International Doctoral Conference

8th edition, 4-5 November 2024

Reimagining Crises
Turning Points in Language Studies and Literary Narratives

Book of Abstracts

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Table of contents

Reimagining Crises. Turning Points in Language Studies and Literary Narratives

From the ancient Greek κρίσις, meaning decision, outcome and consequently used within the medical field to refer to a turning point in the condition of a patient, the term "crisis" gradually acquired a figurative meaning, referring to pivotal moments in which a crucial transition will alter the state of affairs.

The 8th Doctoral Conference draws inspiration from such a term and it aims to explore the nuanced implications of crises and turning points within the disciplines of Linguistics, Literature, Language Teaching and Translation and Interpreting.

Programme

Day 1: 4 November

8:30-09:00 Registration

09:00-09:30 **Welcome and institutional greetings**

9:30-10:15 *Keynote speech*
     Contemporary American Ecopoetry: Writing the Environmental Crisis
     Prof. Penelope Pelizzon, University of Connecticut
     Introduced by: Carolina Celeste Granini
10.15-10:30 **Q&A**

10:30-11:00 *Coffee break*

1st Panel: Linguistic transformations in Crisis Contexts
Introduced by: Emanuela Masi and Silla Paneghel

11:00-11:30 **Crisis in the Digital Age: The Impact of Internet English and Memes on Language Evolution**
     Giordano Lisi, Università del Salento

11:30-12:00 **AI's standard Spanish(es): Lexical variation in Google Translate, DeepL, ChatGPT, and Gemini**
     Carlos O. Rocha Ochoa,Vienna University of Economics and Business

12:00-12:30 **A systemic approach to linguistic research**
     Maria Stella Burgio, Università Ca' Foscari Venezia

12:30-13:00 **Analyzing language crime written texts in legal proceedings**
     Sara Jamal Mohammed Faraj, Koya University

13:00-14:00 *Lunch break*

14:00-14:45 *Keynote speech*
     Crises in and of translation
     Prof. Federico Zanettin, Ca' Foscari University of Venice
     Introduced by: Giulia Cavalli
14.45-15:00 **Q&A**

2nd Panel: Trauma and Memory in Literary Narratives
Introduced by: Giulia Cavalli and Paola Grasso

15:00-15:30 **Trauma and Postmemory in Sergej Lebedev's Oblivion**
     Lara Righi, Università di Verona

15:30-16:00 **See, Feel and Know More: Pearl Cleage's Literary Activism**
     Daphne Orlandi, Sapienza Università di Roma

16:00-16:30   *Coffee break*

16:30-17:00   **Side B. Delfina Bunge y María Rosa Oliver in their childhood memoirs**
Yamila Martínez Pandiani, Universidad de Buenos Aires

17:00-17:30   **The chroniclers of the "narco": a detour in Latin American tradition**
Lucía Battista Lo Bianco, Universidad de Buenos Aires

17:30-17:45   Closing remarks

19:30   *Social Dinner*

Day 2: 5 November

9:30-10:00   Registration

3rd Panel: Identity and Crisis in Language Education

Introduced by: Emanuela Masi and Silvia Scolaro

09:30-10:00   **Identity, Democratisation and Alienation: Excavating the roots of Amazigh students' inherited stigma**
Hafida Bouhmid, Mohammed V University

10:00-10:30   **The linguistic landscape of Spain as a reflection of sociocultural processes**
Aliia Ismagilova, Universidad de Cádiz

10:30-11:00   *Coffee break*

4th Panel: Literary Responses to Crises
Introduced by: Carolina Celeste Granini and Francesco Tortato

11:00-11:30   **Staging Crisis. An Analysis of Diasporic Identity Crises and Transformation in Interwar Yiddish Drama**
Michèle Fornoff-Levitt, Université Libre de Bruxelles

11:30-12:00   **Paz Marquez Benitez, "Dead Stars" and the rise of Philippine Anglophone writing**
Leif Andrew Garinto, SOAS, University of London

12:00-12:30   **The Spanish Civil War (1936-1939) as prelude to the European crisis of the second half of the 20th century in Klaus Mann and Stefan Zweig**
Beatrice Berselli, Università di Verona

12:30-14:00   *Lunch break*

14:00-14:45   ***Keynote speech***
Atypicality and constraints on language acquisition
Prof. Mikhail Kissine, Université Libre de Bruxelles
14:45-15:00   **Q&A**

5th Panel: Representing Crisis in Contemporary Literature
Introduced by: Carolina Celeste Granini and Francesco Tortato

15:00-15:30 **How to Narrate a Climate Crisis? A Comparative Analysis of Narration in Select Contemporary German Literature**
Jaya Sharma, Jawaharlal Nehru University

15:30-16:00 **Crisis of Representation: Embodying the Dreamscape in Susan Sontag's The Benefactor**
Sergio Casado Chamizo, Universidad de Salamanca

16:00-16:30 **Dystopian Postures: Reacting to Crisis in 2010s British Theatre**
Harriet Carnevale, Università degli Studi di Milano

16:30-17:00 *Coffee break*

6th Panel: Challenges and Innovations in Translation and Interpretation
Introduced by: Giulia Cavalli and Maria Grazia Marrocu

17:00-17:30 **Pointing in Brazilian Sign Language (Libras) and Polish Sign Language (PJM): An Interlinguistic Comparison**
Sirlara Donato Assuncao Wandenkolk Alves, Polish Academy of Sciences

17:30-18:00 **Evolving perspectives: Deaf insights into VRI**
Gabriella Ardita, Università di Catania

