

LANGUAGE, LITERATURE AND OTHER IMPORTANT ISSUES

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Abstract. *The article presents an overview of twenty-one thematic proceedings from the international conferences with the general title **Language, Literature, ...** where the third segment in the title is changed every year and covers a scientifically relevant and challenging notion. All the volumes are devoted to the language and literature studies, in relation to one of the relevant social and scientific phenomena significant for humanities and social sciences, such as politics, globalization, identity, changes, communication, values, marginalization, discourse, meaning, time, space, theory and context.*

Key words: *21 thematic volumes, language and literature studies, interdisciplinary, annual*

1. INTRODUCTION

A series of thematic volumes of papers presented at international conferences with the general title **Language, Literature, ...**, and the third segment in the title that is changed every year to cover some scientifically relevant and challenging notion, is one of the most recognizable publications of the Department of English. From the first one, in 2007, to the most recent one in 2020, many researchers from Serbia, the region and abroad, devoted to the study of language and literature, contributed their papers in relation to one of the relevant social and scientific phenomena significant for humanities and social sciences.

The very concept of these thematic volumes makes them open not only for all philological disciplines and various languages and literatures, but also for the related social sciences and humanities, promoting multidisciplinary, closely connected with interdisciplinarity, in order to maintain the contact and dialogue among disciplines, which probes more deeply into some essential questions. The articles in the volumes are carefully grouped into thematic segments, and each volume contains an introductory review article that introduces the specific topic of

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each volume. The articles themselves always reflect the most varied responses to the broadly understood conference topic, in the theoretical, methodological and thematic sense.

2. LANGUAGE, LITERATURE, POLITICS (2007)

The first conference and the first in the series of thematic volumes (Lopičić and Mišić Ilić 2007) was devoted to politics. In his Nobel Prize speech, Harold Pinter (2005) considered it important to address the topics of art, truth and politics. Criticizing the politics of world powers, he pointed to the frequently present language manipulation, which dulls human intelligence and critical thinking. He said: "I believe that despite the enormous odds which exist, unflinching, unswerving, fierce intellectual determination, as citizens, to define the real truth of our lives and our societies is a crucial obligation which devolves upon us all." This heated speech, whose final aim is to encourage us to think about human dignity, reminds us of the unbreakable connectedness between language, literature and politics, in all combinations of these terms.

Adhering to the thematic specificity, the 40 articles in this volume are grouped into four segments. The first one, *Language and politics*, includes articles that deal with various aspects of language and politics in the theoretical frameworks of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), sociolinguistics, and the media and communication theory. The second segment, *Language and literature*, includes articles that directly address the issue of the essential connectedness of language and literature in the context of contemporary events in the spheres of politics and cultural politics. The third segment, *The politics of foreign language teaching*, is devoted to the topic that is always relevant for the professors and researchers at faculties of arts and languages. Here, it is addressed from the novel perspective of politics, language politics and foreign/second language teaching policies. The fourth segment, *Language and identity*, contains four articles that most directly deal with the issue of the relationship between language and identity.

3. LANGUAGE, LITERATURE, GLOBALIZATION (2008)

Globalization, as the topic of the second conference and the second thematic volume (Lopičić and Mišić Ilić 2008), was chosen as particularly relevant, both at that time and now. Since we live in the globalization era, the conference set out to explore how it is reflected first in language, then in literature, and finally in all other spheres of life. Harsh economic globalization based on the exploitation of natural resources, labour force, and national economies, for many may look more acceptable if it is represented as the globalization of culture. Lauren Movius (2010) challenges this idea: "Cultural globalisation refers to 'the emergence of a specific set of values and beliefs that are largely shared around the planet' (Castells 2009:117). The source of most global informational flows is mass media. Traditionally this entails a flow of information in a single direction, a dispersion from one to many. Throughout the developed world the globalisation of media is often argued to be tantamount to the globalisation of culture. Indeed, cultural globalisation is familiar to almost everyone; prominent icons of popular culture, like Coca-Cola and McDonalds, are common examples that can be found 'everywhere'. Looking at global cities where a consistent brand-name consumerism exists, cultural globalisation can appear to act as a

solvent, dissolving cultural differences to create homogeneity across the globe. Is culture becoming increasingly homogenous? For the most part, no.”

The articles published in this volume are thematically grouped into five segments that deal with particular aspects of globalization. The first segment, *The phenomenon of globalization and languages of Europe*, consists of articles that deal with the effects and consequences of globalization on the languages of Europe, with the special focus on Serbian and English. The second segment, *Globalization in various discourses*, includes articles that examine the language of particular discourses in the circumstances when they are affected by globalization processes. The third segment, *Linguistic analyses in the globalization context*, includes several articles which, using different linguistic approaches, deal with particular language phenomena and problems. The fourth segment, entitled *Globalization controversies*, contains six articles that point to the more than evident controversies in the very phenomenon of globalization, from the literary perspective. The final segment is entitled *Literature as the mirror of globalization* and contains thirteen articles that most closely address this particular subtopic.

4. LANGUAGE, LITERATURE, IDENTITY (2009)

The relevance of the issue of identity seems to have never been more important than now, at the beginning of the 21st century, when the general globalization trends combine with the general decline of value systems. Therefore, the third conference and the third thematic volume were devoted to it. Due to the great interest the topic had provoked and many high-quality articles, the thematic volume was published in two parts. Regardless of whether it is a personal, group, ethnic, religious, national, professional or some other identity, it appears that the initial problem is how to define one's identity, which once used to be felt as given, and then, how to sustain and maintain it in a vortex of conflicting views and confusing attitudes. Modern confusing times could also have an opposite effect; this could lead to the strengthening of either individual or collective identity, as it happens when national identity is endangered by force. Numerous studies in various fields have been written in the attempt to examine the phenomenon of identity in all its aspects, with various approaches and original insights.

