



EDITORIAL

It is with great pleasure and satisfaction that we present the first issue of *Theoretical and Applied Linguistics@ro*, the newly established journal of the Department of Linguistics of the Faculty of Letters at the University of Bucharest, developed in association with the Centre of Theoretical and Applied Linguistics¹ and Bucharest University Press.

The journal adds a new dimension to the Department's scholarly profile, which encompasses a steady flow of publications both in Romania and abroad, the participation of its members in national and international events, the *Annual Conference of the Department*², which reached its 25th edition in 2025, the Proceedings of the Conference published between 2002 and 2024, guest lectures by outstanding linguists, and stimulating students' interest in language studies through the *Circle of linguistics*³.

Conceived as a bridge between generations of scholars, the journal aims to continue the academic traditions of the Bucharest school of linguistics, while promoting international cooperation and the exchange of ideas among leading specialists in various fields of the study of language. TAL@ro hosts contributions situated both in traditional and modern frameworks, elaborated from a theoretical or applied perspective, drawing on diverse methodologies, and featuring dialogue among diverse voices, claims, demonstrations, proposals, revisited solutions, and novel insights.

¹ <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1kftNiPd3TqSerY64ev9QCkwtNCUPrkfl/view>

² <https://litere.ro/cidl/>

³ <https://litere.ro/cercetare/cercul-de-lingvistica/>



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The current issue, *Linguistic Research: Tradition and Innovation*, features contributions that reflect the journal's commitment to exploring both enduring traditions and emerging directions in linguistic scholarship. The articles examine language at multiple levels, with a focus on morphosyntactic patterns, discourse practices, and various aspects of the Romanian lexicon. The authors' approaches illustrate the dynamic interplay between continuity and innovation that defines the field of linguistics in general, and Romanian linguistics, in particular.

The first section – *Marginal morphosyntactic structures?* – brings together four studies that address linguistic configurations situated at the border of canonical grammar, where syntax, semantics, and pragmatics intersect in subtle ways. Despite their diversity, these studies converge on the idea that marginal morphosyntactic phenomena offer privileged access to the dynamics of grammar, showing how peripheral elements can reshape theoretical assumptions and challenge neat categorizations. Moreover, several contributions extend the inquiry beyond the strictly theoretical domain, addressing issues of expressivity, cross-linguistic comparisons, and language learning. **Adrian Chircu** explores the morphosyntactic behaviour of the Romanian lexeme *destul* 'enough' in adjectival, pronominal, nominal, and adverbial contexts in Old Romanian, focusing on its grammaticalization process from *de* (prep. 'of') + *sătul* (adj. 'full/satisfied'). The author situates his analysis within the broader pattern of adverb formation in Romanian and in other Romance languages, and brings further evidence from dialectal usages. From variation in word order, the lexeme gradually underwent specialization, eventually acquiring the status of an adverbial quantifier and degree modifier. **Cornelia Adriana Drăgușin** explores expletive negation in exclamative sentences, where it serves a pragmatic function, *i.e.*, to intensify or emphasize the exclamative force of the utterance. Her study examines the syntactic environments in which expletive negation occurs and discusses how expletive negation interacts with the semantics and pragmatics of exclamatives, drawing comparisons with similar phenomena in other languages. Her article situates the Romanian data within broader theoretical debates about the syntax and semantics of negation, exclamatives, and expressive meaning, referencing key works in the field for comparative

and theoretical grounding. **Șerban Hartular**'s article pursues a twofold aim: theoretical and applied. On the theoretical level, it outlines, in a comparative perspective, the rules that govern the use of definite and indefinite articles in Romanian and English, highlighting both similarities and key differences. He examines grammatical structures, syntactic positions, and semantic implications, noting that English articles are obligatory in a range of fixed contexts, while the usages in Romanian depend, among other factors, on word order and emphasis. On the applied level, it discusses common challenges faced by language learners and offers examples to illustrate typical patterns in each language, thus providing guidance for accurate article usage in both English and Romanian. **Virginia Hill** explores the syntactic and discourse properties of vocatives, focusing on their placement and function within sentence structure. Her article reviews recent theoretical developments that position vocatives as elements projecting onto the clausal spine, rather than as peripheral or purely pragmatic elements. She discusses how vocatives interact with other clausal constituents, drawing on cross-linguistic data and examples from English and other languages. Key issues debated include the relationship between vocatives and address terms, their syntactic integration, and the syntax–discourse interface.

