HEDGING PATTERNS USE AS MITIGATION AND POLITENESS STRATEGIES

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Abstract:
Hedging has received much attention in recent years in relation to conversational rules and social conventions as it is the main strategy used to facilitate turn-taking, show politeness and mitigate face-threats. For linguists, hedging has aroused interest and curiosity because it is a means of conveying vagueness purposely. Hedging is used by speakers and writers to convey certainty or doubt towards a statement and to show the degree of confidence they assign to their claim. By using hedges, writers allow their readers to evaluate the truth value of the assertion. Politeness and hedging have become forms of encoding verbal and non-verbal behaviour with the purpose of saving face, thus playing a crucial role in social interaction strategies. Hedging represents a crucial aspect in the study of language as the appropriate use of hedges reflects a high degree of efficiency in social interaction by demonstrating the ability to express degrees of certainty and mastering rhetorical strategies required in conversational circumstances. In this paper, we seek to investigate and compare the main hedging strategies in English and Romanian and the social and communicational roles they fulfill.

Keywords: hedging, mitigation, politeness, face, certainty, doubt, vagueness.

MUSEUMS AS LEARNING SPACES

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Abstract:
This article focuses on the educational role of museums, many of which function today not only as places of display of collections and thematic exhibitions, but also as research laboratories for future scholars, very often in a direct partnership with prestigious universities. At the same time, through various programmes designed in partnership with the local administration, but also with independent bodies, museums play an important role in the community’s efforts of
social integration of various disfavoured groups, by enabling them to participate in cultural activities, not only as members of the audience, but also as creators.

**Keywords:** museums, educational platform, cultural activities, cultural policy, audience participation.

**NEGOTIATING ATTITUDES WITHIN SYSTEMIC FUNCTIONAL FRAMEWORK**

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**Abstract:**  
Within systemic functional linguistics, negotiation is concerned with MOOD system which is interpreted from a discourse perspective as a resource for negotiating meaning in dialogue. The MOOD system negotiates information and attitudes. In this paper we will analyze the negotiation of attitudes that have to do with evaluating things (affect), people’s character (judgement) and their feelings (appreciation). In the first part we will look more closely at these three types of attitudes. In the second part we will discuss the amplification of attitudes.  
**Keywords:** negotiation, attitude, appraisal, MOOD system.

**TRANSLATING THE FRENCH IMPARFAIT INTO ENGLISH: LOSSES AND GAINS**

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**Abstract:**  
In the present paper I attempt to illustrate that the French *imparfait* and the English simple past, far from standing in contrast to one another as is generally claimed, in fact share many common features in terms of complexity, polysemy and ambivalence. Consequently, translators tend to erroneously associate the past progressive with the French *imparfait* only because they both express durativity. Actually, the French *imparfait* is semantically more complex than the English past progressive, as it has three possible meanings: imperfective (ongoing action in the past with out-of-focus endpoints), iterative (habitual events as well as repeated events), and durative (states of being). For our contrastive analysis, we will use as corpora the texts *Vingt mille lieues sous les mers* by Jules Vernes and *Sodome et Gomorrhe* by Marcel Proust with their English translations.
Keywords: aspectual values, imparfait, simple past, past progressive, translation.

LINGUISTIC AMBIGUITIES IN CONTRAST – A SOURCE OF SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND LEGAL CONFLICTS

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Abstract:
During the last two decades legal English has been increasingly used in international trade legislation and policy making, demanding ordinary citizens a higher level of institutional literacy and thus causing a speaker of another language than English to choose English as the language of communication and publication. Considering that the primary functions of law are the ordering of human relations and the restoration of social order, we would then question how far nowadays official drafted or translated documents contain linguistic ambiguities, which could consequently lead to different social and legal disagreements. By investigating typical characteristics of contracts’ language the present paper focuses on the occurrence of linguistic ambiguities within this domain. We thus aim at researching various theoretical approaches regarding linguistic ambiguities, how ambiguities are defined and how such linguistic conditions occur. Furthermore we attempt to provide a grammatical classification of linguistic ambiguities from various perspectives. Based on a corpus analysis, we propose a qualitative and a quantitative analysis of the data, attempting to estimate which words, sentences or phrases are possibly ambiguous and which type of ambiguity is the most dominant in contracts. Furthermore, we will attempt to propose reliable solutions in avoiding linguistic ambiguities, and thus future conflicts.

