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INTRODUCTION
Synchrony and diachrony in literary and linguistic studies

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The current issue comprises individual and co-authored studies that aim to answer the following questions: whether synchronic and diachronic researches are contrastive or complementary, and how can it be determined which of the features are better explained synchronically and which are more clearly captured diachronically.

In choosing this topic, we started from two premises. On the one hand, we are aware that literary studies are permanently confronted with the challenge to build their study object, whether histories of literature or the validation and maintenance of a literary canon, or text analysis. So, from this point of view, we are interested in interrogating the methods and visions by which we operate in literary criticism and literary history, especially in a culture in which there are many dominant models. Therefore, a possible opening of this topic also considers the liberation from the dominance of authoritarian canonical models, regardless of their source (the anti-canon supposing an alternative selection of texts, sometimes equally restrictive as the canonical model).

On the other hand, with respect to the linguistic study, we dare say that the synchronic and the diachronic approaches, defined and differentiated by Ferdinand de Saussure, by late 19th century, were two complementary approaches. For most of the 20th century, it was considered natural for the synchronic and the diachronic linguistics to be treated as different disciplines, and to be practiced by different linguists. Recently, researchers have been acknowledging more often the interdependence between synchrony and diachrony, between variation and change, at the linguistic level.

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Accordingly, we believe that the articles included in this issue, although organized in three different sections – Language studies, Literature, and Cultural studies –, are all intended to celebrate the idea of a "partnership" between the two perspectives, and to give arguments that support the synchrony-diachrony connection in the 21st century.

The Language studies section opens with a co-authored article. In *Attitudinal markers of identity in the translation of fictional texts: a diachronic view*, Mona ARHIRE and Gabriela CUSEN focus on the way in which attitudinal markers of identity are rendered in two diachronic translations into Romanian of Salinger's novel *The Catcher in the Rye* (1991). Based on both quantitative and qualitative research methods, they provide a comparative view of the translations in terms of the preservation or adaptation of attitudinal discourse markers. In addition, they examine the extent to which the discourse markers render the literary hero's identity in the target language. The results of the analysis validate the two preliminary hypotheses: that both translations affect the hero's personal and social identity, and that the most? recent translation is more authentic for the current-day target readership.

Cristina Silvia VÂLCEA's contribution – *Diachronic gender demeaning of women naming* – aims to highlight the divergent evolution of the paired words referring to men and women. Starting from the idea that masculine words seem to have neutral connotation, while the feminine words have certain demeaning connotations, the author examines their diachronic changes in order to argument that the different evolution of these words is, in fact, a key element of the social representation of the two genders. The conclusion was that the words referring to men generally preserved their initial meanings, as opposed to the words designating women, which suffered tremendous demeaning changes in time.

In her article, *Réalisations discursives de l'ethos de crédibilité*, Georgiana BURBEA provides a synchronic and diachronic analysis of the way in which the speaker chooses to use certain discursive strategies in order to build a political ethos. Based on a corpus that contains political speeches from the 2017 electoral campaign in France, as well as from the 2012 and 2007 campaigns, the author investigates the various forms of the discursive ethos, and compares the results of the diachronic analysis to those of the synchronic one.

The section continues with Irina VRABIE's article, in which *the conceptual category of the diminutive in English and Romanian* is explored. Living in a world of subliminal and intuitive linguistic choices, in which every word is used to express

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a physical dimension, attitude or emotion, the linguistic category of the diminutive is particularly important, as it allows the speaker to express a wide range of positive or negative feelings. The author gives a comparative analysis of the existence, recurrence, and status of the diminutives in contemporary English and Romanian, with some additional data from Spanish.

Réka INCZE (KUTASI) discusses *The role of linguistics in the evaluation and treatment of aphasia.* After a clear definition and a detailed description of this neurological (communication) disorder, the author insists on the idea that aphasia is a multi-level language problem that can affect one or more language levels. In order to treat this disorder, the first important step the pathologist should take is to evaluate the linguistic level affected (phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics or/and pragmatics). Once the disorder is identified, the linguistic theoretical framework becomes an important aid in treating aphasic patients, and also in reintegrating them into a normal life.

On the basis of two theoretical approaches, the Language Transfer and the Contrastive Analysis, Yuqin WANG puts forward a *brief analysis on Romanian students' language transfer in Chinese learning.* The corpus was a collection of interviews and tests belonging to 50 Romanian students having around 150 hours of Chinese, and the focus was on two aspects: phonological transfer and syntactic transfer. The results of the analysis confirmed a rather intuitive assumption, namely the fact that the native language has an obvious influence when learning a new language. In order to attenuate those influences, teachers should know and foresee what may be hard and where the negative transfer might happen so as to provide some advanced solutions.

In the article entitled *Out-of-class use of English and EFL learning in Romania,* Elena MEȘTEREAGĂ's aim is to examine the way in which the environment of EFL learners from Romania provides opportunities for the use of English in out-of-class contexts. The main research instrument was a questionnaire applied to 20 high school learners from Hunedoara county, Romania. This case study helped the author conclude that the activities with the greatest preponderance for the use of English outside the classroom are those provided by TV or by the internet, but, in fact, it can be said that any activity that implies use of English supports the EFL learners.