The second section – *Discursive strategies in context* – includes four articles that explore discourse as a dynamic space which shapes meanings. Despite the variety of discourse genres under analysis, all the contributions share the same view on language as strategic use of linguistic, rhetorical, and multimodal resources through which speakers and writers achieve communicative goals. More than a vehicle of information, discourse frames reality and influences perceptions via positioning, persuasion, and identity construction, resorting to metaphor, argumentation, and humour, among other devices. The contributions underline the contextual embeddedness of strategies, illustrating how various settings both enable and constrain the possibilities of expression. **Cezar Bălăsoiu** examines how speakers use metaphor and analogy to manage social identity in conversation. He demonstrates that figurative language is not purely decorative but is strategically employed in interpersonal communication to negotiate meanings and relationships by mitigating face-threatening acts, resolving conflicts, showing solidarity, and clarifying

communicative intentions. **Ioan Milică** makes a brief characterisation of the writing style of Ion Simionescu, a renowned Romanian university professor, geologist, and palaeontologist with significant contributions to the development of the scientific terminology of the field. Blending academic rigour with the charm of storytelling and clarity with expressivity, Simionescu succeeded in communicating science to a broad audience at the end of the 19th century. **Oana Niculescu** addresses laughter as an acoustic phenomenon and seeks to lay the groundwork for an analysis of laughter in Romanian by establishing a taxonomy and a Romanian terminology. She proposes acoustic and functional criteria for classifying different types of laughter in an integrated approach that brings together perspectives from linguistics, psychology, and neuroscience. **Cecilia Mihaela Popescu** examines the semantic and pragmatic evolution of the Romanian verbs *a zice* ‘to say’ and *a spune* ‘to tell/say’, focusing on the polypragmaticalization paths that illustrate how the two verbs have developed multiple pragmatic functions beyond their original meanings: from reporting speech verbs to evidentials, modals, and discourse markers. Through a comparative analysis with other Romance languages and reference to relevant theoretical frameworks, her article demonstrates that these verbs now contribute to expressing subjectivity, stance, and various speaker attitudes in discourse.

The four studies gathered in the section *Romanian vocabulary across time and registers* converge on a shared view of the dynamics of Romanian vocabulary, examined through its diachronic evolution, register variation, and cultural embeddedness. Whether tracing specialized terminologies in nineteenth-century texts, analysing semantic paradigms across languages, or observing the emergence of new forms in present-day usage, the contributions highlight how the Romanian lexicon reflects both continuity and innovation. Taken together, they reveal the interplay between inherited structures and adaptive processes, showing vocabulary not as a static repository but as a living medium shaped by historical circumstances, communicative needs, and stylistic tendencies. **Maria Aldea** presents the rapid development, modernization, and standardization of Romanian mathematical terminology during the 19th century, driven by formal education and the emergence of the first specialized textbooks and dictionaries. Terms were often borrowed from dominant languages – particularly French and

German – and adapted to Romanian phonological and morphological norms. The article authored by **Alina Mihaela Bursuc** discusses astronomical terms in two Romanian dictionaries: Ioan D. Negulici's *Romanian Vocabulary* (1848) and *The Dictionary of Astronomical Terms: Phenomena, Cosmic Objects and Constellations* (A–K, 2023; revised 2024). The former served as a central source for the latter, offering lexicographic attestations, antedatings of first occurrences, lexical innovations, adaptation strategies, variants, calques, and borrowings, all filtered through different Romance models. **Mihaela Marin** revisits the old Romanian term *stăpân*, traditionally associated with the concept of “authority”, with early attestations, wide dialectal distribution, high frequency, numerous derivatives, and a constitutive element in many phraseological units. Although several studies have convincingly argued for its origin in the Daco-Thracian substratum, this etymology is not acknowledged in the Romanian Academy's dictionaries (*DLR*, *DEX*). The article therefore calls for a reconsideration of this issue in light of existing research. **Adriana Stoichițoiu-Ichim** investigates the impact of English on Romanian terminologies associated with the concept of style – particularly in clothing, hairdressing, and cosmetics – in an integrated etymological, semantic, and functional perspective. The analysis is grounded in a corpus of simple, compound, and phrasal terms collected from online media and specialized websites. Two main categories are examined: direct borrowings from English, which often retain a foreign form, and calques that reproduce English models using Romanian lexical resources, frequently of French origin. The study argues that in the context of linguistic globalization it is justified to introduce the concept of a “hybrid lexico-etymological family”, which is theoretically relevant for understanding the interplay between lexical “hospitality” and creativity, while also bearing practical implications for both general lexicography and specialized terminography.

The section *Books, voices, perspectives* hosts book reviews reflecting the plurality of voices and approaches in contemporary academia: critical discourse studies on social media, stylistics, political discourse analysis, the pragmatics-semantics interface, and some recent linguistic resources for Romanian classroom usage. The presentations signed by **Bianca Alecu**, **Lidia Bratu Iacob**, **Mădălina Matei**, **Liana Pop**, and **Adnana Boioc Apintei** offer readers various lenses to interpret language data.

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This inaugural issue of TAL@ro showcases the dynamic interplay of continuity and innovation in linguistic research. From morphosyntactic and lexical phenomena to discursive phenomena, the contributions illustrate the intersection of theoretical insight and empirical rigor. By bridging historical perspectives, cross-linguistic comparisons, and emerging domains, this issue exemplifies the journal's commitment to fostering dialogue among diverse voices. We invite readers to engage critically with these studies and to explore their broader and deeper implications, reflecting on the ever-evolving landscape of human communication and the ever-refined tools of linguistic analysis.

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