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## PLENARY SESSIONS

- 9:00 – 10:40
- Room B212
- Chair: Štefan Beňuš

### 1. Sandra Reitbrecht: Vocabulary progression in German learning from a morphological perspective

*Acquiring scientific, technical or professional language skills is a key learning objective for a large number of German learners worldwide. From a morphological point of view, these are registers for whose vocabulary word formation processes such as derivation are of great importance. At the same time, however, German is usually learnt as a second or additional foreign language. This situation raises the questions of how learners can be familiarised with the morphological structures of German vocabulary at a very early stage and how morphological awareness can contribute to competence development in German as a foreign language. Based on this, the article first introduces the constructs of morphological awareness and derivational knowledge and then presents individual didactic principles of morphological instruction. Finally, the vocabulary in Profile Deutsch (Glaboniat et al., 2005) at levels A1 and A2 is analysed to determine whether it provides a basis for morphological instruction.*

*Keywords: derivational knowledge, morphological instruction, vocabulary progression.*

### 2. Anita Muho: Moving from Traditional Tests to Real-Life Skill Assessments in Foreign Language Learning

*This study examines the shift in foreign language teaching from traditional written tests to real-life skill assessments, highlighting methods like dialogues, role-playing, and cultural projects. These methods aim to assess students' practical language skills and cultural competence, overcoming the shortcomings of traditional assessments, which frequently fail to measure oral proficiency and contextual communication. This study emphasizes the increasing importance of authentic, task-oriented assessment, based on frameworks such as communicative competence (Canale & Swain, 1980) and language assessment theory (Bachman & Palmer, 2010). Using qualitative case studies from diverse language programs, the study examines curriculum designs, teacher experiences, and student feedback to compare traditional assessments with skill-based assessments. The findings indicate real-life assessments enhance students' communication abilities, cultural awareness, and involvement. Nevertheless, challenges like the requirement for extra resources, training for teachers, and standardized evaluation criteria remain. This study provides recommendations to address these issues, such as creating training programs for teachers, incorporating various cultural contexts, and utilizing technology to enhance practice and assessments. It is also recommended to use clear rubrics and benchmarks to achieve a balance between standardization and flexibility. This approach aims to better prepare students for global interactions and lifelong language use by aligning assessments with real-world communication needs.*

*Keywords: Real-life assessments, foreign language learning, task-based evaluation, cultural competence, communicative skills.*

### 3. Esther Álvarez de la Fuente/Raquel Fernández Fuertes: Interpreting as a natural skill: from family interactions to classroom application

*Natural translation or natural interpretation (NI) — performed by bilingual speakers without formal training—has received little attention in bilingualism studies, as it is often considered unfairly a byproduct of linguistic competence development (e.g., Harris, 1980, 2013; Álvarez de la Fuente and Fernández Fuertes, 2015, 2024; Hornáčková Klápicová, 2021; Álvarez de la Fuente et al., 2019). Similarly, the field of translation has largely dismissed it, regarding it as non-professional and rudimentary (see Álvarez de la Fuente and Fernández Fuertes, 2012 for a review). However, the NI performed by bilingual children exhibits unique characteristics linked to linguistic and pragmatic factors and it is a recurrent phenomenon that occurs in early bilingual oral production, regardless of the bilingual children's language pair (Álvarez de la Fuente and Fernández Fuertes, 2024). This phenomenon occurs in tandem with the linguistic growth of two languages in bilingual family contexts but it may occur also in other bilingual settings, such as second-language learning classrooms. In fact, in recent years, teaching practices such as translanguaging or linguistic mediation incorporate translation tasks to enhance second-language or multilingual learners' linguistic skills (e.g. Stathopoulou 2015; Corcoll López and González-Davies, 2016; Smentek 2017; Portolés Falomir and Laguna 2017). By doing so, it is possible to transfer to a bilingual educational context the processes that naturally occur in a family bilingual acquisition setting. Additionally, analyzing language contact phenomena such as NI can provide valuable strategies for optimizing formal second-language instruction.*