The volume *Language, Literature, Identity: Literary Explorations* (Lopičić and Mišić Ilić 2009) offers insight into the topic of identity primarily from the literature point of view. Literature essentially deals with identity in a particular social and historical context regardless of genre limitations or the period when a particular literary piece was written. It always exposes human nature to external and internal challenges and searches for the indestructible constant aspects of humanity. Every literary work is a study of identity, even when it deals with androids, monsters, or robots from some fictional future. And since identity is a process of constant formation, literature will continue to follow and register it, despite everything. The articles in this volume are grouped into four thematic sections: *Identity in Serbian literature*, *The issues of diaspora identity*, *Identity in foreign literatures*, and *We and them: interaction of cultures*.

The volume *Language, Literature, Identity: Language Explorations* (Mišić Ilić and Lopičić 2009) groups the articles into two large segments. In the first one, *Language and identity*, the relationship between language and identity is viewed mostly as a sociolinguistic phenomenon, where the authors examine the identity of the language itself, but also various linguistic devices (phonological, lexical) which are used to express someone's individuality

and construct a particular social identity (national, subnational, generational, professional), through a particular use of language as a reflection of identity in various discourses (spoken vernacular, dialects, literature, translation, foreign languages). In the second segment, *Linguistic explorations*, there are articles that deal with the identity from a broad perspective of philology, lexicology, grammar, cognitive linguistics and applied linguistics.

Along with these two volumes with articles both in Serbian and English, there is also the third one, entitled *Identity Issues: Literary and Linguistic Landscapes* (Lopičić and Mišić Ilić 2010b), with highly topical articles, published entirely in English by Cambridge Scholars Publishing.

5. LANGUAGE, LITERATURE, CHANGES (2010)

The guiding idea of the fourth conference and the fourth thematic volume was that in our times of great changes, the only constant is the change itself. Every cultural equation has to include this constant that makes the result of any such equation absurdly uncertain. That is why the fate of our dizzyingly accelerated civilization enterprise is also questionable. What is the goal of the modern man's need to redefine, to make revisions, to deconstruct and reconstruct previous theories, history, morality, and social relationships, to critically consider and re-examine the language and the new media he uses – these are some of the questions that are examined in the two volumes of *Language, Literature, Changes*.

Contemporary theorists are generally in favour of the need to change. In his introduction to the book *Intervention Architecture: Building for Change*, Homi Bhabha (2007) stresses the omnipresent need to change: "We live in the midst of difficult transitions in custom and belief, and complicated translations of value and identity. *Transition* and *translation* are complex states of being that constitute the culture of everyday life in a global world. In a state of transition – or translation – you are caught *ambivalently* between identifying with an *establishing community* of 'origins' and 'traditions', while, *at the same time*, relating to an *empowering community* of revisionary values. 'Establishing' and 'Empowering' are only approximate, unfixed, terms of personal and social reference. I have named them thus, in order to reflect the commonly held view that, for instance, 'tradition' imparts a sense of the continuity of identity, while 'empowerment' is an invitation to experiment with newer self-identifications and emergent experimental beliefs and collective values. This dynamic is as true of diasporic condition as it is of the transformations in the indigenous lives of those who stay at home." Homi Bhabha stresses the omnipresence of changes and their inherent tensions. Customs, beliefs, the view of the world, the system of values, identity, culture – they are all in the ambivalent state in this transition process characterized by transformations; therefore, the permanent tension between the old and the new, tradition and modernity, those who are for and those who are against changes. These phenomena stimulate intellectual curiosity in all scientific disciplines and inspire the critical consideration of the present moment, with a view to the past and the look into the future.

This is the very sentiment of the articles in the volume *Language, Literature, Changes: Literary Explorations* (Lopičić and Mišić Ilić 2010a), which covers the topics in literature, culture studies, sociology, history and neighbouring disciplines. All the articles view and examine various aspects of changes and in a way touch upon literature, either by analysing particular literary works or by following particular stylistic, thematic or genre changes through literary history. The first segment, *Changes in language, literature and culture*, deals with

changes in a broader cultural context. The second segment, *Historical reflections in literature*, contains ten articles that deal with literary works starting from the English late renaissance, then the Romanticism, the Victorian period and the Aestheticism, followed by the American Romanticism and Modernism, to the 19th century Montenegrin travel writings and Romanian poetry of the 2000s. The third segment, *Changes and the problem of national identity*, contains articles that deal with the issue of national identity in five cultures in different historical periods, examining the main elements of national identity such as language, religion and culture, both as mutually interrelated and related to historical circumstances. The final segment, *Mythical and archetypal patterns in literature*, contains articles that analyse the literary works in different genres (fairy tale, folk poetry, ballad, drama, and novel) and demonstrate that mythical patterns, no matter how unrecognizable, continue into the contemporary literature as well.

