodological perspectives*, offers a lexicological and lexicographic perspective on language dynamics and underscores the interplay between data-driven research and interpretative insight in tracing the evolution of lexical meaning. **Bianca Alecu** and **Monica Vasileanu**'s article contributes to understanding how language adapts to new communicative contexts, highlighting the creativity and adaptability of Romanian internet users. Specifically, they focus on the abbreviations *csf* and *csz* and analyse emerging patterns of usage, contextual meanings, and functions that serve both communicative efficiency and expressivity. **Cezar Bălășoiu** warns against a recently published etymological dictionary of Romanian, underlining the need for scientific criteria (such as sound changes, the distinction between the direct and indirect origin of words) in etymological research. This polemical article draws attention to the resurrection of *Dacianism* disguised as science. **Carmen Lozinski** analyses the chromatic paradigm /blue/ in Romanian and Spanish, drawing on lexicographic sources and structural descriptions of colour terms, in a multilevel approach: semantic, onomasiological, phraseological, and metalexicographic. Her research also examines how chromatic terms are presented in Romanian–Spanish bilingual dictionaries and explores the polysemy and semantic shifts of the concept "blue" over the past three decades. Her findings contribute to contrastive semantics and offer practical suggestions for dictionary use, lexical acquisition, language teaching, and translation.

The three contributions in the section *Discursive practices in educational settings* highlight the diverse ways in which language use and discursive practices intersect with teaching, learning, and bilingual development. Although the studies focus on different aspects – foreign language acquisition, the teaching of complex grammatical phenomena, and the transmission of literacy in heritage communities – they all foreground the educational dimension of discourse. The common thread is the attention paid to how learners and educators navigate linguistic challenges, whether by deploying compensatory strategies, by harnessing computational tools for the teaching of nuanced constructions, or by negotiating parental ideologies in bilingual settings. **Alexandra Mărginean** examines oral communication in Romanian as a Foreign Language at beginner levels (A1-A2), where learners often face difficulties in expressing their communicative intentions due to limited linguistic resources. She focuses on compensatory communication strategies – the "survival" techniques learners employ to sustain interaction when words or structures are missing. By outlining a theoretical framework and providing examples, her study shows how such strategies appear early in interlanguage and argues for their pedagogical value in fostering effective oral practice and supporting teaching methodologies in RFL. The article authored by **Danilo de Salazar, Giada Carabetta,** and **Valentina Cojocaru** presents a computational approach to teaching Light Verb Constructions (LVCs) within a multilingual digital project directed by Sabine E. Koesters Gensini. The project addresses university-level learners and involves Italian (L1), English (L2), and eight third languages (Albanian, Dutch, French, German, Romanian, Russian, Spanish, Swedish). Focusing on Italian, English, French, and Romanian, the study combines contrastive analysis with digital tools, highlighting recurrent learner errors and underscoring the need to integrate LVCs systematically into foreign language curricula. **Irina Stan** studied the impact of heritage language literacy on phonological awareness and reading skills in Romanian-Italian bilingual children. Bi-literate children, exposed to formal literacy instruction in Romanian, outperform mono-literate peers on tasks in both Romanian and Italian, demonstrating enhanced phonological processing and decoding skills. Parental attitudes show strong support for oral Romanian but divergent views on literacy, highlighting the role of formal instruction in promoting metalinguistic awareness,

cross-linguistic transfer, and the development of bilingual identity. The findings underscore the cognitive, linguistic, and cultural benefits of heritage language biliteracy in multilingual contexts.

The issue concludes with *Books, voices, perspectives,* a section that offers critical readings of recent publications in pragmatics, intercultural communication, and lexicography. The reviews by **Alina Tenescu, Andra Vasilescu, Dragoș Vlad Topală,** and **Georgiana Vâlcu** extend the thematic coherence of the issue, situating the featured works within the currents of linguistic research and applied discourse studies.

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Across its sections, the volume showcases linguistic inquiry as an inherently plural field that bridges formal modelling and corpus analysis, theoretical reflection and empirical data interpretation, disciplinary consistence and social relevance.

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