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What is happening to rhyming slang?: A lexicographer's perspective

Much slang is short-lived and subject to the vagaries of fashion, but some of the processes underlying its creation may have a lasting effect on the language at large. One such is rhyming slang (RS), a word-formation process whereby a lexeme – typically a multi-word expression – is used as a substitute for another lexeme it rhymes with. On this simple yet rather uneconomical principle, a person may be described as having beautiful *mince pies*, lovely *Barnet Fair* and nice *bacon and eggs*, even though their *I suppose* may be a bit on the large side. It is not hard to see why Wright once referred to this slang as 'a form of verbal indigestion' (Wright 1981, 95), an extreme oddity indeed in a subset of the lexicon where brevity and abbreviation reign supreme.

For all that RS has been part of the English language for nearly two centuries, some reports have it that it is now dead or nearly so. A 2012 study of two thousand Londoners commissioned by the Museum of London found that many people were absolutely baffled by it, finding it increasingly incomprehensible in a huge multicultural city where a babel of languages are spoken. Today, over a decade later, this slang may be dead (and thus totally unproductive) or perhaps undergoing something of a recession. Drawing on the author's previously published work (Lillo and Victor, 2017) and an extensive range of recently collected material, the study presented here examines the inner workings of RS and shows how its current level of growth, if any, can be measured. What has been said about the current state of this slang is sheer speculation, and only lexicographic research can reveal what is really happening.

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**Research Interests, Trends and Priorities in Translation Studies.
An Overview from Romantic Translation Studies to Doing Advanced Research**

This presentation provides an overview of the key trends and directions in global translation studies (TS) as observed historically and from a variety of sources (Aixelá, 2001-2022; Williams & Chesterman, 2002; TSB, 2022; Vandepitte, 2008). It highlights the opportunities that the digital era brings to TS research, particularly focusing on doctoral studies and their contribution to the field. A notable case study involves a detailed analysis of 220 translation-based PhD theses defended in Romania between 1993 and 2021 (Dejica, Pungă, Badea & Vîlceanu, 2022). This needs-analysis approach underscores the vital role of TS research in the digital landscape and provides valuable insights for young researchers, doctoral schools, and research centers. It enables them to make informed, strategic decisions about establishing and prioritizing TS research directions, thereby contributing to the field's growth both nationally and across Europe.

Keywords: PhD research in translation, translation and digitalization, research priorities in the digital era, European Research Area

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Presentations

Language Acquisition

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Differential object marking in heritage Romanian in contact with Dutch

This study investigates DOM use by child heritage speakers (CHSs) of Romanian in contact with Dutch (a non-overt DOM language). DOM use is examined in 16 “frog story” narratives told by balanced simultaneous CHSs (age range 06;00–13;01, mean age 09;03) living in the Netherlands. DOM use by CHSs is compared to DOM use by 10 Romanian first-generation immigrants and 16 age-matched monolinguals.

Romanian displays two marking strategies: single *pe*; and clitic doubling (CD). DOM use is discourse constrained and requires syntax-pragmatics integration. Single *pe* signals event prominence, while CD signals discourse-linked topicality. Some studies revealed that DOM is underused in bilingual settings (heritage language acquisition included).

The current results show that CHSs used DOM (both single *pe* and CD) at a rate of 23% ($n = 15/65$), significantly less than age-matched monolinguals (46%, $n = 46/101$) and first-generation immigrants (43%, $n = 27/62$), as indicated by a chi-square test ($\chi^2(1) = 7.64$; $p = .005$). Additionally, CHSs used CD (67% $n = 10/15$) significantly less than age-matched monolinguals (95%, $n = 44/46$). The results are in line with those reported in previous studies on heritage Romanian and are accounted for in terms of the syntax-pragmatics discourse interface nature of DOM.

Maria-Cristina Lica, University of Bucharest, Romania (maria.lica@s.unibuc.ro)

On Negation and Disjunction in L2 English in an L1 Romanian Context

This study investigates how Romanian-speaking learners of L2 English interpret disjunction in negative sentences, focusing on whether they exhibit L1 transfer effects from Romanian or successfully acquire the English pattern. While English and Romanian are traditionally considered to fall in the same category according to the Disjunction Parameter (Szabolcsi 2002), favouring the conjunctive interpretation (-PPI value), recent research (Lungu et al. 2021) suggests that Romanian speakers prefer the disjunctive reading (+PPI value). Through three experimental studies, this paper investigates: (i) how English speakers interpret disjunction in negative sentences, (ii) how Romanian speakers interpret it, and (iii) if there are differences, how Romanian-speaking learners of L2 English interpret it. Results show that there are differences between the preferred interpretation of disjunction in negative sentences in English and Romanian. The third study further finds evidence of L1 transfer among L2 learners supporting the Full Transfer Full Access Hypothesis (Schwartz & Sprouse 1996), indicating that while L1 transfer initially influences L2 acquisition, learners can ultimately reset parameter values based on L2 input.