With regard to language, changes and variations are an inevitable fact. Language itself, both as a formal system and the system of use, carries in itself the seeds of changes, and social and cultural circumstances provide fertile soil for these seeds to develop and spread. It is possible to identify at least three complex factors that constantly affect the changes in language, its use and the attitudes towards language varieties and the study of language. These are the complexity of the social and cultural context where language communication takes place, the contact with other languages and cultures, and, finally, the conflict that may exist between language varieties, between various forms in the language system, the attitudes towards language, and the language users themselves. The articles in the volume *Language, Literature, Changes: Language Explorations* (Mišić Ilić and Lopičić 2010) recognize, explore, analyse and interpret these factors, in the light of various linguistic and related disciplines, and deal with the relationship between changes and language from various angles. Most articles belong to the first segment, *Changes in the language use: public discourse, academic discourse, professional discourse, and language teaching*. Several articles, in the segment *Social and philosophical aspects of the variations in language communication*, deal with sociolinguistic and pragmatic-philosophical aspects of the relationship between language and society, as well as some recent philosophical theories which have language as their focus. The final, large segment, *Changes and variations in the language structure and language system*, comprises the articles of chiefly linguistic orientation, which from the perspective of linguistic disciplines such as lexicology, lexicography, syntax, semantics and phonology examine the identified changes at various levels of the language system, both in Serbian and in several foreign languages.

Along with these two volumes with articles both in Serbian and English, there is also the third one, entitled *Challenging Change: Literary and Linguistic Responses* (Lopičić and Mišić Ilić 2012b), with highly topical articles, published entirely in English by Cambridge Scholars Publishing.

6. LANGUAGE, LITERATURE, COMMUNICATION (2012)

The central topic of the fifth conference and two-part thematic volume was communication as an essential and omnipresent determinant of human communion and almost all forms of human action. It is a permanently relevant phenomenon, which can be illustrated by the words of Confucius, who pointed to the importance of precise communication: "If language is not correct, then what is said is not what is meant; if what

is said is not what is meant, then what must be done remains undone; if this remains undone, morals and art will deteriorate; if justice goes astray, the people will stand about in helpless confusion. Hence there must be no arbitrariness in what is said. This matters above everything.” In accordance with his principles of the importance of individual morality as well as of the morality of the government structures, Confucius starts from the very communication act viewing it as the harmony of thoughts and works in relation to the individual, and then views communication in a practical social context as actions that follow words and the effects of these actions in the spheres of art and morality. Poor communication results in confusion, as he says, which unfortunately is manifested in a myriad of destructive forms through social relationships, in all spheres.

The articles in the volume *Language, Literature, Communication: Language Explorations* (Mišić Ilić and Lopičić 2012) deal with various topics that map the issues of communication and language, language devices, cognition, contemporary society and context in the broadest sense through various (applied) linguistic and related disciplines. Such a diversity of topics and approaches influenced the grouping of the articles into five segments. The first segment, *Theoretical aspects of language communication studies*, brings some of the philosophical, sociological and psychological theories and theoretical constructs relevant for the examining of certain general aspects of human language communication. The second segment, *Communicative value of language devices*, includes articles that deal with minute analyses of particular syntactic and lexical devices and their contribution to language communication. The third segment is devoted to communication and contemporary media, while the fourth one, entitled *Discourse specificities and contextual influences in communication*, is thematically most varied, and the articles deal with communication in particular spheres of public discourse, dialect and sociolect specificities, stylistic and stylogenic specificities, particular social and historical effects and parameters important for language and communication, as well as the forms of non-verbal communication. The final, fifth segment entitled *Communication in practice – foreign language teaching, translation, language for special purposes, bilingualism*, is the largest and contains articles dealing with theoretical and practical questions related to communication in multilingual and multicultural contexts.

The articles in the volume *Language, Literature, Communication: Literary Explorations* (Lopičić and Mišić Ilić 2012a), grouped in four sections, are united by the general question of how to communicate via literature. The first segment is devoted to the theoretical considerations of communication in literature and enables the readers to approach communication from the stance of contemporary theoretical insights. In the second segment, *The reach of communication in literature*, thematically very diverse articles are gathered in order to demonstrate a variety of types of communication in literature. The third segment is entitled *The im/possibility of communication and a literary work*, and several articles in it elaborate communication from the aspects of form, intertextuality, adaptation, truth, trauma, and absence, while the other group of articles is more concerned with communication and identity issues within particular literary works. The final fourth segment, entitled *Literary communication between cultures*, groups the authors who analyse literary works whose focus is the contact and communication between different cultures.

7. LANGUAGE, LITERATURE, VALUES (2013)

In the cynical times of neoliberal capitalism, when due to globalization and global/local politics, both personal and national identities undergo numerous changes, the conference and the thematic volume devoted to values seemed very appropriate. It unified all the previous topics and was logically derived from them (the significance of language and literature and their relationship with the notions of politics, globalization, identity, changes and communication). The guiding idea of the sixth conference and the corresponding thematic volume was the search for values. It aimed at exploring the construction, dissemination, deconstruction and/or questioning of personal, familial, national, class, social, institutional, political, cultural, aesthetic and ethical values from the perspectives of literary and linguistic studies.