*Keywords:*

## Room A120

**11.00 – 13.00**

### Session II: Literature and Culture Literary Theory & Criticism Literature and Other Arts

- Chair: Mirko Lampis
- Assistant: Paula Pišová

#### 1. Mirta Curkovic & Magda Kučerková: *Historiae magistrae vitae*

*Once upon a time, there were storytellers who disseminated knowledge among the common people, as they wandered from village to village – derived from events that had occurred (or not) in the lives of others. Storytelling and listening have thus held a very important position in communal life since time immemorial, making them a central part of socialization. This is perhaps the fundamental difference between these traditional storytellers and the new portable “minstrels” of today, which capture our attention multiple times throughout the day, drawing us away from our lives, while also becoming instruments of increased control over them – claiming, based on our “preferences,” to teach us how to manage our lives. In an effort to reclaim the social dimension of the storytelling moment – as an expression of the desire of the narrators to tell and to reveal themselves, and of an audience, not necessarily paying, to listen to the multifaceted message being conveyed – Elena Stancanelli decided more than a decade ago to launch an initiative to bring storytelling into the schools of the country she comes from. It is this experience that I wish to share here. The name of the project is reflected in the title of this contribution to the conference, because if “stories” are life’s teachers, then so are we to some extent, when we share them in the schools. Just as the young people who listen to us and inspire us also teach us about life.*

*Keywords: literature, writers, education, sociality, youth.*

#### 2. Zuzana Cíváňová & Veronika Simanová: *La literatura como puente hacia la comprensión intercultural*

*En este artículo, consideramos el lugar y la importancia de la literatura en la educación contemporánea, especialmente a la luz de la creciente influencia de la inteligencia artificial y del fenómeno de la satisfacción instantánea entre los jóvenes. Partimos de la tesis de que la literatura es una herramienta muy eficaz para estimular el desarrollo del pensamiento crítico y de la empatía y para fomentar la comprensión en la sociedad en general como también entre las distintas culturas. Mediante el análisis y la interpretación de los textos literarios se fortalece la capacidad del individuo de explorar su mundo interior, descubrir su creatividad, evaluar la información y formar opiniones independientes y fundadas*

*Keywords: necesidades humanas, desarrollo personal, pensamiento crítico, comprensión intercultural.*

#### 3. Bledar Kurti: *How exiled writers raised and determined the Albanian identity and consciousness*

*Exile is fundamental to the identity of Albanian literature, culture, history, independence and the establishment of Albanian state. During and after the Ottoman invasion in the late 15th century, many knights and followers of the Albanian Prince, Gjergj Kastrioti, known as Arbëresh, went on exile to Italy, where they settled for more than five centuries, millions of whom reside there until today. The preservation of the identity, language, religion, tradition, rites, costumes, songs, etc., of the Arbëresh people for nearly six centuries is a unique case throughout the world. It is also essential to the creation of Albanian state, literature and culture, because for four centuries, in Albania, under the Ottoman occupation, the figure of Gjergj Kastrioti, the language and identity, were forced to fade from the national memory. Due to the crucial contribution of the exiles, the Albanian Renaissance was brought to fruition, bringing about the awakening of a people and the independence of a nation. Albanian literature is synonymous with two great Albanian exiles; Jeronim De Rada (1814-1903), the father of Albanian Romanticism, an Arbëresh in Italy, and Naim Frashëri (1846-1990), an exile in Istanbul, the poet, apostle and educator of the nation. My presentation will focus on how exiled writers raised the national consciousness, brought national unity, inspiration for independence, setting the foundations for Albanian literature.*

*Keywords: Exile, Arbëresh, Romanticism, Albania, literature, consciousness, identity, independence, belonging.*

#### 4. Ilir Sallata & Nevila Mehmeti & Majlinda Muka: *La formazione delle percezioni storiche degli alunni in Albania attraverso i siti del patrimonio comunista*