18:00-18:15 **Final remarks**

Keynote presentations

Atypicality and constraints on language acquisition
Prof. Mikhail Kissine Université Libre de Bruxelles

Scientific research on language in autism mostly explores delayed acquisition or atypical use, the reference point being language in non-autistic individuals. Such approaches focus on language disability, but somewhat downplay the acquisition routes that may be specific to autism. More specifically, typical language development is known to be intimately linked to socio-pragmatic, joint communicative experiences. Early-onset and life-long atypicality in the socio-communicative domain are core characteristics of autism, and likely explain why language onset is often significantly delayed in autistic children. However, it is also usually assumed that language trajectories in autism should be correlated with an increase of socio-communicative skills, such as joint attention. In this talk, I will review evidence that some autistic individuals may, in fact, acquire language in spite of persisting strong socio-communicative disabilities. I will also present new results that show that some autistic children are interested in language in and of itself, independently of its communicative function, and display enhanced sensitivity to the acoustic and structural properties of the linguistic input.

Contemporary American Ecopoetry: Writing the Environmental Crisis
Prof. V. Penelope Pelizzon University of Connecticut

Poetry is the ideal literary form in which to grapple with the environmental crises of the Anthropocene. As the editors of the recent *Ecopoetry Anthology* argue, we face an existential catastrophe "made possible by a profound failure of the imagination. What we humans disregard, what we fail to know and grasp, is easy to destroy." Poetry responds by recharging the imagination: it engages our five senses and helps us understand our kinship with other humans and non-human species, pressing us to see the environment beyond a use-value framework.

This talk will consider recent poems by Camille T. Dungy, Brian Teare, and dg nanouk okpik. Dungy offers what we might understand, in the words of botanist Robin Wall Kimmerer, as a poetics of "becoming Indigenous to place." Brian Teare's work, meanwhile, explores the challenges of making a home in what Naomi Klein calls the "sacrifice zones" of environmental exploitation. okpik's writing weaves readers into a vibrant web of Inupiaq-Inuit culture and

language, foregrounding the resistance and resilience of her native Alaskan terrain. Each poet uses language of the highest imaginative order to help us sense the ethical proximity between our daily actions and their long-term consequences.

Crises in and of translation

Prof. Federico Zanettin Ca' Foscari University of Venice

In my presentation I will offer some thoughts on the crisis OF a traditional restricted concept of translation as exclusively interlingual verbal translation derived from print culture, and the crisis IN translation, that is to say in the ways translation is produced and used. Translation as an activity and a practice is currently witnessing an "unstable situation involving an impending change" to quote from a dictionary definition of crisis. Instability derives on the one hand from an outward pull towards the extension of the meaning of translation to encompass the wider context of digital multilingual and multimodal communication in which verbal language is embedded. On the other hand, digital automation has deeply affected translation processes and products and MT and AI tools act as an inward pull to restrict the remit of translation and translators by streamlining translation according to readability priorities into conservative language patterns. I will first look at how conceptualizations of translation have developed in the new century while at the same time new terms have started competing as better descriptions of its evolving practices. I will then look at the current pervasiveness of machine translation in the everyday life of translators and non-translators alike, and argue that while machine-generated translated text offers a wealth of opportunities to intercultural communication, it also deserves to be subject to critical scrutiny for its implications.

Presentations

Pointing in Brazilian Sign Language (Libras) and Polish Sign Language (PJM): An Interlinguistic Comparison

Sirlara Donato Assuncao Wandenkolk Alves Polish Academy of Sciences

This doctoral study compares Brazilian Sign Language (Libras) and Polish Sign Language (PJM) using sign language corpora through Theoretical Linguistics. It employs a descriptive qualitative analysis of pointing by examining data from 10 PJM informants from the Corpus PJM (University of Warsaw) and 10 Libras informants from the Libras Corpus (Federal University of Santa Catarina). Participants include equal numbers of men and women aged 18 and above, with ELAN software used for transcription. Pointing is a versatile tool used to indicate people, objects, places, and directions. Despite existing studies on pointing (Bertone et al., 2010; Cormier et al., 2013; Johnston, 2013), comparative studies between sign languages are scarce, justifying this research. Pointing is the second most frequent sign in sign language corpora (Świdziński and Rutkowski, 2022). Initial findings suggest that pointing is present in both languages, but with some differences and similarities, and it might be influenced by the neighboring spoken languages, that is, Portuguese in Brazil, and Polish in Poland. The study addresses the following questions: 1) What is the linguistic function of pointing in Libras and PJM? 2) What are the similarities and differences in pointing strategies between these two sign languages? 3) Does the presence or absence of articles in the respective spoken languages affect their use in sign languages? By exploring these questions, the research aims to enhance the understanding of the interlinguistic aspects of sign languages and the influence of neighboring spoken languages on their structure and use.

Evolving perspectives: Deaf insights into VRI

Gabriella Ardita, Università di Catania

Sign language interpreters' role has gradually evolved with Deaf community empowerment (Bontempo 2015; Fontana 2022; Rebagliati 2021). The recent recognition of italian sign language (LIS) and tactile LIS, along with the interpreters' role, marked a turning point, leading to the establishment of professional degree courses.

This change is accompanied by technological advancements, which enabled the spread of video remote interpreting (VRI), accelerated by the pandemic. VRI presents benefits and challenges (De Meulder, Sijm 2024), to which interpreting students should be prepared, as well as consequences for Deaf consumers (De Meulder; Stone 2023).

This study explores Italian Deaf perceptions of VRI through interviews, offering preliminary insights to enhance interpreting training, thus improving accessibility.