Keywords: legal English, contracts’ language, linguistic ambiguities, lexical density, grammatical metaphor

CONVERSATION VS. DISCUSSION AS INSTANCES OF DIALOGIC COMMUNICATION

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Abstract:
Considering the universals defining conversational activity, conversation appears as the prototype of dialogic discourse. It is the superordinate level, both structurally and interactionally. Apparently, to average users there is perfect
synonymy between conversation and discussion as discourse forms, but they are
differentiated by a series of features which are inherent to them (structure, content)
or dependent on the situation of communication (speech event, scene) and on the
interlocutors (purpose). Conversation appears in various orders of discourse and
speech events, being associated to a multitude of social institutions. It can enter
various relations with other discourse types, performing an on- or off-stage role, but
being based on dialogue history or local linguistic context. It is interesting to
analyse to what extent the corresponding terms in English and Romanian designate
concepts which are defined by the same attributes.

Keywords: conversation, discussion, speech event, social institutions, on/off-
stage role, dialogue history.

SPANGLISH, AN EFFECT OF GLOBALIZATION (I)

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Abstract:
Spanglish is a complex phenomenon, involving both loanwords and code-
switching. With English having become the lexically dominant language of
globalization, it has become very important to study how Anglicisms have been
adapted to the system of the Spanish language in terms of both phonetics and
morphology.

Keywords: Spanglish, globalization, Anglicism, loanwords, lexicology.

INVESTIGATING THROUGH TRANSLATION AND RECOGNIZED
TRANSLATION IN THE ROMANIAN TRANSLATIONS OF EU
LEGISLATION. A BILINGUAL CORPUS-BASED ANALYSIS

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Abstract:
The present paper attempts to analyze the cases in which two translation
procedures, through translation (calque) and recognized translation, are used in the
official Romanian translations of the English EU legal documents. On the basis of
bilingual English-Romanian examples, through translation is discussed with regard
to specialized collocations and phrases, as well as to acronyms and initialisms,
whereas recognized translation is investigated in terms of various names of
institutions, organizations and other international designations. These two
translation procedures are also subject to a quantitative analysis establishing their
NEGOTIATING A COMMON SYNTACTIC APPROACH: COMPARATIVE AND DEGREE RELATIVE CLAUSES

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Abstract:
This paper aims at finding a syntactic approach that would accommodate the derivation of some comparative constructions and degree relative clauses in Romanian. In the first part of the paper, we examine the main proposals in Carlson (1977), Heim (1987) and Grosu&Landman (1998), giving an overview of the main syntactic derivations proposed in the literature for the analysis of relative clauses: head raising vs. matching. In the second part, we analyse some Romanian comparative clauses with a possible amount interpretation and compare them with the degree relative clauses analysed in the first part. The unified syntactic approach refers to adopting the head-matching analysis combined with DegP raising that would better explain their syntactic properties.

Keywords: degree relative clauses, comparative constructions, degree phrase (DegP) raising, matching.

SEMANTIC RELATIONS WITHIN MEDICAL TERMS: HYPERONYMY, HYPONYMY

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Abstract:
Our paper focuses on the most frequent semantic relation within medical terminology, namely hyponymy. Its existence is determined on the basis of hierarchical ordering principle of terms depending on their semantic content – assigning a term that designates a specific, precise notion with another term which designates a more general notion in relation to the first, but it is subsumed to the same class. Hyponymy relations are very often encountered in specialized vocabulary because they represent a hierarchical lexical ordering of concepts. Medical terminology is a rigorously organized assembly based on hypo-
hyperonymic relations in which medical terms are listed in very well defined hierarchical systems. In our analysis we have observed monolexical hyponyms but also syntagmatic constructions contributing to highly precise definitions of certain diseases, disorders, symptoms. Thus, medical terms are classified according to their domains (medicină), subdomains (dermatologie), classes (boală de piele) into: hyperonyms, hyponyms, co-hyponyms (acarioză, acnee, alopecie).

Keywords: semantic, hyponyms, hyperonyms, co-hyponyms, medical terms.