*This research paper examines the role of communist heritage and its sites in shaping historical perceptions among students in Albania. The main objective is to analyze how these sites influence historical education and how students understand the communist period. The competency-based curriculum in pre-university education in Albania aims, among other things, to help students build historical concepts, competencies, and qualities by discussing the values of historical heritage, viewing this heritage as part of defining the identity of our people. The research is based on both qualitative and quantitative methods, including verbal interviews and visits to communist heritage sites, such as Bunk'Art 1, Bunk'Art 2, the House of Leaves, the former Spaçi prison in Mirdita, and the former Tepelena camp. These sites, through opportunities for reflection*

and direct engagement, provide a chance for the development of critical thinking and a deeper understanding of the communist period. The findings indicate that communist heritage remains a complex and debated topic, but it holds significant potential for historical education. Through direct experiences and critical analysis, these sites can help students develop a deeper understanding of history and reflect on its importance for the future. Their integration into education requires a careful and inclusive approach to address challenges and fully utilize the potential they offer. Recommendations include more frequent use of educational sites, development of balanced teaching materials, and encouraging policymakers to integrate these sites into school curricula.

*Keywords:* Communist heritage, historical perceptions, historical education, students, heritage sites, critical thinking, collective memory, Albania.

##### **5. Marisa Kërbizi & Edlira Macaj: The Evolution of Literary and Artistic Criticism in Albania: From Ideological Control to Post-Socialist Pluralism**

From 1944 to 1990, literature and other arts in Albania were in an ideological framework, with socialist realism serving as the dominant paradigm. Literary criticism primarily assessed works based on their adherence to communist ideals, often neglecting their broader aesthetic dimensions. Similarly, visual and performing arts reflected these ideological tenets, emphasizing socialist heroism and symbolism. Literature and other arts such as painting and music were promoted for their educational and political influence on the public, while works that deviated from this framework were censored or banned, thereby constraining artistic experimentation. Literary criticism was state-controlled through institutions such as the League of Writers and Artists, which inhibited the development of independent and comprehensive debate. Certain authors and works were marginalized or prohibited within this environment, whereas others were elevated as exemplary successes. This study examines the institutional “reception” of critical discourses shaping literary and artistic production during this period. It explores specific cases across various artistic forms—literature, painting, music—to analyze the operative mechanisms of criticism at the time. Following the collapse of the regime, critical discourse on the arts underwent significant transformations, characterized by a dynamic shift toward pluralism and openness. The ideological rigidity that had previously defined artistic reception gave way to debates on freedom of expression, modernist influences, and the reevaluation of previously marginalized or banned works, thereby redefining the role and status of artistic criticism.

*Keywords:* Art, Albanian literature, Ideological control, Literary criticism, post-socialist pluralism.

##### **6. Fabiano Gritti: L'importanza della letteratura migrante e postcoloniale nell'insegnamento della letteratura agli studenti dell'italiano come lingua seconda**

The aim of the paper is to provide elements of reflection and motivation for teachers and students, about the usefulness of including the teaching of migrant and postcolonial literature in the curricula of Italian literature courses for foreign students outside Italy, especially in the university field. This is a relatively little studied topic in Italy with regard to its application in the field of SL teaching. The reference for the promotion of this perspective are first of all the indications of the Council of Europe that promote the improvement of plurilingual and intercultural skills through the study of foreign languages and greater attention to linguistic and cultural diversity, furthermore this is also encouraged through literary texts. The belief that is proposed is that although the promotion of plurilingual skills is possible by using the texts of Italian literature with characteristics of plurilingualism, particularly useful and effective for intercultural openness would be the entry into the literary canon of writings by postcolonial authors.

*Keywords:* postcolonial literature, migrant literature, cotemporary literature, glottodidactics.

