

Introduction / Foreword – Ruxandra Constantinescu-Stefanel

Abstract

The introduction presents the articles included in this issue.

Keywords: writing; reading; imagination; reality; women

Punerea în abis și efectele mai mult sau mai puțin fericite ale lecturii (The *Mise-en-abyme* and the More or Less Happy Effects of Reading)

Mihai ȘERBAN

Abstract

This paper represents an introduction to the reading of a volume about the use of la mise-en-abyme in André Gide's work. At least in the case of this particular author, psychoanalytic literary critics suggest that la mise-en-abyme – along with its typical effects of temporal circularity, narcissist identification in the mirror, erasing of the boundaries between reality and fiction – is doubled by another phenomenon, what psychoanalysts name transference, which is, again, characterized by re-living, re-experiencing emotions, both pleasant and traumatic, generated at some past moment in the subject's life.

Key Words: mise-en-abyme; psychoanalysis; transference; circular effect of reading; (re)reading

Reading *Ramayana*, Writing Tales: Bhakti Cult and the Songs of Rama Shruti AMNAR, Neelam KUMARI

Abstract

Reading or listening to Ramayana is a usual practice in an ordinary Hindu household. Sometimes a narrator popularly called kathak or katha-vacak is called to narrate or read the epic story to the entire family, the clan, or the village. Inside the household, it is the women who particularly read the Ramayana during their normal ritual austerity. But the epic poetry is not restricted to this fixed environment; rather it has travelled into the lived experience of the people of the subcontinent. Originally written by Valmiki, the legend of Rama has been retold in more than 200 languages of South and South East Asia. What is interesting, though, is the manner in which the Ramayana is rewritten. In the article, I will analyse the act of reading the Ramayana and will explore the methods that are imparted to re-write the text.

Keywords: Ramayana; Bhakti; songs; katha;, Tulsidas

Writing and Empowerment: Female Writers as Major Voices in Contemporary Africa

Kouamé ADOU

Abstract

This article argues that unlike the previous generations of African writers, the new generation is dominated by African women writers whose narratives are interwoven around empowered and dynamic female characters. Apprehending these writers as major voices in the new trend of African literature and as spokespersons of their societies, it studies novels by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie and Akachi Adimora Ezeigbo as typical narratives of the last decades. Encompassing fictional characters, historical figures and political leaders, it assesses the validity of female writer's representation of strong female characters successfully struggling and upholding patriarchal roots in contemporary Africa. The analysis proves first that the narratives of female writers stem from a feminist consciousness and then that these narratives draw inspiration from historical and contemporary African realities.

Keywords: empowerment; contemporary Africa; female writers; history; Third Generation

La hipersemantividad del nombre en *Las Harpías de Madrid* de Alonso de Castillo Solórzano (Hypersematicity of number in *Las Harpías de Madrid* by Alonso de Castillo Solórzano)

Djidiack FAYE

Abstract:

This paper is a study of the hyper-semanticity of the names with which the characters disguise themselves in *Las Harpías de Madrid* by Alonso de Castillo Solórzano. We demonstrate here that the proper noun is not a simple sign devoid of meaning and serving only to identify the characters, but rather it is this place of sedimentation of extradiegetic references and which constitute both a weapon of seduction and imposture, while ensuring the historicity of the work.

Keywords: proper noun; hyper-semanticity; history; imposture; Golden Age

Écritures fragmentées / Écritures transculturelles : les marges socio-esthétiques et la société dans *Les Belles Ténébreuses* de Maryse Condé (Fragmented / transcultural writings: socio-aesthetic perspective in *Les Belles Ténébreuses* by Maryse Condé)

**Arthur Ngoie MUKENGE
Cécile DOLISANE EBOSSE**

Abstract

This article, a work done on Caribbean literature: a field of many researches in the last decade, re-launches the debate about the dichotomy of “fiction” and “reality”.

By doing so, one approaches a particular situation from Guadeloupe, as the novel of the study *Les Belles Ténébreuses* pointed out the country above-mentioned and its real issues. In this regard, the study intends to reveal the creative projects of the author, Maryse Condé. However, the question on the ground is to investigate if the author opens a page of her own adventure or an imaginary history.

This analysis has supportive research technics such as the socio-critic from Pierre Bourdieu in the dimensions of habitus, champ, violence symbolique and illusion.

Key words: project-fiction ; réalité ; habitus ; field

**Ecrire l'esclavage pour penser l'altérité
(Writing about Slavery and Thinking about Otherness)**

Babou DIENE

Abstract

The article aims at proving the strong link between slavery writing and the issue of a moving identity, based on the violent uprooting of captives taken away from their native land. The study has established, based on historical data and postcolonial theories, that slavery writing is not only the negativation of the black person, but also a way of questioning the otherness brought about by mobility, relocation and the heterotopia of crisis.

