

## INTRODUCTION

Young Linguists' Insights: Taking interdisciplinary approaches to the fore.

*The seeds of progress germinate, and the shape of the future unfolds in our conviviality, at the convergence of all our different paths. It is in this gradual cross-fertilisation that the future of knowledge—and indeed of the world—resides.*

Federico Mayor

The idea behind compiling the present volume was to give the floor to young researchers whose original research poses a particular type of challenge. The activity that the contributors are involved in requires not only expertise in their major field of study, which happens to be language, but also in seemingly distant disciplines through the lens of which certain linguistic problems are explored. The interdisciplinary approach is as effective as it is challenging. It offers a fresh perspective, contributes new ideas, and enriches scientific discussion. It does this, at the same time requiring thorough knowledge of two or more disciplines, and thus asks for humility on the part of the open-minded researcher. Whatever attitude to interdisciplinarity one has, it seems almost trivial to state that sciences do converge. Even a cursory glance at the methodologies adopted in modern linguistic research reveals that it is via blending paradigms that scientists arrive at new and more nuanced insights. Because it pushes the boundaries of knowledge, interdisciplinarity gives birth to new research fields. Complexities which might have been overlooked or ironed out now come to light. Above all, the movement towards interdisciplinarity can be viewed as a testimony to the fact that language does not exist in a vacuum. In line with this, research performed on language perceived as an autonomous system – *langue*, as de Saussure put it – runs the risk of yielding a fragmentary, if not skewed, picture. It is this broad view of language that we had in mind when selecting papers for the present volume.

The monograph is divided into six subthematic sections. While language thematically binds the publication, each part offers a different interdisciplinary perspective. Sections open with expert articles by well-

established academics. These are in turn followed by papers authored by newcomers, taking their first steps into interdisciplinary research.

The opening section of the volume takes *Language, society & discourse* studies as its foci. A rich spectrum of articles is offered, comprised of linguistic intervention, language change, or the interface of pragmatics and interpersonal metadiscourse, among others. Both the volume and this section open with an article by the renowned sociolinguist Miriam Meyerhoff. The researcher discusses and illustrates the possibility of language change within an individual's lifespan. In the second article, Michał Paprocki and his colleagues talk at length about Wilamowicean – a language in southern Poland facing extinction. Having provided a socio-historical background to the issue, they concentrate on both civic and centralised struggles against the erasure of the language from the Polish linguistic map. Zorica Trajkowa, in her article, draws our attention to the importance of metadiscourse markers, such as hedges or boosters, in being persuasive. She takes a cross-linguistic comparative perspective, illustrating her claims with examples from American English and Macedonian. Magdalena Murawska's article is somewhat different in its focus. The author sets out to investigate the reactions of medical students to case reports where the authorial and patient's presence constitutes the independent variable. The section's final article, by Kinga Mátyus, is an exploration into the possible correlations of a linguistic variable – the inessive case in Hungarian – with residence, age and gender.

The subsequent *Language & Technology* section can be seen as a *bona fide* example of how two fields of enquiry – computer science and linguistics, disparate back in the 1980s – at present fade into one another to the extent that they constitute a legitimate and fully institutionalised branch of linguistics. The merits of Corpus Linguistics are utilised by Rafał Górski, the distinguished Polish linguist, in his thorough examination of suffix productivity. Taking advantage of Narodowy Korpus Języka Polskiego (the National Corpus of Polish), Górski investigates Polish Word Formation Rules when applied to the class of expressive adjectives. Two other authors, Katarzyna Marszałek-Kowalewska and Mojca Kompara, show how Corpus Linguistics works in conjunction with yet another field of study – lexicography. The former researcher reports on an exploration of technical English loanwords in Farsi and, on the basis of her findings, assesses Iranian language policy. The latter author is devoted to an innovative way of compiling dictionaries of abbreviations. She puts

forward a method that enables lexicographers to render dictionary production process more effective. The remaining two articles are authored by Carsten Weber and Johannes Handl. The first article introduces a segmentation algorithm which has a number of practical applications, for instance as a spell checking device; the second one focuses on preventing ambiguities in the course of automatic morphological analysis.