The chroniclers of the "narco": a detour in Latin American tradition

Lucía Battista Lo Bianco Universidad de Buenos Aires

In this paper we propose to investigate comparatively two chronicles on the phenomenon of drug trafficking in Mexico, published during the six-year term of President Felipe Calderón, who at that time commanded the first stage of the bloody "war on drugs". This armed conflict, which had little to do with "war" in the traditional sense of the term, and in the span of twelve years left at least "272 thousand murdered, 40 thousand forced disappearances and 345 thousand displaced" (Zavala 2022, p. 356), was chronicled in multiple ways. Among the profuse narrators of the so-called "narco-literature", we find the so-called "narco chroniclers".

This time we will work with two of them, on the one hand, we will review El cártel de Sinaloa. Una historia del uso político del narco, by Diego Enrique Osorno (2009), republished in 2019, and, on the other hand, the already classic in the genre, Los señores del narco (2010), by Anabel Hernández. We will explore the hypothesis that these are chronicles that stress the pact of referential reading, typical of non-fiction stories, as they are structured from a narrative logic dictated by binational securitarianism that emanates from government discursiveness, producer of official fictions, and that introduces mythologizing elements around the phenomenon. That is, they would produce a deviation in the tradition of Latin American non-fiction literature (Amar Sánchez, 1992), if we take into account that it was historically constituted as a denunciation of state practices and not in complicity with its discourses. In this sense, in the context of the humanitarian disaster that the "war" has produced, and taking into account the multiple accusations that these journalists have received for reproducing information offered directly by US agencies such as the DEA (Drug Enforcement Administration), we could speak of a crisis of journalistic and non-fiction discourse.

The Spanish Civil War (1936-1939) as prelude to the European crisis of the second half of the 20th century in Klaus Mann and Stefan Zweig

Beatrice Berselli University of Verona

The contribution aims to investigate certain aspects of the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939) as a prelude to the European crisis of the second half of the 20th century from the perspective of two central authors of the German Exilliteratur, Klaus Mann and Stefan Zweig.

The military coup in Spain led by the generals Francisco Franco, Emilio Mola and José Sanjurjo, who,in July 1936, turn against the democratically elected Popular Front government of the Spanish Republic, brings many intellectuals of the time to publicly declare their willingness to fight for the freedom of Spain. Klaus Mann, in particular, reveals in his diaries that he is facing a "war, between Nazis and loyalists, between fascists and anti-fascists", which awakens in him the desire to intervene to combat a crisis that was gradually becoming worldwide.

In 1938, in fact, he decides to work as a correspondent for the "Pariser Tageszeitung" to document the efforts of the Spanish Resistance against Franco, witnessing first-hand the atrocities of the Spanish Civil War. The theme also appears frequently in his letters with the famous Exilschriftsteller Stefan Zweig. Unlike Mann, Zweig does not experience the Spanish Civil War in the field. However, in his works and letters, there are more or less clear indications that he, too, recognizes in this event the beginning of an international crisis, which would have soon affected the rest of Europe and brought to the Second World War. Therefore, the outbreak of such Stellvertreterkrieg, or "proxy war", at a time when fascism was showing its most brutal and aggressive face across Europe with a dramatic sequence of events, is conceived by both authors no longer as a threat limited to single countries, but as a pan-European danger that gave a strong impetus to their anti-fascist mission.

Identity, Democratisation and Alienation: Excavating the roots of Amazigh students' inherited stigma

Hafida Bouhmid Mohammed V in Rabat

To be in the Moroccan classroom entails denying all the social bases of a student's subjectivity (Ennaji, 2005). In addition to the content and the traditional adopted didactics and pedagogies that weaken a student's connection with themselves and the world, the language(s) of instruction used ever since primary school indirectly brainwash all Moroccan students alike to

relegate their identities (Loutfi, 2024; Boutieri, 2013, 2016). Albeit its epic failure's impact over the Moroccan education system, which subsequently led to the plethora of reforms it endured, the discourse remained the same and strongly emphasized the efficacy of a pedagogy that insists on a projected rigid approach to identity. This paper questions approaches and representations to and of identity in the Moroccan education discourse. Taking the case of Imazighen, the paper argues that Moroccan student's sense of identity is distorted and negatively impacted by the reiterated official narratives of history and traditional custodial values embedded in this discourse. Insights from critical pedagogy, critical theory are brought together to critically analyze the strategic vision 2015-2030 report in search for the location of the Amazigh student within the Moroccan education system. Using Van Dijk's ideological square framework and an alienation-based theoretical framework, the embedded multifaceted discourse of the Moroccan education system is unmasked. Findings assert that the alleged plurality of the Moroccan society is not acknowledged. Several components including the Imazighen are subcategorized, which results in their alienation and simultaneously sews seeds of dogmatism and narrow-mindedness in the minds of young students.

A systemic approach to linguistic research

Maria Stella Burgio Ca' Foscari University of Venice

This research explores the innovative application of Systems Thinking (ST) in linguistic studies, particularly within the field of ecolinguistics. The introduction of ST signifies a pivotal moment in the evolution of linguistic analysis, encouraging a departure from traditional methods and underscoring the necessity of considering the broader systemic context in which linguistic production occurs. Rooted in the seminal works of scholars like Ludwig von Bertalanffy, the pioneer of System Theory, M.A.K. Halliday, the founder of Systemic Functional Linguistics, and Svend Østergaard von Steffensen a key figure in the Distributed Language Perspective, this research proposes a novel approach to linguistic inquiry. By adapting the Iceberg Model—a conceptual framework traditionally employed in systemic analysis—this study aims to uncover the underlying systemic structures that influence and shape linguistic phenomena in both written and spoken forms. The research leverages systemic diagrams to demonstrate their effectiveness in mapping complex linguistic systems. A case study is presented to illustrate the dynamics involved in transforming information into action, thereby showcasing the practical application of systemic analysis to linguistic data. This case study highlights the critical role of visual representation in conveying abstract concepts. The findings of this research underscore the transformative potential of Systems Thinking in linguistics, advocating for its broader adoption in the field. By integrating systemic models and diagrams, linguists can gain deeper insights into the intricate web of factors influencing language.