Keywords: slavery; slave trade; black; identity; otherness

Pragmatic U-Turns: Unity within Diversity and the Discomfort of Self-Representation in Takarazuka Revue's Performance Strategy

Maria GRĀJDIAN

Abstract

This paper focuses on the representation of late-modern Japan by the extremely popular, all-female musical theatre Takarazuka Revue, as displayed in two recent performances:

Le Château de la Reine (2017, sky troupe) and Company (2018, moon troupe). The dramaturgic decision to tackle the problematic of late-modern Japan on Takarazuka Revue's stage is an important one: firstly, it is a clear distancing from the postwar performance strategy to not ever represent Asian peoples or nations in modern or contemporary times due to Takarazuka Revue's infamous involvement before and during the war; secondly, it is a powerful ideological return to its founder Ichizō Kobayashi's ideal of a theatre for the people and in the name of the people, which has gradually vanished since the overwhelming success of the blockbuster *The Rose of Versailles* (1974) with its numerous sequels and its orchestration of the world as a flowery rococo fantasy with gorgeous costumes, rapid succession of astonishing stage-sceneries and flamboyant advertisement of otokoyaku (female impersonators of male roles in Takarazuka Revue). Regardless whether it tackles the experiences of a group of Japanese tourists in Paris or everyday lifestyles in Tokyo, Takarazuka Revue's re-creation of "Japan", "Japanese citizens" or "Japaneseness" strongly adheres to the idea of "unity within diversity": namely, tolerance and preservation of the status-quo. The analysis unfolds on two levels: the narrative construction of a "Japan of variety and self-acceptance", visible in the performances themselves, and the meta-narrative level referring to Takarazuka Revue as a public institution within the complex apparatus which is the Japanese media industry.

Keywords: late-modernity; Japan; popular culture; entertainment industry; Takarazuka Revue; cultural consumption; musical theatre; femininity.

**El compromiso espiritual en algunos poemas de Santa Teresa de Ávila:
una reflexión en torno a la mística cristiana
(Spiritual Compromise in Some Poems by Saint Teresa of Avila:
Reflections on Christian Mystic)**

Djoko Luis Stéphane KOUADIO

Abstract

The poetry of Saint Teresa refers to a condensation of verses characterized by the sharing of her mystical experience. The poetic texts studied reveal the need for the fusion union between God and the christian who decides to live, out of pure love, a much deeper relationship with his Creator in spite of the existential vicissitudes. The various lexical fields, stylistic figures and metrics serve as a guiding thread in his project of promoting the religious ideal through a message based on a permanent search for the divine in the light of the catholic faith.

Keywords: Saint Teresa; Christian; poem; God; soul

Utopia – A Constant Interrogation Project

Valentina ROBU

Abstract

The article revisits Thomas More's Utopia in an attempt to highlight the fundamental link between reason and the imaginary. This link underlines the consistent definition of any utopian constructs, in fact. Utopias are ambitious, rational projects, centred on the essential aspirations of ancient and modern historical ages and share characteristic elements. This paper follows the interplay of reason and the imaginary revealed in the most important work of Thomas More, a man of genius who lived on the narrow edge dividing Western Europe in two worlds on the eve of the Reformation. The article analyses some of the main aspects which define his utopia and explores both the rational utopian project and its symbolic articulations against a literary background.

Keywords: utopia; reason; imaginary; utopian symbolism and imagery.

**La vengeance noire d'Etienne Goyemide : ou la parole qui tue !
(Black revenge of Etienne Goyemide or the Word that Kills !)**

Judicaël BOUKANGA

Abstract

« La vengeance noire », an original short story by the Central African Etienne Goyemide, writer of novels, plays and poetry, has a not only striking, but also complex and rich plot. The reader sinks into unique cultural practices, namely ancestor worship, presented in a positive manner in contrast with post modern thinking based on scientific and technological thinking.

The short story also expresses the vibrant anguish of seeing how the flame of the black soul authenticity dies out. The performative language of the story resembles the seriousness of oral which modern writers should not forget to highlight.

Keywords: oral: traditional religion; ancestor worship; justice; witchcraft

**“Las obras hacen linaje”: El despertar de la conciencia en *La Celestina: Comedia o tragicomedia de Calisto Y Melibea* de Fernando De Rojas
(“Literary Masterpieces Create Their Lineage”: Awakening of Conscience in *La Celestina: Comedia o Tragicomedia de Calisto y Melibea* by Fernando de Rojas)**

Laura TOMA

Abstract:

The purpose of this paper is to inquire into the dissolution of the mediEval worldview and the effects of this process on the individual but also at the moral, social and economic level. I shall try to link these radical transformations with the changes brought about by the transition to Renaissance in Spain and Europe. To this end, I shall focus on concepts such as emancipation and individualism, personal honour, egalitarianism by adopting a socio-cultural perspective. The characters exhibit a peculiar self-consciousness if we take into account the social groups they are willingly or unwillingly part of, subverting the social order.

Key words: emancipation; individualism; Renaissance; self-consciousness; transition.