The third section of the present volume looks into various aspects of the relationship between *Language & Meaning*. In the opening article, Matthias Urban attempts to provide cultural explanations for the phenomenon of recurrent lexico-semantic associations by taking ‘the pupil of the eye’ as the central point of his discussion. Further, Giovanni Tallarico looks at the issue of lexical gaps and points to the role of bilingual dictionaries, claiming that they should serve as bridges to enable and improve cross-cultural communication. Anna Jelec, in turn, takes the abstract/concrete distinction as a starting point in her attempt to bind insights from three theoretical frameworks in cognitive linguistics: the Contemporary Theory of Metaphor (Lakoff 1993), the theory of objectification (Szwedek 2002) and embodied experience. Małgorzata Zawilińska-Janaszek’s article is very different in focus. The author looks at the structure of synaesthetic metaphors in two languages, English and Polish, to find that expressions used in the non-literary register do not differ much in complexity and diversity from those typically found in poetic sources. Finally, Paweł Korpala draws on Ronald Langacker’s theory of subjectivity, analysing both the subjective and objective perception of the English verb ‘think’ in order to see how the act of thinking is conceptualised in this language.

The intersection of *Language, Mind & Brain* is explored in the fourth section. In the first expert article, Kenneth Hugdahl, the famous Swedish psychologist, liaises over the issues of auditory laterality and speech perception, drawing on the data obtained in dichotic listening experiments. His paper is followed by that of Alexander M. Rapp, the renowned German psychiatrist. Rapp provides an overview of research that has been conducted on the neuroanatomy of figurative language processing and goes on to propose a model of nonliteral language comprehension, focusing on the role of brain regions involved. Further, Márta Szűcs discusses idiom processing in children, paying attention to two important factors: context- and idiom type effects. In the subsequent article, Dorota Jaworska and colleagues take up the subject of irony processing in schizophre-

nia and point to the existence of a nonliteral language comprehension deficit in the psychosis. The author of the next paper, Marianna Bolognesi, describes the experiment she devised in order to investigate the link between episodic memory and the bilingual mental lexicon. Anna Klecha's contribution revolves around bilingualism, too. Her focus, however, is on L1 inhibition in language switching.

The fifth section of the volume is devoted to *Language in the Press*. It reflects the interconnectedness of the two subject areas by touching upon three aspects of language as observed in magazines and newspapers: markers of verbal irony, creative idiomacity, and loan words. The author of the first paper of this section, Silvana Neshkovska, gives insight into various markers of verbal irony used in newspaper headlines. Such markers signal ironic intent of the writer. The author compares various types of markers of verbal irony in Macedonian and English newspaper headlines. Ilze Oļehnoviča presents research on idiom usage in British newspapers. Various patterns of instantial stylistic use of idioms are shown, explained, and exemplified using Discourse Analysis methods. The author discusses effects obtained by creative idiomacity in newspaper discourse. Małgorzata Karczewska analyses loanwords (Anglicisms) in a popular Italian women's magazine. The author observes that Anglicisms have become part of Italian compounds; they are adapted to Italian morphology (constituting a base of derivatives) and their original meaning frequently changes.

The final, sixth section of the monograph focuses on selected aspects of *Formal and Applied Linguistics*. Aleksandra Bartczak-Meszyńska looks at the structure and properties of Applicative Phrases in German Double Object Construction. The author analyses McGinnis' (2001) theory and goes on to conclude that this approach cannot be employed to fully account for object movement in German. Michaela Bentz describes Romanian and Germanic elements in the position of clitics in Cimbrian, a Germanic minority language spoken in Luserna, a village in Italy. She observes that the surrounding Romanic dialects have been strongly influencing Cimbrian for a millenium. The author provides examples of mixed conjunctions with a Germanic and Romanic element, as well as a clitic work order. Natalia Ciesielczyk attempts to examine difficulties related to translating from a language that has infinitives to a language that does not. By analysing Modern Greek translations of Aristotle's works, she illustrates how translators approached this linguistic challenge. Next, Natalia Stojnowa presents a cross-linguistic survey of uses of the so-called

again-reflexives that are characteristic of Oceanic languages. The author points out that there is a wide variation in formal structure and semantic features of reflexive markers under consideration and she proposes two diachronic scenarios for different types of again-reflexives. Joanna Ziobro approaches the topic of feasibility of empirical research conducted on interpreters. She presents a study in which she investigates differences in the distribution of local cognitive load in interpreters at different levels of advancement. Finally, the closing paper of the volume – by Olga Trendak – focuses on the form-focused instruction (FFI). The author presents types of FFI and explains which types place emphasis solely on form and which foreground meaning.

Having introduced the main thematic areas, which make up the present work, we would like to express our deepest gratitude to all the authors who contributed to the volume. Without their valuable input, it would not be possible for the monograph to come into being. It is our greatest hope that the variety of topics covered here will be appreciated by all readers who consider interdisciplinary linguistic research an important and inspiring field of study – just as we do.

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