Crisis of Representation: Embodying the Dreamscape in Susan Sontag's The Benefactor

Sergio Casado Chamizo University of Salamanca

This presentation delves into the intricate relationship between representation and the embodiment of oneiric space in Susan Sontag's novel The Benefactor. Drawing on the theoretical framework presented by the author in "Against Interpretation", we can understand the acts that the novel's protagonist presents to us as acts in themselves, very close to the proposal of Barthes or Kristeva. At this point, the way of experiencing representation in the narrative work seems to be in a place of tension. Through a critical analysis of the protagonist Hippolyte's dreamscapes, we explore how the novel challenges traditional notions of representation and invites readers to question the boundaries between reality and imagination.

Sontag dismantles traditional representation by presenting a world of vivid dreams indistinguishable from reality. Analyzing Hippolyte's experience through the lens of mind/body separation, we see how his dreams challenge this traditional Cartesian binary.

The break with intellectualism that Hippolyte undergoes after meeting Frau Anders places us in the situation of analyzing the bodily dimension in his dreams. These dreams are not decipherable elements but acts in themselves, reflecting a broader crisis of identity and the fluidity of the self. This idea seems to address a situation of representation that Sontag later explores and attempts to put into crisis through the strategy of camp sensibility.

Dystopian Postures: Reacting to Crisis in 2010s British Theatre

Harriet Carnevale Università degli Studi di Milano

Since 2000 there has been a surge of plays with strong dystopian tropes and modes in British Theatre.

Such an increase is symptomatic of a generalised sense of crisis that has come to inhabit what Ulric Beck termed the 'risk society' of our days. Significantly, this is most evident in conjunction with the environmental concerns of the 2010s Climate Change Theatre. In staging apocalyptic scenarios related to the ecological cause, theatre is reacting to a socio-cultural stagnation that has proven to be not only sterile but altogether corrosive. Imagining the end of the world may therefore signal a rupture with the paradigms of the past. Indeed, it is this last characteristic of the phenomenon that sets apart the 2010s decade from the previous literature of dystopia: here demolition of certitude is necessary to pave the way for a new beginning.

Staging Crisis. An Analysis of Diasporic Identity Crises and Transformation in Interwar Yiddish Drama
Michèle Fornoff-Levitt Université Libre de Bruxelles

This paper provides a literary analysis of key Yiddish plays from the interwar period, focusing on how these works dramatize the crises of Jewish identity, memory, and cultural survival. By closely examining selected plays performed in Paris, such as those by Y.L. Peretz, S. Asch and S. Ansky, the study explores the thematic and dramaturgical strategies used by playwrights to depict moments of crisis and transformation.

The analysis will concentrate on themes of migration, displacement, and identity crises, investigating how these are articulated through character development, plot structure, and dramatic dialogue. Additionally, the study will explore the use of staging, symbolism, and narrative techniques that convey the sense of crisis and transformation, highlighting how these elements reflect and engage with the historical and cultural context of the time – notably antisemitism.

While the primary focus is on the literary aspects of the plays, the paper situates the works within their broader socio-cultural and historical context. This dual approach provides insights into how the interwar period influenced Yiddish theater and its depiction of Jewish identity, emphasizing the unique contributions of Yiddish drama to the broader field of literature.

By centering on the close reading of specific dramatic texts, this paper aims to illuminate the artistic and narrative strategies used by Yiddish playwrights to navigate and portray crises, reflecting the collective memory and identity of the Jewish diaspora.

Paz Marquez Benitez, "Dead Stars" and the rise of Philippine Anglophone writing
Leif Andrew Garinto SOAS, University of London

This study explores the "invention" of the tradition of English as the dominant language in Philippine literature during the 20th and 21st centuries, viewing it as a unique cultural response to American colonial rule that began in 1901. It focuses on the role of education and literary production, highlighting Paz Marquez Benitez's 1925 short story "Dead Stars" as a pivotal moment. Benitez, a product of American colonial education, reflects and critiques its impact.

Recognised as the first "modern" short story in English in Philippine literature, "Dead Stars" exemplifies literary hybridity by blending Filipino themes with the

coloniser's literary language and techniques. The study argues that Benitez and her work marked a turning point in Philippine literature by establishing a new literary tradition in English while inadvertently sidelining local Philippine writing. While English provided Filipino writers access to global literary standards, it also posed challenges in preserving native cultural identity. This created a literary duality, where English-language works gained prominence often at the expense of local languages and writing. The impact of this shift is significant and enduring, with Benitez's and her short story illustrative of the tense relationship between colonial influence and cultural preservation. This act which both embraces and subverts American colonial influence, continues to shape Philippine literature today, underscoring the tension between global integration and local authenticity.