**Le roman comme arme contre le pouvoir des dictatures
en Afrique noire francophone entre 1970 et 2000
(The Novel as Weapon against Dictatorships in French Speaking Black
Africa between 1970 and 2000)**

Dr Djibril DIALLO

Abstract

The article examines the way in which seven black African novelists, namely Bernard Nanga from Cameroon, Sony Labou Tansi from Congo Brazzaville, Yves Valentin Mudimbe from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabriel Danzi from Central African Republic, Ahmadou Kourouma from Côte d'Ivoire, Alioum Fantoure from Guinea and Aminata Sow Fall from Senegal have exploited the resources of the French language in grotesque, burlesque, humor and irony to better denouncing the authorities in power in their respective countries during the African independence. This gave them the opportunity to renew the style of novel writing.

Keywords : chief of state; independence; people; power; novelist;victim

**Sociology of translation explained. An in-depth Study of the Cultural
and Literary Relations of Romania and China during 1948-1965**

Iulia Elena GÎȚĂ

Abstract

According to the sociological theory of literature, constraints on the creation and share of cultural works can be placed between two extremes: one with a high level of politicization and the other with a high level of commercialization (Sapiro, 2003). The overall objective of the present research is to follow the principles of Sociology of Translation to closely map and analyse the publishing activity of Romania concerning

China and Chinese literature during the two stages of Romanian Communism – 1948-1965 and 1965-1989. This paper proposes, thus, an extended approach to literature, to its cultural, political and economic reception. In achieving the proposed objectives, the research expands far beyond the literary text itself, to its macro context, analysing, through quantitative research methods, a statistical database created based on two phases - the first part containing literary and non-fictional works that address and discuss issues related to China; the second part includes literary translations of Chinese literature into Romanian, either by direct translation or by an intermediate language. Throughout this paper we will map not only the number of works, but also the topics approached by writers along the two periods of the political life of Romania.

Keywords: sociology of translation; socio-cultural reception; socio-political constraints; publishing; Chinese literature; bilateral relations; intercultural understanding; international relations

**Figuri (a)tipice ale femeii la începutul secolului al XX-lea.
Ipostaze și imagini
(A) typical Portraits of Women at the Beginning of the 20th Century.
Hypostases and Constructs**

Cornelia PĂTRU

Abstract

This study's goal is to describe of two types of women at the end of the 19th century namely the femme fragile and femme fatale in literature and painting around 1900. The aim of this work is not to list the characteristics of the two types, but rather to show that in some cases - as here with Schnitzler – these female characters have borrowed attributes from one another. The analysis is based on texts by Arthur Schnitzler and used on portraits of women by Gustav Klimt.

Key words: types of women; emancipation of woman; Wiener Moderne; fin de siècle; literature and painting.

**Immigration, Integration, Dislocation: the Herculean Labours of the
Self in Monica Ali's *Brick Lane***

Laura Monica TOMA

Abstract

Brick Lane offers the reader a fascinating insight into the universe of the British Bengali community in London, foregrounding a panoply of human experiences, from the trials and tribulation of the immigrants to the emancipation of the female protagonist. This

paper investigates the nature of the multicultural conflict that the novel foregrounds, revealing the fact that the immigrant is a disembedded self, torn between the desire to preserve his cultural heritage and the need to adapt in order to survive in the great metropolis of London. As the novel chronicles the protagonist's transformation from a shy girl into an independent woman who takes charge of her life, I shall also explore the fashioning of the feminine self and look into matters such as dependence, social roles, forms of femininity.

Keywords: multicultural conflict; immigrants; disembedded self; cultural heritage; forms of femininity

**La pratique de la citation dans l'écriture du mémoire de master en
français langue maternelle et en français langue étrangère
(Citation Practice in Writing Master Theses in French as a Mother
Tongue and French as a Foreign Language)
Luminița ȘAMATA (STERIU)**

Abstract

The development of literature review, a compulsory chapter of master dissertations, represents a real challenge for students, because the techniques for its implementation require a thoughtful understanding of the consulted sources, a back-and-forth between reading theoretical texts and academic writing. To incorporate the speech of others in their own production, students use a range of techniques, one of the most used of which is quotation. The use of quotation is necessary in scientific writing because it helps students to position themselves in the field of investigation, in a theoretical framework. From a corpus made up of extracts from master dissertations in linguistics and didactics, written in French as a mother tongue and in French as a foreign language by French and respectively Romanian students, this paper examines in a comparative perspective the way in which novice writers quote the speech of others and position themselves in relation to the cited sources, also taking into account the normative aspect regarding the indication of the reference source.

Keywords: quotation ; master dissertations ; academic writing ; French as a mother tongue ; French as a foreign language

**Review of *The Dutch House* by Ann Patchett
HarperCollins Publishers, 2019, 352 pp.**

Virginia Mihaela DUMITRESCU

Abstract

The article reviews Ann Patchett's novel "The Dutch House"

Key words: Ann Patchett; The Dutch House; review.