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Accent Attitude and Accent Acquisition: A Focus on English and French in the Romanian Context

My research explores the relationship between language attitudes and the acquisition of second and third language phonology among Romanian learners of English and French. The study aims to understand how attitudes towards specific language variety accents influence phonological acquisition, considering the sociocultural factors that shape these attitudes and their impact on learners' motivation and engagement. The data collection methods will include a phonology acquisition test and an attitude questionnaire. The phonology test will involve reading a word list and conducting a self-interview to assess the realisation of key phonemes and allophones that contribute to the identification of the accent that respondents are closest to. The attitude questionnaire will use the verbal guise technique to evaluate respondents' attitudes towards different accents. I predict most participants will not display an attitude-behaviour discrepancy, showing at least partial phoneme acquisition of the preferred accent(s). Some may mix accents if no clear preference exists. Discrepancies between attitude and acquisition may result from social pressure, low self-confidence, limited phonology instruction, or motivation, especially instrumental or stemming from language ego permeability. This research contributes to the understanding of how language attitudes affect phonological acquisition and provides insights into the sociocultural dynamics influencing language acquisition in Romania.

Language Teaching and Language Learning

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Dictionaries still in Use? On the Applicability of Dictionaries in Language Learning

The paper presents the results of a short question sheet filled in by upper intermediate to advanced (B2-C1 CEFR) learners of English, students at Sapientia University, M-Ciuc. The questionnaire is a follow up on a specific task, whereby participants use and evaluate three electronic dictionaries the Merriam-Webster dictionary, Oxford Learner's Dictionaries and bab. la (British and American monolingual dictionaries and a bilingual database), in addition to a dictionary/application of their own choice. Following the completion of the questionnaire students exchange their ideas on dictionary use (including their own dictionary use), the challenges of online dictionaries vs. printed dictionaries and also the usefulness of dictionaries (both printed and electronic) in the light of the advancements in AI tools.

Alain Wolf, University of East Anglia, the UK (a.wolf@uea.ac.uk)

Does Jane Austen Matter?: Foreign Language Students' Perspectives to Literature Teaching

This study aims to examine foreign language students' perspectives to literature teaching in the context of higher education. The research, conducted in a Romanian University, drew inspiration from decentred qualitative methodology (Holliday, 2011). Based on a distinction made by linguists between that which is explicitly said and that which is left implicit, the study provides an account of some characteristics of literary

language, e.g. recovery of inferences based on the literary and historical context. The analysis of data was informed by transcribed audio recordings of semi-structured interviews. The findings show that students perceived literature teaching as beneficial, enhancing their pleasure of the text and their understanding of cultural and historical contexts and co-texts. They identified the following characteristics of literary texts as beneficial to their learning: the enrichment of lexis and the historical/literary context, the identification with characters leading to the use of collocations and creative writing.

Language Studies

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The illocutionary complementizer *că* in Romanian

This paper discusses the properties of illocutionary *că* in colloquial adult Romanian, by comparison with other Romance languages. It shows that two types of *că* can be distinguished: subordinating *că*, which introduces complement and adjunct clauses, and illocutionary *că*, which serves as a connector of speech acts, and an enhancer of conversational flow. It is shown that the two types have distinct properties which justify their location in different syntactic positions. It is argued that illocutionary *că* is part of the highest layer of the sentence, namely the speech act layer (Hill 2010), while subordinating *că* is placed in the C-domain.

Marius Vasilca, University of Bucharest, Romania (marius.vasilca@s.unibuc.ro)

The Syntax of the Russian motion-verb system

This study focuses on the motion-verb system in a Slavic language, namely Russian. It discusses the lexical elements that combine to express motion events. Talmy (1985, 2000) introduces a two-class typology based on how a language encodes Path of motion; he distinguishes between Satellite-framed languages (Path conveyed by a satellite: a preposition, a particle, a prefix), and Verb-framed languages (the verb itself encodes Path). In this typology, Russian is a Satellite-framed language. The paper aims to analyze the various syntactic patterns which emerge from the combination of the lexical tools available in the language. In order to have a clear perspective over the acquisition and usage of motion verbs in Russian, a corpus of narratives will be analyzed. The syntactic patterns used will be isolated and analyzed in terms of frequency. Thus, we will have a comprehensive view of language acquisition and development regarding the expression of motion, exploring the intricate relations between lexical items, syntactic structures and age-related changes. The current paper is part of work in progress, a thesis which investigates the syntax and the acquisition of motion verbs in English, Russian, and Romanian.