RAISING CULTURAL AWARENESS THROUGH METAPHORICAL THINKING. A CONTRASTIVE LEXICOGRAPHIC STUDY ON ENGLISH AND ROMANIAN METAPHORICAL CONCEPTUALISATIONS IN THE COGNITIVE DOMAIN OF HAND

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Abstract:
Thinking metaphorically means building bridges across domains, across cultures, finding the convergent aspects of different cultural systems. Cultural awareness through metaphorical competence can play an important role in the process of teaching and learning a foreign language. All aspects of idiomaticity present a high degree of difficulty in teaching-learning process; that is why some teaching strategies which rely on the metaphorical basis of these fixed expressions could help learners with the acquisition of idioms and would also make learning more enjoyable. Our study attempts to prove that even many figurative idiomatic structures are specific for each language; the conceptual framework which motivates them is generally common. The paper analyses from a cognitive perspective a series of English and Romanian idioms belonging to the conceptual domain of hand. The study applied to a lexicographic corpus is based on the cognitive hypothesis according to which idioms are motivated by metaphorical conceptual structures. Examining idioms across languages helps us to understand the way people think and gives us invaluable insights into human psychology.

Keywords: intercultural awareness; metaphorical thinking; idiom; cognitive domain; cross-cultural conceptual motivation; conceptual metaphors.
KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT, PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE AND QUALITY ASSURANCE IN TRANSLATION

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Abstract:
The paper focuses on framing a multidimensional model of translation competence. Several definitions and approaches of competence – behaviourist, generic, cognitive and functional - are advanced so as to achieve a feasible and viable framework applicable to the translation profession, thus securing its status, and implicitly, the translator’s, in the new millennium. A host of definitions and checklists are critically examined in an attempt to derive a common core of significance and raise awareness of the complex profile of the translator’s competence while also positioning ourselves in relation to mainstream literature and translation practices. The paper may be considered an open question about the (competent) translator of the future as well as about the future of the (competent) translator.

Keywords: competence, quality assurance, translation practices.

INDIA – KASHMIRA: THE CASE STUDY OF A NOMAD WOMAN’S SELF DISCOVERY JOURNEY IN CONFLICTING CULTURES

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Abstract:
India Kashmira is a key character in Salman Rushdie’s Shalimar the Clown, his third novel dealing with the process of globalization from the political, cultural and historical points of view. She is the feminine hybrid of several conflicting cultures: Kashmir on her biological mother’s side, Europe / America on her father’s side and British on her adoptive mother’s side. According to a concept developed by Deleuze and Guattari, she is no longer a migrant, but a nomad who, as Rushdie himself affirms, “finds out who she really is and what happened in her life” after a self-discovery journey which keeps her moving from West to East and back in order to recuperate her history. She finally realizes that her place is in a site of multiculturalism. Her trails may leave the readers opened to the idea that both ethnic and political conflicts are possible to be reconciled in the age of globalization.

Keywords: globalization, conflict, reconciliation, woman nomad, self-discovery
CONFLICT INTEGRATION AND LINGUISTIC RECONCILIATION: AN NLP APPROACH TO NEGOTIATING STRATEGIES

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Abstract:
Within any type of business negotiation, a well-defined strategy always aims for a positive outcome reflecting our beliefs and values in a specific context. When we struggle with our outcomes, almost always there is some hidden inner conflict that needs resolution. In Neuro-Linguistic Programming (NLP), a fascinating new research field, the two aspects of ourself, also known as conflicting parts or the “two minds” on an issue, often reveal different intentions and function independently. The present paper aims at analyzing ways of how to address and resolve conflicts occurring both internally and interpersonally. Linguistically, a parts conflict is expressed through the words we use. Phrases like “the weight of my argument,” “a part of me agrees with you,” or “I feel torn about this” show that a negotiation is framed as a search for a solution. The paper will also explore the contribution of NLP to business negotiations by means of the techniques of matching-pacing-leading. The attempt to reach agreements with others often brings up issues related to hierarchies of criteria, behaviour, values, beliefs, or representational systems. Parallel to these strategies, we shall attempt to study ways of identifying “meta outcomes” that will generate solutions to satisfy the needs of all the parts involved to some degree in the negotiation.

Keywords: business negotiations, conflicting parts, linguistic cues, meta outcomes, NLP.