In the opening article of the Literature section, *La nostalgie de la synchronie dans un art de la diachronie: la literature,* Alina FELEA discusses the paradoxical status of literary pursuits that, by using synchronic artistic devices, try to abolish the inherent diachronic limits of the literary discourse and implicitly to annihilate the

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passage of time. Taking into account several writers, from Lessing to Coetzee, the author proves that simultaneity and synchronicity remain, in the literary realm, only aspirations and nostalgic representations of an impossible whole.

Ileana SIREȚEANU's article entitled *Synchronic and diachronic readings of the contemporary text: Angela Carter's and Eowyn Ivey Snow Child* focuses on intertextuality as a means to endorse an indispensable diachronic approach of literary texts. Arguing that today any literary text must be correlated with its literary traditions and moreover that intertextuality can become a literary weapon against old patriarchal modes of reading and organizing the world, the author proposes the concept of 'literary vampirism' in order to describe a form of diachronic incorporation of master narratives. In the books of Angela Carter and Eowyn Ivey, these old narratives are discarded, reformulated or imbued with new meanings.

Alina BÂJA explores the ways in which the *French children's literature evolved from the 19th century until today*, analyzing several authors and the mutations produced in the meantime following the societal changes in the image and the role of children.

The section continues with Alina COJOCARU's article *Spatialized time, synchrony and the art of memory in Vladimir Nabokov's Speak, Memory* which describes Nabokov's theoretical vision of literary texts perceived in synchronicity as a photographic projection. Using concepts such as "manifold awareness, transparency, spatial and temporal folding, the presence of ekphrasis and the role of memory" and Nabokov's autobiographical text *Speak, Memory*, the author pleads for a "spatialized visualization of events" organized by memory that will allow a new synchronic design of the novel.

This section ends with Iulia PETRIN's contribution about *Literary Vienna in Berta Zuckerkandl's Österreich Intim*. The author is concerned with the multiple ways in which a rich cultural context, in this case, the fin-de-siècle literary Vienna, can be apprehended using diachronic and synchronic approaches. Berta Zuckerkandl's memoir and its subjective diachronic vision might be the best way to shed new light on the Viennese literary scene and personalities.

The Cultural studies section opens with a contribution by Hans Corneel DE ROOS: *The origin of the first Dracula adaptation.* The author takes up the challenge of investigating the early serializations and translations of *Dracula*, a topic that receives more and more attention in the research field of Gothic studies. Besides the detailed description of each version, and the morphological comparison of the three

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serializations – the *Dagen* serialization, the *Aftonbladet* serialization, and the *Tip-Top* serialization –, he is also interested in discovering the identity of the Swedish translator/editor, who was presented under the pseudonym "A-e." in all three serializations. So, after a close investigation, the author suggests that the Swedish translator/editor must have been Anders Albert Andersson-Edenberg, a well-known journalist.

Sokhoun HOV, in his study on Post-Colonialism, gives a *comparative perspective on Southeastern Asia and Central Eastern Europe.* The researcher identifies and explains three types of factors that influenced this phenomenon in both investigated areas: social factors, such as the number of settlers of European origins, colonially induced-labor migration, the level of colonial investment in health and education sectors, economic factors, such as the financial losses, and the increasing taxes, as well as political factors, such as instrumentalization of ethno-linguistic and/or religious cleavages. In line with Ziltener andKunzler (2013), the author concludes that the effects of colonialism determined significant changes in the economic and social structure of some countries from Southeast Asia and Central Eastern Europe, while other countries have remained untouched.

Mălina Iulia DUȚĂ studies closely the problem of *Cuban exiles in the United States and that of Maghrebin immigrants in France*, using an interdisciplinary approach. The premise of the article is that migratory patterns differ from one community to another, from one international context to the other, and this is why the analysis of the literature produced by migrants might help people to better understand the socio-political aspects involved in the migration process. As such, the author proposes a case study in which she compares the situation of Cubans in the U.S. and that of the Maghrebins in France, by means of lyrical literary production.

In the end of this section, Aniela TOMA puts forward an *anthropological perspective* in order to describe *the tribal organisation* of the children in William Golding's *Lord of the Flies*. The main idea of the article is that a literary text should be analyzed by placing it into a broader (diachronic) context, and that the narrative is definitely shaped by cultural and historical factors. After the analysis of the text, the author notices that the way in which children organise themselves on the island closely resembles the development of the primitive man, and that there is something common in our collective consciousness that makes us behave and develop in a similar manner. The conclusion of her study is in line with the idea highlighted by all the studies of this issue, namely the fact that any analysis (linguistic or literary) needs to be a combination between synchronic and diachronic approaches, as each type of approach contributes to decoding various layers of meaning.

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The issue ends with two reviews: one written by Alice-Magdalena BODOC of *The Syntax of Old Romanian*, edited in 2016 by Gabriela Pană-Dindelegan, and the other one belonging to Oana ARDELEANU, *European Identity. What the Media Say*, edited by Paul Bayley and Geoffrey Williams (2012).

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