The linguistic landscape of Spain as a reflection of sociocultural processes
Aliia Ismagilova Universidad de Cádiz

Interest to the linguistic representation of cities and the subsequent appearance of the theory of the linguistic landscape were due to the diversity of languages used in society, the liberalization of legislation, the awareness of the great role of public space as a place where ambitions are manifested, the identities of people and states are formed. The term linguistic landscape is relatively young, was proposed by R. Laundry and R. Baurhis in 1997, who define the linguistic landscape as "one of the ways to describe the everyday existence of a language, consisting in the study of written signs in the public sphere, the public space of the urban environment". Every year Spain experiences a new influx of immigrants and tourists, which leads to the inevitable linguistic and cultural contact. It should also be noted that over the past decades for Spain there has been an acute issue of the autonomy of individual regions such as Catalonia, Galicia, the Basque Country and, accordingly, the official languages of these regions and their status. The investigation identifies lingua-cultural norms of modern ergonimy of different cities of Spain implemented in borrowings from foreign languages and the use of state languages in nominations. The linguistic landscapes usually are formed under the influence of two social processes: globalization and glocalization. Glocalization is opposed to globalization due to the fact that the global can't be developed and understood without the local.

Linguistic Change in the Digital Age: The Impact of Internet English and Memes on Language Evolution

Giordano Lisi Università del Salento

The advent of the internet has significantly accelerated linguistic change, marking a turning point in the evolution of languages. This study focuses on internet linguistics and the specific case of internet English, examining how linguistic and extralinguistic factors drive rapid transformations in language usage and structure. A central example is the viral video of the "Hauk Tuah" girl, whose memes have proliferated across digital platforms. By analysing these memes, we identify key linguistic shifts, such as the emergence of new lexical items, syntactic structures, pragmatic conventions, and meaning-making strategies that depend on other cultural or linguistic references. Our findings reveal that the internet not only accelerates linguistic innovation but also fosters the convergence of diverse linguistic traditions, contributing to a more fluid and dynamic linguistic landscape. The case of the "Hauk Tuah" memes illustrates how viral content can serve as a catalyst for language change, reflecting broader sociocultural trends and technological influences. This paper argues that the linguistic proliferation observed in internet English and meme culture represents a critical juncture in the continuous evolution of languages, offering new insights into the mechanisms of linguistic change in the digital age.

Side B. Delfina Bunge y María Rosa Oliver in their childhood memoirs

Yamila Martínez Pandiani Universidad de Buenos Aires

The purpose of this paper is to work comparatively with two childhood memoirs of patrician women from the beginning of the 20th century: Viaje alrededor de mi infancia (1938) by Delfina Bunge and Mundo, mi casa (1965) by María Rosa Oliver. In both texts, the nodal figure is a woman legitimized by her class origin, who exposes her vision of the everyday landscape. However, while in Delfina Bunge's book the adult reminiscence is restricted to the inner journey of herself as a child, in the first volume of María Rosa Oliver's memoirs, towards the end, the "class ritual" (Pierini, 2004, p. 124), the European trip in its familiar modulation, is introduced, an act that puts into crisis, at the same time, a form of the chronicler and the chronicled. Both one text and the other build the personal image (coupled to certain reading scenes) and a series of formative idealizations that function as authorial molds (which will be revisited in later productions). We will see that the way of witnessing the return to one's own years of intellectual and emotional formation involves a double turn: on the one hand, the portrait of the outside resorts to childhood as a legitimizing refuge; on the other hand, since the aim

is to introduce the female voice in a predominantly male genre, an alternative woman to the one prefixed in maternal discourse (which reproduces certain patriarchal expectations) is put on the agenda in the imaginary of the time.

Analyzing language crime written texts in legal proceedings
Sara Jamal Mohammed Koya University

The language of crime written texts in court procedures is examined in this study using a pragmatic discourse analysis approach and a qualitative descriptive method. The approach look at how written texts submitted to courts, such as police reports, witness accounts, and forensic reports, utilize language to establish and negotiate the meanings of crime, guilt, and responsibility.

This study demonstrates how language is employed to mold the story of crime, impact the formation of a criminal identity, and guide judicial decisions through a critical discourse analysis of a corpus of written crime texts. Mixed method approach will be used in which the data is both qualitatively and quantitatively collected and analyzed. Data will be collected from the transcript of various cases of non-English court rooms. The participants will be the chief legal officers, lawyers, judges, mediators, and legal advisors. The tools for collecting the required data are interviewing and questionnaire.

The results imply that language shapes how crime and criminality are portrayed and that certain language traits, such modality, tone, and word choice, can be employed to support or contradict prevailing narratives about criminality. The study's conclusions emphasize how crucial it is to take into account the linguistic aspects of crime-related written texts in court cases and how crucial it is for legal experts to gain a more sophisticated grasp of the ways in which language shapes the criminal justice system.

See, Feel and Know More: Pearl Cleage's Literary Activism
Daphne Orlandi Università di Catania

Pearl Cleage – African American writer, playwright and political activist – who defines herself as a "third-generation black nationalist and radical feminist," has lived through and commented in her essays, novels, and plays on a number of critical aspects concerning the ordinary lives of Black women in the US. She claims that her works are meant to expose "the point where racism and sexism meet," and in doing so she deals with themes such victimization, domestic violence, and black masculinity. In this paper, I argue that with her choice of themes Cleage not only does not shy away from providing an accurate representation of the struggles faced by African American women,

but she actively tries to overcome the challenges posed by such topics in order to learn positive lessons from critical moments. As Cleage herself notes, when she portrays these crises (that have also been at the center of scholarly debate with for example the concept of intersectionality or the idea of Black feminism) she does so to encourage her audience to "see more and feel more and know more." I maintain that in doing so she uses her narrative voice to provide a form of cathartic release for those who face these issues daily. Her literary activism, perhaps more apparent in her essays, is evident throughout her production and I want to show how she constructs her texts as metaphorical weapons though which she hopes to empower Black women and educate Black men.