It is a fact that values are, principally, expressed by language, that they are in a way 'stored' in language in the meanings of words and their combinations, so the linguistic perspective provided some interesting insights. The articles in the volume *Language, Literature, Values: Language Explorations* (Mišić Ilić and Lopičić 2013) deal with the notion of values understood in a relatively narrow linguistic sense, but also with a more universal, general view of values as something to be strived for not only because it is functional and pragmatically desirable, but also because it is ethically and culturally proper. Combining these two understandings of values and the concept of language as a system, as a cognitive mechanism, as a means of communication, and as discourse in social practice, the authors of the articles in this publication responded to the task in the framework of various linguistics, applied linguistics and related disciplines. The first segment, *Value relations in the language system and the values of the elements of the language system*, deals with values from the perspective of various linguistic disciplines (semantics, lexicology, syntax, phonology, stylistics, discourse analysis), viewing values as functional, formal, normative, stylistic and stylogenic parameters in language. It could be said that the authors of these articles, viewing language as a system, understand values in an almost De Saussurean sense as something that does not exist per se, but is established and determined in the interrelationship with other elements in the system, not only as the opposition but also as interconnectedness and coordination. The second segment, *Language, values, society*, includes articles whose common ground is that they primarily deal with various spheres and aspects of social reality and values in specific social contexts, which can be manifested through language, or are related to language – such as various forms of public discourse (written regulations, political discourse, film), cultural values, and how language, both the foreign one and some special registers of the mother tongue functions as the carrier of or the intermediary between cultural values and value judgements about or related to language, including a group of pedagogically-oriented articles.

The articles in the volume *Language, Literature, Values: Literary Explorations* (Lopičić and Mišić Ilić 2013) cover the topic of values through particular literary works and interpret it in really diverse ways. The first segment includes literary theoretical articles, which introduce several important topics: the problem of women's place in literature, ontological and narratological explorations of values, the relationship between the antiquity and tradition on the one hand and the modernity and avant-garde on the other, the development of the notion of a child and related concepts, immigration in literature, etc. In the second segment, *The East reads the West: the reading of literatures in English*, the authors from Serbia and Romania analyse literatures in English, encompassing a very broad range from

the 15th to the 21st century in the cultures of Great Britain, United States, and Canada. In the third segment, *Interpretation of values through international literature*, the articles deal with values expressed in particular works of Serbian, Japanese, Portuguese, Chinese and Greek literature.

Along with these two volumes with articles both in Serbian and English, there is also the third one, entitled *Values Across Cultures and Times* (Lopičić and Mišić Ilić 2014b), with all the articles in English, published by Cambridge Scholars Publishing.

8. LANGUAGE, LITERATURE, MARGINALIZATION (2013)

After exploring the concept of values in the previous thematic volume, the seventh conference and the corresponding thematic volume focused on the notion of marginalization. In our post-postmodern times, it seems important to address, one more time, the social process of becoming or being relegated to the fringe of society in search of new values that would transcend marginalisation and lead to inclusion and integration. However, the concept of marginalization allowed for a much broader interpretation. The authors explored not only various forms of marginalization (social, political, ethnic, religious, educational, linguistic, economic, intellectual, etc.) from the perspectives of cultural, linguistic and literary studies, but they also found it important to critically examine what is considered central or generally accepted and what marginal in terms of theories, methods and phenomena in linguistic and literary disciplines.

The volume *Language, Literature, Marginalization: Literary Explorations* (Lopičić and Mišić Ilić 2014a) contains three thematic segments. The first one, entitled *Literary theory: from the margins towards the centre of social relevance*, includes the articles focused on examining chiefly the place/crisis of literature in the contemporary society/popular culture, the interrelationship of different literary genres, the influence of literary theories and trends, various marginalized phenomena, as well as the representations of marginalization in literature. The second segment, entitled *Cultures at the margin: literary representations*, is focused primarily on the cultural environment in which a particular literary work is created. The third segment, simply entitled *The marginalization of women and literature*, addresses the permanently relevant topic of the inadequate position of women in European civilization and its manifestations in all periods and epochs. Regardless of whether the adopted approach is a purely theoretical one, or social, political, sociological, genre-related, or some other, a great number of literary works deal with the problem of subordination of women and inspire the authors to address it from their various perspectives.

The articles in the volume *Language, Literature, Marginalization: Language Explorations* (Mišić Ilić and Lopičić 2014) reflect various ways in which the topic of marginalization was examined from the perspective of linguistic disciplines. From the primary, sociological understanding of marginalization and its manifestations in discourse, via what can be considered relatively marginal language phenomena, to the applied linguistics focus on the partly marginalized aspects in foreign language teaching, the authors treated marginalization through various disciplines and theoretical models belonging to the fields of linguistics, sociolinguistics, applied linguistics and related areas. The first segment, entitled *Language marginalization in public discourse and society* contains articles dealing with the phenomenon of marginalization from the language use perspective. How do different social groups, phenomena, ideas, attitudes and behaviours get marginalized in

society through the use, lack of use or abuse of particular language devices, in public discourse and especially in the media? Are there ways to reveal and overcome this? – these are some of the basic questions addressed in this segment from the point of view of various theories such as Critical Discourse Analysis, cognitive linguistics, media theory, sociolinguistics. The second segment, *At the margins of the language system*, brings articles with a narrower linguistic focus. They deal with some aspects of the language system or language use that in a way can be considered marginalized, because they are not often in the focus of the dominant research lines in lexicology, morphology, syntax, stylistics, lexicography, and cognitive linguistics. The third, shortest segment, entitled *(Non)marginal aspects of foreign language teaching* contains articles devoted to this particular area of applied linguistics.

9. LANGUAGE, LITERATURE, DISCOURSE (2015)

In the past fifty years, the terms ‘discourse’ and ‘discourse analysis’ have been firmly established as key notions in many academic disciplines, including linguistics, literary studies, communication studies, and various social sciences, reflecting the growing interest in studying language above the sentence level, in actual use, and in a variety of linguistic as well as non-linguistic contexts (situational, socio-historical, intertextual). However, despite the extent and range of research, the terms, paradoxically, remain somewhat vague and imprecise, perhaps because each discipline and subdiscipline approaches discourse analysis from the point of view of its primary focus of inquiry.