Sociolinguistics

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Feminine role nouns: A focus on Romanian and English

The aim of this paper is to shed light over the influence of gender stereotypes and the role played by the prestige of particular professions in the evaluation of role nouns, taking into consideration two languages which differ in their encoding of gender – English (a semantic gender language) and Romanian (a grammatical gender language). Four experimental studies were developed. The first study was conducted in English and targets the use of personal pronouns when used as anaphoric pronouns for role nouns. The second and the fourth studies are translation tasks from English to Romanian. The third study is a multiple-choice task designed in Romanian, in which participants had to choose between the feminine and the masculine form of the nouns. Twelve role nouns were used across these experimental studies: 4 stereotypically feminine nouns: nurse, secretary, cashier, tailor; 4 stereotypically masculine nouns: politician, minister, president, lawyer; 4 stereotypically neutral nouns: vet, reporter, swimmer, employee. The results confirm our main hypotheses: 1. gender stereotypes play a crucial part in evaluating role nouns; 2. the masculine form is used for more prestigious professions, while the feminine form is primarily used for stereotypically feminine, less prestigious role nouns.

Victor Octavian Ionescu, University of Bucharest, Romania (victorionescu99@gmail.com)

The voiceless consonantal stops /p/, /t/, and /k/ in code-switched and non-code-switched contexts. A study on Romanian and English

The present study constitutes a sociophonetic analysis of the variation that occurs in the realizations of the voiceless consonantal stops /p/, /t/, and /k/ by Romanian-English bilingual speakers, in both monolingual/non-switched and bilingual/code-switched language contexts. The central issue of our research is whether or not there exists phonetic transfer of the suprasegmental feature [+aspiration], measurable through VOT values, from one language to the other when bilingual speakers of Romanian (as their L1) and English (as their L2) produce code-switched sentences, irrespective of the direction of the switch. A secondary issue is whether or not the phonetic transfer in question occurs in monolingual language contexts as well (be they monolingual Romanian or monolingual English contexts), and is thus not limited to instances of code-switching exclusively. The analysis of the VOT values of the speech productions recorded from our bilingual participants, which were extracted using the computer program Praat (v. 6.3.09), shows that code-switching affects the productions of /p/, /t/, and /k/, with the [+aspiration] feature being transferred from English (L2) to Romanian (L1) in code-switched sentences, and that, in monolingual language contexts, we may also see a transfer of this feature occurring from one language to another.

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Accents and the Supernatural: Code-switching in the TV Miniseries "The Fall of the House of Usher" (2023)

"The Fall of the House of Usher" (2023) is an American gothic horror drama TV miniseries, which tells the story about a wealthy family haunted by a mysterious stranger called Verna. Verna is a shape-shifter who assumes a different identity before meeting each of the Usher heirs prior to their deaths. Verna not only alters her physical appearance, but she also puts on various accents, which ultimately adds richness to her transformations. What also stands out is that Verna seems to speak with one particular accent whenever she is not in disguise. This presentation will therefore look closely into an important scene from Episode 5 ("The Tell-Tale Heart") where Verna, who has assumed the identity of a patient named Pamela Clemm, is speaking with Victorine LaFourcade, a researcher and one of Roderick Usher's illegitimate children. I intend to see why Verna code-switches from the accent that she is using as Pamela Clemm to the accent that she normally speaks with whenever she is not in disguise. I will also be taking into account the role of color in this scene and what it could potentially symbolize.

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From *Hamlet* to *15-Minute Hamlet*: Genre Shift through Language Manipulation

While Shakespeare's plays have been adapted and interpreted for many years now, and are being reshaped and refashioned as we speak, it is Tom Stoppard's *15-Minute Hamlet* that will be the focus of this study. This particular retake on Shakespeare's *Hamlet* calls for attention since it is an open display of drastic linguistic and idealistic change. We look into how the original tragedy turns into a parodic comedy, and how this genre switch is achieved by language manipulation, especially through lexical choice, syntactic compression and humorous hints, all of which contributing to subverting the original tragedy.