AI's standard Spanish(es): Lexical variation in Google Translate, DeepL, Chat GPT, and Gemini

Carlos Rocha Ochoa Vienna University of Economics and Business

The notion of "neutral Spanish" – also referred to as international, global, or standard Spanish – has ignited a lively debate within contemporary Spanish linguistics, particularly in translation and interpreting studies (Montilla Martos 2001; Llorente Pinto 2006; Gutiérrez Maté 2017; Mazzitelli & Garrido Domené 2019; Martínez Moreno 2022). In addition, the discussion has extended to specialized languages (García Izquierdo 2006, 2009) and language policy (Paffey 2010, 2014; Amorós Negre 2020; Bravo García 2022). The recent significant advancements in artificial intelligence (AI), especially in generative and translation models, have further fueled the conversation around neutral Spanish, mirroring the impact of mass media. This study delves into neutral Spanish, as termed by Chat GPT, through a lexical lens, by comparing outputs generated by Google Translate, DeepL, Chat GPT and Gemini using identical prompts and source texts, revealing significant discrepancies in their approaches to neutral Spanish. Notably, large language models such as Chat GPT and Gemini appear to favor a Latin American variety, particularly Mexican Spanish, which has traditionally influenced "Latin American Neutral Spanish." Conversely, DeepL and Google Translate seem to prioritize Peninsular Spanish as the standard norm. These discrepancies likely stem from the geographic origins of the training data underlying each technology as well as their pre-defined parameters. These results provide valuable insights to the fields of translation studies, Spanish as a foreign language, and the evolving landscape of Spanish language standardization in the age of AI.

How to Narrate a Climate Crisis? A Comparative Analysis of Narration in Select Contemporary German Literature

Jaya Sharma Jawaharlal Nehru University

To give a dystopia, apocalypse or crisis word, so that it appeals to reader in a way that the possible future appears to be a reality to them, has been the effort of many movies or novels taking place in post-apocalyptic era. But to choose a narrative style to bring in the awareness of a crisis such as climate crisis and bring in the desired changes to curb it, is something that has become blaue Blume, i.e. something artists want to achieve for which they are not shying away to experiment. The aim of this paper is not to sketch out a list of factors that examine any climate crisis narration to be a "good" or "bad" narration, but to analyse the reception of some contemporary German novels dealing with climate crisis in different ways.

The analysis of their narrative style and reception of the selected novels would further demand a closer reading of them with keeping the social, political and historical arguments in mind. In this paper the literary work of Max Frisch Der Mensch erscheint im Holozän (1979), Kathrin Röggla's die alarmbereiten (2010) and Ilija Trojanow's Eis Tau (2011) would be analysed through ecocritical framework. Since these three works belong to three different German-speaking countries (Switzerland, Austria and Germany), the environmental history as well as current discourse on climate crisis in each of them would also be incorporated to analyse the narration in them.

Trauma and Postmemory in Sergej Lebedev's Oblivion

Lara Righi Università di Verona

In 21st-century Russia, suppressions of discussions on the darkest aspects of the Soviet past are oriented towards the creation of an idyllic representation of the USSR. Silence over GULags blocks admissions of personal responsibilities and public recognition of the atrocities, preventing victims and their descendants from obtaining justice. Echoing lagernaja literatura, in Oblivion (2011) Sergej Lebedev deals with the traumatic memory of the GULag through the prism of postmemory. He deepens the conflict between the first Soviet generation of grandfathers and the third generation of grandchildren the author belongs to. Lebedev investigates the processes through which his contemporaries are passed down guilt for the unpunished Soviet crimes, while the parents' second generation avoided inquiring about Soviet horrors. As soon as the narrator receives a blood transfusion from Grandfather II, a blind fearsome man he has an ambivalent affective relationship with who hides his former role as a director of a GULag, he feels he is haunted by the Soviet past. Visions and nightmares the narrator often

experiences recall Derrida's definition of spectrality, as they symbolise the repressed and unresolved memory of Soviet traumas. Through the analysis of selected passages of the text, the presentation aims at demonstrating that Lebedev combines Etkind's definition of magical historicism with the theme of the Soviet trauma. The narrator's journey to Northern Russia, the lieu de mémoire of Grandfather II's crimes, traces the stages of trauma; only through language he overcomes the parents' silences and works through the suffering.

Bio Notes

Prof. Mikhail Kissine

Mikhail Kissine is a full professor of linguistics at the Université libre de Bruxelles, Belgium. He is an experimental and theoretical linguist, with a focus on pragmatics and language acquisition. For the last fifteen years, his research mainly centers on language and communication in autism, and is conducted within his lab ACTE (https://acte.ulb.be), an interdisciplinary research center on language in autism he created nine years ago. M. Kissine combines linguistic theory with rigorous experimental methods to show how fundamental questions about human language may be illuminated by, but also illuminating for the study of autism. His work bears on a wide range of topics in language, communication and interaction in autistic children and adults, and relies on a variety of experimental and linguistic methods, from detailed phonetic and morphosyntactic analyses to electrodermal activity and eye-tracking. The overarching idea underpinning the work of Kissine's lab is that studying how autistic children acquire language provides a unique opportunity to disentangle communication and domain-general mechanisms from domain-specific constraints on language learnability. In several publications, he has also showed that carefully characterising how autistic individuals, children and adults, use language yields crucial evidence for revising and refining the classic models in pragmatics.