Therefore, the eighth conference and the two-part thematic volume were devoted to the study of discourses as structured bodies of spoken or written texts intended to communicate information, knowledge, views and ideas, focusing on internal relations within a given discourse as well as on external relations among discourses, and aspects of interdiscursivity. From the perspective of linguistic, literary and cultural studies, with a critical and humanistic point of view in mind, the authors explored the underlying social, cultural, cross-cultural and cross-linguistic structures, which may be assumed or played out within particular texts. In the widest perspective, we all share the belief that: “...discourse analysis is one way to engage in a very important human task. The task is this: to think more deeply about the meanings we give people's words so as to make ourselves better, more humane people and the world a better, more humane place.” (Gee 2005, xii)

The articles in the volume *Language, Literature, Discourse: Literary Explorations* (Lopičić and Mišić Ilić 2015) are grouped into four segments. The first one, entitled *Discourse in literature and culture*, contains thematically different articles, which, nevertheless, have discourse as their focus: from the philosophically-oriented articles to the ones examining the discourse of love, and the ones dealing with various types of discourses in particular cultures. The second segment, *Discourse in the feminist literature*, is ideologically clearly specified, and the authors are women, which in itself is an interesting fact, worth examining. The third segment contains articles that deal with two types of discourse: youth literature and investigative discourse. The fourth segment is entitled *The writer and individual discourse* since each of the articles there is focused on one particular writer.

The articles in the volume *Language, Literature, Discourse: Language Explorations* (Mišić Ilić and Lopičić 2015) deal with discourse in very different ways, understanding it as either language, cultural or social context, or as a functional style (register), or as a

form of communicative social practice, and analyse it through various theoretical models and disciplines such as linguistics, applied linguistics and related disciplines. Such a diversity of topics and approaches influenced the grouping of articles into four thematic sections. The first one, entitled *Specific discourses – text, style, register*, contains articles where the authors deal with very specific and concrete discourse, such as poetic discourse, scientific and academic discourse, gastronomic, advertising, legal, informational, instructional, narrative, media, humorous, and multimodal. The second segment, entitled *Discourse, politics, communication*, includes articles where the authors deal with public discourse in a broad sense, and through theoretical models of cognitive linguistics, Critical Discourse Analysis, pragmatics, sociolinguistics, and communication theory examine discourse as a form of social practice and language devices used to realize it. The third segment is entitled *Discourse value of the elements of the language system* and it contains articles that deal with linguistic research of morphological, lexical, syntactic and phonological units, constructions and language phenomena in a particular language or contrastively. Despite the different theoretical models that are applied, what is common for these articles is a discourse perspective, i.e. the analysis of a particular language segment in the linguistic context and the broader context of use, that is, discourse. The fourth, final segment is of applied linguistic orientation and is entitled *Discourse perspective in foreign language teaching*.

10. LANGUAGE, LITERATURE, MEANING (2016)

It has been almost a century since C. K. Ogden, a linguist, and I. A. Richards, a literary critic, published the provocatively titled book *The Meaning of Meaning* (1923/1989), which set the foundations of modern approaches to the ever-intriguing and elusive phenomenon of meaning. Instead of the simplistic straightforward connection between the sign and the referent, their famous triangle as the model of meaning was a step forward in relation to De Saussure's, by placing more emphasis on the thought, our mind as the locus of meaning construction and meaning interpretation. This widely opened the door for various disciplines which view meaning as something that does not reside with words but with people. After dealing with various significant social phenomena in the previous issues, the ninth conference and two-part volume turn to one of the fundamental philosophical questions – meaning, as something that is actually expressed, or intended to be expressed, indicated and significant. Following the footsteps of Ogden and Richards and many linguists, literary critics and philosophers inspired by them, the authors in this volume, from the perspective of literary studies, various linguistic disciplines as well as interdisciplinary approaches with cognitive sciences, philosophy of language, and other social sciences, try to increase the understanding of how meaning is constructed and (mis)interpreted, taking into consideration various contextual and cultural factors.

The articles in the volume *Language, Literature, Meaning: Language Explorations* (Mišić Ilić and Lopičić 2016), grouped into two segments, address the phenomenon of meaning in language in very different ways. The first one, entitled *Meaning: from lexis to grammar* contains articles that are primarily focused on the meaning components of the elements of language system, covering the topics in lexicology, morphology, syntax, and contrastive studies, in the theoretical models ranging from structuralism to generative, cognitive, construction and functional linguistics. The second segment, entitled *Meaning in context*, contains articles whose authors view the phenomenon of meaning not as something that is

given but what emerges through particular use, in discourse and contextualized situations, and depends on the linguistic, extralinguistic, situational, and social contexts. Through the theoretical models ranging from semiotics, cognitive linguistics, discourse analysis and critical discourse analysis, pragmatics and sociolinguistics, to media theory, applied linguistics, translation theory and methodology of foreign language teaching, the authors cover a broad range of topics that share the examination of meaning in language use in particular contexts.

The meaning and significance of literature is a general theme that unites the articles in the volume *Language, Literature, Meaning: Literary Explorations* (Lopičić and Mišić Ilić 2016), grouped in three segments. The first one is entitled *In search of meaning in different cultures*, and is primarily culturally-oriented, although some articles have references to particular literary works. The firm foundation in literary texts is the orientation of the articles in the second segment, conveniently entitled *In search of meaning through a literary text*. The third segment, *In search of meaning through time*, includes articles that in a way share the leitmotif of time, in a synchronic or diachronic perspective, along with many other literary theoretical aspects the authors highlight.