Translation and Lexicography

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On Machine Translation and the Encoding of Motion Events

Taking as its starting point the idea that machine translation has become the tool of choice for most internet users, this presentation aims to assess its accuracy by investigating how several translation engines (Google Translate, DeepL Translator, Microsoft Translator, ChatGPT) handle the rendering of motion events from English into Romanian and from Romanian into English. To this purpose, several types of events denoting both located and directed motion are decomposed into their semantic and syntactic components (Motion, Path, Manner, Location; verbs of manner of motion and inherently directed motion, Path-Manner verbs, directional and locative PPs) and their machine-translated versions are then analyzed and, where available, contrasted with variants produced by professional translators. Overall, the investigation will reveal that accuracy depends on the degree of complexity of the motion pattern and is directly influenced by the typological differences

between Germanic and Romance languages which Talmy (1985, 2000) analyzes in terms of distinct lexicalization patterns.

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A translation-oriented approach to onomastic terminology and phraseology

Motivated by a keen interest in both theoretical and practical onomastic studies, we engaged in some lexicographic projects that spanned across more than ten years and resulted in the publication of two bilingual dictionaries of onomastic terminology and onomastic phraseology.

The research material for the dictionary of onomastic terms was initially compiled out of the practical need to use both Anglo-Saxon and Romanian onomastic terminologies for crosslinguistic studies. The explanatory dictionary of onomastic phrasemes features 748 entries with delineated specifications which provide information about each name entry (etymology and reference to the historic landscape of the name, phraseme/s, origin and meaning and Romanian version/s).

Given the bilingual format of the dictionaries, the main challenges that we encountered were caused by the fact that terminologies and phrasemes differ across languages, which makes it difficult to render idiomatic meanings and to provide exact equivalents, descriptions and illustrative examples to terms found in either English or Romanian. Our paper enlarges on the translation solutions that we proposed in order to cope with these challenges and justifies the organisation of the lexicographic material.

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Translating Syntactic Structures of Autistic Characters in Children's Literature

Children's literature in the 21st century has been increasingly featuring more diverse characters, including ones with disabilities. Since the early 2000s, there has been a rise of autistic protagonists in children's literature: no longer playing second fiddle to the neurotypical main character, i.e. what is considered the norm of cognitive functions and development. Readers have now direct access to the voices and thoughts of these neurodivergent protagonists: "From the beginning, it has been widely agreed that autistic people use language in unusual ways. From mutism to metaphor, from abstraction to repetition, syntax, word choice, inversion, precision, neologism, and formulaic use of words, autistic language is startling, inventive, challenging, irregular." (Rodas 2018) Novels written in English have been at the forefront of autistic representation in children's literature, underlining the decisive part translation plays in enhancing autistic representation in other languages. How can we translate these new voices without erasing their specificities? How can the target text do what the source text did to the source language? Using a selected corpus of English fiction translated into Romanian, I will highlight solutions found by the translators to navigate the tension between domestication and (autistic) foreignization (Venuti) that arises from translating neurodivergent characters.

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Direct, indirect and cultural strategies in "El heredero del rey" and its Romanian counterpart, "Moștenitorul coroanei"

For this paper, I will look at the direct, indirect and cultural translation strategies employed for the rendering into Romanian of the phraseological units present in the Spanish folktale, called "El heredero del rey". The Spanish text was translated by Ileana Scipione in 2009 and published with Siruela publishing house in 2006, in an anthology of Spanish folktales.

The translation procedures applied for the phraseological units in the corpus chosen are the ones described by Jean-Paul Vinay and Jean Darbelnet in their already classic by now *Stylistique comparée du français et de l'anglais - Comparative Stylistics of French and English* (1958/1995). For the cultural part, the strategies proposed by Franco Aixela will be taken into account.

The conclusions will include the confirmation/denial of my working hypothesis according to which direct strategies prevail in the translation from Spanish into Romanian, both being languages of Latin origin, but will also touch upon the effects of these techniques on the reader.

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Labelling Humour in English-Romanian Bilingual Dictionaries

The aim of this paper is to build and analyse an inventory of lexemes marked as humorous in two of the largest English-Romanian bilingual dictionaries on paper. It will highlight the types of labels used to signal humour, as well as the types of lexemes, both words and phrases, to which these labels were applied, while also drawing attention to the difficulties that dictionary users might experience in interpreting the labeling system when two languages are present, and how this may affect its usefulness. Moreover, the results of this investigation will be compared to the ones obtained following a previous examination of humour marking in English monolingual dictionaries, in order to determine to what extent the lexicographic treatment of humour overlaps in the two resources.