Prof. V. Penelope Pelizzon

V. Penelope Pelizzon's fourth book, A Gaze Hound That Hunteth by the Eye (Pitt Poetry Series, 2024) is a LitHub recommendation for 2024. Her first, Nostos, won the Poetry Society of America's Norma Farber First Book Award; her second, Whose Flesh Is Flame, Whose Bone Is Time, was a finalist for the Anthony Hecht Poetry Prize. She is also coauthor of Tabloid, Inc., a critical study of film, photography, and crime narratives. Her recognitions include a Hawthornden Fellowship, the Amy Lowell Traveling Scholarship, a Lannan Foundation Writing Residency Fellowship, and a "Discovery"/The Nation Award. She is a Professor of English at the University of Connecticut.

Prof. Federico Zanettin

Federico Zanettin is Full Professor of English Language, Translation and Linguistics at the University of Venezia – Ca' Foscari, Department of Linguistics and Comparative Cultural Studies. He investigates translation-related issues with a focus on methodology, and his interests range from news translation to the translation of comics and corpus-based translation studies. His publications include Corpora in Translator Education (St. Jerome 2003, editor, with Silvia Bernardini and Dominic Stewart), Comics in Translation (St. Jerome 2008/Routledge 2014, editor), Translation-driven corpora (St. Jerome 2012/Routledge 2014), Communication Skills

for International Studies (Morlacchi 2013), New Directions in Corpus-Based Translation Studies (Language Science Press 2015, editor, with Claudio Fantinuoli), News Media Translation (Cambridge University Press, 2021), and The Routledge Handbook of Translation and Methodology (Routledge 2022, editor, with Chris Rundle). He is co-editor of the journal inTRAlinea.org and serves in the advisory board of The Translator, Translang and Entreculturas.

Sirlara Donato Assuncao Wandenkolk Alves

Sirlara Donato Assunção Wandenkolk Alves is a Brazilian linguist from the state of Bahia. She holds a master's degree in Languages, specializing in Applied Linguistics. Sirlara is multilingual, speaking Portuguese, French, Spanish, English, Polish, and Brazilian Sign Language. Currently, Sirlara is pursuing her PhD in Poland at the Institute of Polish Language at the Polish Academy of Sciences, focusing on the field of Linguistics. Her research interests and academic journey reflect her passion for understanding and comparing different languages and their structures.

Gabriella Ardita

Gabriella Ardita is currently enrolled in the Ph.D. program in Science of Interpretation at the University of Catania as a student of the 39th cycle. Her research project focuses on deaf users' perceptions on italian sign language (LIS) interpreting services. Her research interests also include the use of mouth actions in LIS, and LIS learning as a second language. She graduated in Language Sciences at Ca' Foscari University of Venice and holds a bachelor's degree in Linguistic and Intercultural Mediation. After completing her MA studies, she pursued a one-year master's degree, obtaining professional qualification as LIS interpreter and translator.

Lucía Battista Lo Bianco

Bachelor of Arts in Language and Literature and High School and Higher Education Teacher of Language and Literature from the University of Buenos Aires. Academic Secretary of the Interdisciplinary Institute of Latin American Studies of the School of Philosophy, Language & Literature of said university. At the same headquarters, she is part of the UBACyT research project "Creation and promotion of an object: criticism of Latin American literature in the twentieth century" (2020-2024) directed by Dr. Marcela Croce. She recently carried out research and publications on migration novels and Mexican "narconovelas", Latin American testimonial criticism and gender studies. She is currently pursuing her postgraduate studies on Colombian, Mexican and Argentinian "narcoliterature" from a comparative perspective.

Beatrice Berselli

Beatrice Berselli (University of Verona) is a PhD student in Foreign Languages and Literatures in the scientific-disciplinary field L-LIN/13 (German Literature).
Her PhD thesis focuses on the literary, political and ideological relationship between Klaus Mann and Stefan Zweig, starting from the study of a – partially unpublished – correspondence written between 1925 and 1941. Her research interests focus on comparisons, especially in the field of Exilliteratur and Briefkultur of the 20th century, but also on interdisciplinary relations between literature and linguistics, literature and visual arts, literature and architecture. In 2018, she published a short monograph on Lessing's Laokoon and its reception from Goethe to Aby Warburg. For Winter Verlag

(Heidelberg), she worked on translation theory in 18th century- Germany. She also writes on Hugo von Hofmannsthal, Alfred Andersch, Winfried G. Sebald and Arno Schmidt.

Hafida Bouhmid

Hafida Bouhmid is a Moroccan PhD student who is currently pursuing her studies in FLSH Mohammed V Rabat. After majoring in English literature, she decided to explore the field of applied linguistics where she got her MA and later on, she opted for a PhD in the field of Educational sociology and critical pedagogy. Other than that, she is driven by a strong passion for Moroccan academia and can be best described as a novice interdisciplinary researcher.

Maria Stella Burgio

Maria Stella Burgio is a first-year PhD candidate in Asian and African Studies at Ca' Foscari University of Venice. Her research interests concern the field of ecolinguistics with a particular focus on systemic analysis. Her current research aims at showing how lexicogrammar impacts people's mental model, by adopting a systemic framework. Maria Stella holds a master's degree in Language and Management to China with honours and a B.A. in Language, Culture and Society of Asian and African Studies with honours from Ca' Foscari University of Venice. Maria Stella is an alumna of Ca' Foscari International College.