11. LANGUAGE, LITERATURE, TIME (2017)

Ten years in the life of a conference can be considered a noteworthy timespan and ten special thematic volumes an equally noteworthy edition. After dealing with various relevant social and humanistic topics covered in the thematic volumes described above, the theme of the 10th-anniversary conference and the thematic volume was *time*, as one of the fundamental domains of human experience. Language, literature and time are related in many ways. Most basically, both language and literature are the achievements of the human mind which are situated in time, and are used and developed in time, as historically and culturally determined. Further, one of the most fascinating mental feats is that human beings use language to situate and arrange events in time, that is, they use language as a means to structure, represent and conceptualize time. Finally, literature expands our understanding of time and the expression of our intellectual perception and emotional reactions to the temporal, atemporal and omnitemporal, through the interplay of various stylistic devices, chronology, temporal distortion, fragmentation and non-linearity.

The articles included in both volumes of *Language, Literature, Time* address the phenomenon of time and the temporal perspective from the point of view of literary and linguistic disciplines, not only through historical, literary and linguistic research, but also through any other which is focused on formal, structural and genre devices for conceptualizing and expressing time, temporal relations and the development of language forms, functions and approaches to literary and linguistic studies.

The volume *Language, Literature, Time: Literary Explorations* (Lopičić and Mišić Ilić 2017) is characterized by very different approaches to the notion of time. The authors, from the perspective of their areas of research, individual interests, expertise and academic curiosity, managed to find original ways to approach the notion of time, while focusing on various literary texts. The notion of time thus proved to be equally challenging and fruitful in literary studies as it is in natural sciences. Based on the primary focus, the articles are grouped into four segments. The first one is devoted to *Theoretical considerations*, comprising twelve articles which examine topics such as periodization in literature, or diachronically examine some important themes and motifs in literature (women, growing up, fairy tales, media genres,

etc.). The second segment is entitled *Chronotope*. Bakhtin probably could not have imagined what favour he had done to the literary critics when he took over the term chronotope from the theory of relativity and started using it to describe how literature deals with the relationship between space and time. The change of the manner of representing these two fundamentally and inseparably connected phenomena corresponds also to the genre changes in the development of literature, and Bakhtin claims that chronotope as a constitutive category determines the image of people in literature as well. There are innumerable various ways in which chronotope is viewed in the analyses of literary genres, approaches and particular works. The third segment, *Classical studies and culture studies*, contains relatively few articles, but these areas are a valuable contribution to the volume whose aim is to showcase various current interests of the researchers from all areas of philology, social sciences and humanities. The fourth segment has a broad range title *Time, history, literature*, with the aim to encompass a great variety of articles that seem to have only one thing in common – starting from the literary texts of various genres, forms, or historical epochs, they deal with how the phenomenon of time is used to express meaning in a literary text. The authors examined the genres of novels, poetry and short stories, and viewed time as work hours, social time, time of the absurd, certain or uncertain, anachronous or traumatic, distortive or subjective, chronological or rhetorical, ambiguous or oneiric, the time present, past or future, or all at once.

The articles in the volume *Language, Literature, Time: Language Explorations* (Mišić Ilić and Lopičić 2017) also address the phenomenon of time in very different ways, and are grouped into three large thematic segments. The first one, entitled *Time in grammar and semantics*, contains articles of the chiefly linguistic orientation that examine grammaticalization, lexicalization and conceptualization of the concept of time. They deal with it either from the perspectives of general linguistic theory and historical considerations, or by analysing the examples from Serbian, English, French, Czech, Spanish, and the Amerindian language Nahuatl, individually or contrastively, covering the disciplines such as history of linguistics, theoretical grammar, morphosyntax, word formation, semantics, phraseology, and cognitive semantics. The second segment, entitled *Time as a linguistic and extralinguistic category in discourse and society*, contains articles whose authors opt for contextual levels of analysis. Using interdisciplinary methods of discourse analysis, critical discourse analysis, pragmatics, anthropological linguistics and multimodal analysis, the authors focus on the public, political or media discourse, but also on personal narratives and the language of comics, and in such discourses examine time as a grammatical, chronological, or even spatial determinant, relevant for meaning interpretation in particular discourses. In the final, third segment, entitled *Time in applied linguistics research*, there are articles that start from the general topic of time, understood as the chronological time, and deal with it in the light of examining foreign language teaching, lexicography, and sociolinguistics.

12. LANGUAGE, LITERATURE, SPACE (2018)

The phenomenon of space is one of the most significant modes in the totality of human experience. Historically, the investigation into this concept started in ancient Babylon and Greece, and reached Europe through Euclid's geometry, irretrievably grasping the attention of such eminent philosophers as Aristotle, Descartes or Kant. Space and spatiality are the fundamental categories of human existence, individually, from the first sensory information

grasped by the mind of a new-born, to the comprehensive understanding of the world and the course of human life by the mind of an adult. The volume *Language, Literature, Space* (Lopičić and Mišić Ilić 2018) deals with the problem of understanding space from the point of view of literary theory and linguistics through varied approaches which examine the formal, structural, conceptual, narrative and genre-typical means of understanding and expressing space and the different spatial relations, in the broadest sense. The first three segments are devoted to literary studies and the fourth one to linguistics.

Back in 1984, Michelle Foucault predicted that literature would take a turn towards the dimension of space, after having dealt with time, i.e. the chronological approach to the plot and characters in the previous periods. Whether under the influence of globalization or not, towards the end of the 20th century, literature started to turn from time towards space, so literature can no longer be considered a solely temporal form of art, but spatiotemporal, which is now the subject matter of both literary theory and literary criticism. This change of focus resulted in the formation of several broad areas for contemporary literary studies. Bakhtin's Theory of the Literary Chronotope paved the way for a whole range of variations on a theme of the particularly strong interrelationship between time and space. The representation of space is certainly influenced by the way time is represented and vice versa. Furthermore, the representation of landscapes, topography and geography in a literary work can be related to the dominant value system, power structures and ideologies. Moreover, meta(con)textualization of space opens vast options for analysing literary texts within possible world theories, story worlds, fictional worlds, textual worlds, parallel worlds, etc. Among the many approaches to the notion of space in literature, arranging of a living space is also getting more important, because it can also affect the formation of a character or the development of the storyline. It is obvious that the choice of whether to position/reveal a space either in the centre or at the margins of a literary work can inspire literary theory and criticism and result in interesting studies and articles.

This is the case with the articles in the three literary segments of the thematic volume *Language, Literature, Space*. It is more than obvious that literary studies are often related to the concept of space – from the mythical space of human imagination, the specific cultural space whose values are in constant interaction with literature, to the modern concepts such as liminal, limited or transgressive space, the imaginary space of utopias and dystopias, futuristic spaces, the relation between place and space, space as a territory in the context of nations/nationalism, globalization and colonization, ecological space, gender space, urban space or oneiric and narrative space in the literary work; all to the negation of the space itself and the concept of void. These spaces are conquered, desired, dreamed of, forbidden, subordinated, used, created, saved, destroyed, observed and described. Due to this enormous diversity of approaches to the topic of space in a literary work, the articles are grouped into three segments, according to the language and the culture a particular literature belongs to. The first segment includes articles in English, dealing with Anglophone literatures, the second one contains articles dealing with Serbian literature, and the third one articles in Serbian, which analyse numerous works and writers belonging to world literature.

The fourth, final segment of the volume is devoted to the relationship between language and space and is entitled *Space as a physical, metaphorical, and discourse domain in linguistic research*. The relationship between language and space has been the source of fascination of numerous researchers in the fields of linguistics, psychology, anthropology and neuroscience, and the questions which they strive to answer range from those regarding

the manner in which space is encoded in language, the nature of spatial representations in the human mind, the processes via which one learns to speak of space, to the dilemmas concerning the extent to which this process is universal or determined by culture. From the lexical and grammatical devices for expressing spatial relations to the models of metaphors based on spatial relations in semantics and discourse analysis, there does not seem to exist any linguistic tradition that does not deal with this phenomenon.

Taking into consideration the relevance and dominance of the cognitive perspective in the research on the relationship between space and language, the linguistic segment of the volume starts with a group of articles dealing with various aspects of space conceptualization, as well as of some other, more abstract domains that are conceptualized via space. Another large group of articles deals with various structural language devices (lexical, morphological, syntagmatic and syntactic) used to express the semantics of space and spatial relationships in various contexts. The articles in the third group share the view of space as a discourse phenomenon and discourse-cognitive phenomenon. After many articles with microlinguistic analysis, at the very end of the volume, there are articles that examine language at the text level and space as a phenomenon that integrates and, partly, determines the way we perceive the world around us and the relationships in it, and how we use language to express it.

13. LANGUAGE, LITERATURE, THEORY (2019)

The focus of the twelfth volume is *theory*, the term that can be regarded to subsume all the topics discussed in the previous years as it is deeply intrinsic to all domains of research. In that sense, both language and literature are associated with theory. Language can be studied from different theoretical perspectives; linguistic theories and hypotheses are tested in theoretical and empirical research, validated or refuted, yet always aimed at accumulating knowledge and generating new ideas about how language works. Furthermore, literature and theory pursue the same goals: they both explore and make sense of the complexities of our life and phenomena we barely or do not understand. Literature faces the most difficult questions we can ask and invites us to reflect and re-examine the questions it addresses, suggesting its openness to critical evaluation. Compared to the theoretical approaches of natural and technical, and even some social sciences, it is important to stress that in humanistic sciences the theoretical approaches by their very nature are more interpretative and less exact, but that does not make them less scientific.

In this regard, the volume *Language, Literature, Theory* (Lopičić and Mišić Ilić 2019) reflects and examines the relationship between theory, language and literature in an open way. This means focusing on various topics, such as examining theoretical approaches to linguistics and literary studies, studying the relationship between literary theory and criticism, empirical testing of theories, critical evaluation of both theory and empirical research, and meta-theoretical considerations.

The articles are grouped into five segments, with self-explanatory titles. The first two are devoted to linguistic and the last three to literary studies. The first segment, entitled *(Re)examination of theoretical approaches in linguistics* includes theoretically-oriented articles that examine the descriptive, analytical and explanatory potential of several different theoretical-methodological approaches, from general and ethnolinguistics, and core linguistic disciplines such as lexicology, semantics, syntax and semantics, to linguistic stylistics. The second, larger segment is entitled *Theoretical grounding of empirical research: foundations*,

verifiability, validity. The articles contained in it deal with particular research topics, which establish a direct connection between the appropriate theoretical approach and empirical research, covering a wide range of disciplines from phonology to multimodal discourse analysis and more recent approaches in the methodology of foreign language teaching. Although according to the principles of good science every article should be based on firm theoretical postulates, the explicit requirement of this thematic volume whose focus is theory inspired the authors to consider more deeply the connection between their specific research topics and theoretical foundations underlying them. It is evident in these articles that most of the authors provided explicit explanations of the significance of the particular chosen theoretical model for their research.