Sergio Casado Chamizo

Sergio Casado Chamizo is a Ph.D. student at the Department of Philosophy, Logic, and Aesthetics at the University of Salamanca (Spain). He holds a BA and MA in Philosophy at the same University, and MA in Philosophy and Ethics of Relationships at University of Perugia. He has taught Theoretical Philosophy at the University of Salamanca and is currently working on his Ph.D. dissertation on Susan Sontag's theory of art and culture. He is also a Visiting Research Student at Ca' Foscari University of Venice under supervision of Professor Mena Mitrano. His main research areas include aesthetics of passions, image theory, and the intersection of art, philosophy, and gender studies

Harriet Carnevale

Harriet Carnevale, PhD student at the University of Milan, is currently working on a research project about Eco-Theatre in Contemporary Britain. She holds a BA and MA in English Literature and Contemporary Theatre; both dissertations were on the work of theatre maker Tim Crouch. She worked as an English Language Teacher for British Council Milan for seven years. She participated in the 2022-2024 Creative Europe project TYPUS – Transforming Young People Using Shakespeare.

Michèle Fornoff-Levitt

Michèle Fornho--Levitt is a researcher specializing in Jewish cultural studies, holding a doctorate in Germanic studies from Sorbonne University (Paris IV) and in Performing Arts from the Free University of Brussels. She also obtained a master's degree in Romance Philology, Journalism and Musicology from the latter institution. Her doctoral thesis, successfully defended in December 2023, explores the transnational and diasporic dynamics of the representation of Jewishness.

Leif Andrew Garinto

Leif Andrew Garinto is a PhD student at the School of Languages, Cultures, and Linguistics, SOAS University of London, studying the rise and development of English in Southeast Asia. He is a recipient of the SOAS Research Studentship award from 2022-2025.

Aliia Ismagilova

Aliia Ismagilova is a researcher and academic from Kazan, Russian Federation, specializing in linguistics, cultural studies, and translation. She has published extensively in international journals indexed in both Scopus and Web of Science. Her research focuses on topics such as linguistic landscape, cultural influences through language, and translation studies. Aliia has contributed to the study of language borrowings, the westernization of Russian culture, and the challenges of translating realia between languages like Spanish, Russian, and English. She currently resides in Kazan and continues to engage in interdisciplinary linguistic research.

Giordano Lisi

Giordano Lisi is a PhD student in "Languages, Literatures, Cultures and their Application" at the University of Salento. His research interests include the analysis of English uses in online environment; English as a Lingua Franca and as an international language in computer-mediated communication; Translation Studies; transmedial and multimodal communication; constructive journalism; Digital Humanities.

Yamila Martínez Pandiani

Yamila Martínez Pandiani is a doctoral student in Literature and a scholarship holder at the University of Buenos Aires, under the direction of Dr. Marcela Croce (UBA) and the co-direction of Margherita Cannavacciuolo. She is a member of the UBACyT research project "Creation and promotion of an object: criticism of Latin American literature in the 20th century" (2020-2024) based at the Interdisciplinary Institute of Latin American Studies (INDEAL). She has carried out research stays on modernism in Latin America. She is currently dedicated to the comparative study of the "literatures of the self" between the 19th and 20th centuries.

Sara Jamal Mohammed Faraj

Sara Jamal M. holds a BA in English Language from the College of Basic Education, Department of English Language, University of Sulaimaniyah, where she also worked as a research assistant for several years. She completed her MA in English Language and Linguistics at the University of Leicester, UK. After taking courses in teaching methods, she joined the English Department, Faculty of Education, at Koya University. In addition to teaching, she is currently pursuing a PhD in Applied Linguistics at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. Sara is also qualified to work as a legal translator with a legal permit.

Daphne Orlandi

Daphne Orlandi has recently completed her PhD at Sapienza–University of Rome, in cotutelle with the Technische Universität Dortmund, and is currently a Research Associate at the University of Catania. In her doctoral thesis, she argued for a radical rethinking of Emerson as a literary globalist and demonstrated how he sketched a "permanent" canon of texts that embodied global ideals and could resonate with everyone at all points in history. Her main fields of interest include 19th century American literature, world literature, and women's writing. She is especially interested in Transatlantic Studies, Transcendentalism as a social force, and in the origins and further developments of feminist theory in the US/UK.

Carlos Rocha Ochoa

Carlos O. Rocha Ochoa is currently a research and teaching associate (PhD candidate) at the Institute of Romance Languages at the Vienna University of Economics and Business. He holds degrees in social science (BA, University of Guadalajara), applied linguistics (MA, Korea University), and Scandinavian philology (MA, University of Iceland). He has received training in translation and terminology in Granada, Lisbon, and Mainz, and has amassed over fifteen years of experience as a translator from English, German, and Scandinavian languages into Spanish. His interests include lexicography, terminology, dialectology, pragmatics, translation, and digital humanities.

Jaya Sharma

Jaya Sharma is a research scholar at Jawaharlal Nehru University, India, currently pursuing a PhD in German Studies. Her research interests include Comparative Studies, Ecocriticism, Didactics, and both German and Hindi literature. For the past two years, she has been teaching the Cultural and Social History of German-Speaking Countries at JNU. She has successfully presented her research at various international conferences and has two forthcoming publications on Ecocriticism in contemporary German and Hindi literature.

Lara Righi

Lara Righi is a first-year PhD student in Foreign Languages and Literatures at the University of Verona, where she works as a Russian language academic tutor and she is member of the Project of Excellence Rappresentazioni dell'alterità, della diversità e della marginalità nelle letterature europee e extraeuropee contemporanee. She participated in international conferences on contemporary Russian literature. Her research project focuses on the reception of nostalgia for the Soviet Union in three genres of 21st-century Russian literature (historical novel, autofiction, and dystopia). Her research interests concern post-Soviet literature in relation to trauma studies, memory studies, Postmodernism, and postcolonial studies.

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