In the literary section of the volume, the third segment consists of articles whose common topic can be subsumed in the segment's title *Ideological-hermeneutic literary theories*. Whether it is Marxist approaches to literature, posthermeneutic theories, new criticism, gynocriticism, narrative theory, ecocriticism, historical metafiction theory, or identity theories in literature, the authors examine them in the context of various cultures and various corpora. The fourth segment moves on to include articles that try to investigate more recent, somewhat nonconventional theories that can be used to interpret literary works. As demonstrated in its title *The post- in contemporary fiction: time travel, futures, mysteries, vorticism, the body, ageism, trauma*, this segment tries to unite a great variety of theoretical approaches that sometimes significantly deviate from the canonical literary interpretation apparatus. The last segment contains articles grouped under the title *Literary reflexions through the theoretical prism*, where the authors examine various aspects of literature and connect them with some dominant theories applicable to literary creation.

14. LANGUAGE, LITERATURE, CONTEXT (2020)

In the past decades, in linguistics, literary criticism, cultural studies, and interdisciplinary fields that include sociology, psychology, and media studies, the proliferation of the term *context* as well as the related ones *contextual*, *(de)contextualization*, *context-(in)dependent*, etc. might be considered a sort of a "contextual turn", as opposed to various formalist paradigms that focus on autonomous phenomena. The notion of context, from its distant Latin etymology of weaving something together, and the traditional philological use to denote simply a text that surrounds or is directly connected with some other part referred to, in the work of Malinowski, Firth and Halliday was expanded to include not only the linguistic context, but more importantly, the situational and cultural ones as well. In the most recent cognitivist models, the notion of cognitive context also includes the background knowledge, assumptions and beliefs of the participants in the communicative event. All these can dynamically influence the formation and interpretation of utterances, texts and discourses.

In their still very influential volume *Rethinking Context: Language as an Interactive Phenomenon* (1992: 32), Goodwin and Duranti stated: "The notion of context stands at the cutting edge of much contemporary research into the relationship between language, culture and social organization". With this in mind, the volume *Language, Literature, Context* (Lopičić and Mišić Ilić 2020) examines context as a dynamic and relational notion, from the perspective of literary theory and linguistics. In particular, the authors explore how language is formed, used and understood depending on various linguistic

and non-linguistic contextual parameters, and how literary and non-literary texts can influence and be influenced by historical, cultural, and intellectual framework, temporal, spatial and social settings, discourse elements, interpersonal and cognitive factors.

The articles in the volume are grouped into six segments. The first three are devoted to linguistic studies. The first one, entitled *Language, thought, society, context – philosophical and historical perspectives* features five articles that deal with the context in a very broad sense and with the significance of such broadly understood context for human thought and action, as well as the language development and language use. The second segment is entitled *The meaning and use of language units in relation to language, genre and social context*. Unlike the articles in the first segment, the ones in the second deal with more specific linguistic topics, and thorough empirical studies, examine particular linguistic units (at the levels of phonology, morphology, lexis, phraseology, syntax, semantics and pragmatics), from the perspective of various linguistic disciplines, with a special focus on the significance of structure, function and dynamic interaction of various types of linguistic and extralinguistic contexts (cognitive, affective social, cultural, interactive, etc.). The third segment, entitled *The context of language and literature teaching* is grounded in applied linguistics and language pedagogy.

Literary articles, grouped in the following three segments of this volume, are classified simply according to the language in which they were written, and then whether they deal with foreign or Serbian literature. So, the fourth segment shows four different cultures closely interwoven in the texts of various genres and historical periods, in the theoretical and multimedia context, socio-cultural or newly-historical context, in the context of postmodern theories, and even in the context of natural sciences. The fifth segment is comprised of articles that share the focus on Serbian literature and the concept of context through which novels, poetry, short stories, and dramas are interpreted, chronologically starting from contemporary writers and going back to earlier works of Serbian literature. The sixth segment, *Context in literary studies*, includes articles written in English, which cover the concept of context from the perspectives of philosophy, trauma studies, gender policy, culture studies and classical studies.

At the end of the overview of the thematic volumes from thirteen *Language, Literature, ...* conferences, it should be emphasized that thanks to the high quality of published articles, both in Serbian and English, the great dedication of the editors, and the excellent technical editing, these volumes were formally recognized by the Scientific Board for language and literature of the Ministry of Education, Science, and Technical Development of Serbia as significant and high-quality editions in the fields of linguistics, literature and related disciplines in Serbia and the region.

All volumes available at <https://llconference.filfak.ni.ac.rs/thematic-volumes>

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JEZIK, KNJIŽEVNOST I DRUGE BITNE TEME

*Rad daje pregled dvadeset jednog tematskog zbornika sa međunarodnih naučnih konferencija održanih pod opštim nazivom **Jezik, književnost, ...**, gde se treći segment u naslovu menja svake godine i pokriva neki naučno relevantan i izazovan pojam. Svi tomovi su posvećeni proučavanju jezika i književnosti, u odnosu na neki od relevantnih društvenih i naučnih fenomena, značajnih za društveno-humanističke nauke, kao što su politika, globalizacija, identitet, promene, komunikacija, vrednosti, marginalizacija, diskurs, značenje, vreme, prostor, teorija, kontekst.*

Ključne reči: 21 tematski zbornik, proučavanje jezika i književnosti, interdisciplinarnan, godišnji