##### **7. Ján Gallik & Zuzana Vargová & Monika Adamická: Theory of Adaptation in Contemporary Education**

Since the basic principles of changes in the content and forms of education in the contemporary world are based on shifting the focus from the transfer of knowledge to the development of pupils' complex competences and supporting the development of the potential of each pupil, it is all the more urgent to properly grasp, e.g. in the context of language, literature and culture teaching, the interaction of a literary work and its film adaptation. Digital natives have different learning habits and needs than their predecessors. And with today's children, born in the 21st century, this problem is even more pronounced, as they are online practically without a break and scrolling through social networks of all kinds takes up a huge amount of their time every day. Their brain gets used to it easily, even though it gets more information than it is able to perceive. Education must also respond to this fact in order to prepare pupils for life in the spirit of the needs of the 21st century. It is also a challenge of the currently ongoing curricular reform in primary schools. In the study, we will therefore focus on the practical possibilities of applying the theory of adaptation in contemporary education, and we will also point out its development in the context of the Nitra School, especially through the prism of Tibor Žilka's research, in which he focused on intertextual thematic and compositional elements involved in the construction of the text and on its basis examined film adaptation.

*Keywords:* adaptation, literature, film, contemporary education, curriculum reform.

## 8. Eduardo Manuel Bravo Tena: Enseñar literatura en un mundo sin nuevos lectores (métodos y conexiones para desatar el entusiasmo estudiantil)

*Literature takes time. It is a slow craft for both writers and readers, and its visible impact is often undetectable or delayed in a society that does not reward personal growth and demands immediacy. In this context, teaching literature has become a real challenge. Nowadays, students are used to fast content; with just a couple of clicks, they can access what they want culturally and for entertainment, without much effort. So why would they want to turn to books? What do books offer them? As teachers, we must face the reality that books are often seen as obsolete objects whose nature requires focus and time—completely opposite to the kind of content found on mobile phones. Those of us who believe in their value must reflect on and act to help students realize the benefits of reading. How can we achieve this? In this presentation, I will share techniques that can be applied in the classroom, such as redefining the teacher's role as a kind of 'Virgil' guiding students, like 'Dantes,' on their journey through literature. The key lies in enthusiasm, demonstrated through strategies like marketing and theatrical techniques. These include creating a sense of need, using storytelling, and practicing theatrical expression with literary texts from different genres. Thus, we can make literature stand out as something attractive and valuable, instead of taking the easy route of adapting it to fleeting and ever-changing trends.*

*Keywords: Literature, Enthusiasm, Pedagogy, Storytelling, Hunger Marketing.*

## 9. Natália Rusnáková: Il canone della letteratura italiana nel contesto dell'insegnamento dell'italiano come la lingua straniera

*In the context of Slovak school system, the second language, included Italian, is proposed to be enhanced in the nowadays conditions. Despite the good will to promote plurilingual competences in higher and university education, in introducing literary texts in the didactic process we face some receptive and contextual difficulties which consist mainly in the level and complexity of the general knowledge of Italian literature among the students. In the course of world literature, held in high schools, some medieval authors such as Dante or Petrarch and contemporary authors, mainly of neorealism or of the fantastic literature, such as Moravia or Calvino are presented to the Slovak student and are proposed as representative and canonical for the Italian literature. The difficulty of literary language they use and the lack of effective proposals of their literary texts in translation make it hard for the student to make himself an image of continuity of Italian literature. On the other hand, abundance of translations of world-famous contemporary Italian authors and texts in the reader market, mostly within novel genres of various types, may create a good background for proposing selected or canonical works of contemporary Italian literature to the student also in original.*

*Keywords: Second Language Teaching, Italian Literature, literary Canon.*

## 10. Xhuljeta Kasmollari: Viaggi in maschera, donne in giro in Albania

*The COVID-19 pandemic has introduced new modes of travel and has reaffirmed the value of travel narratives as a testimony to social and cultural transformation. In particular, the concept of digital or symbolic travel has emerged as a crucial means of maintaining cultural connection and personal expression during times of restricted mobility. In this context, Albania has emerged as a significant destination for literary and political explorations. This study examines travel accounts during the pandemic, focusing on women's experiences both as travelers and as political and leadership figures. Through a critical reading of testimonies, travel diaries, and public speeches by female authorities, this investigation explores how travel, despite its limitations, has become a symbol of resilience and a testimony to change. The analyzed narratives demonstrate how female travelers have reinterpreted the concept of mobility, transforming pandemic-related restrictions into opportunities for rediscovering Albania's cultural and identity landscape. In particular, the analysis of prominent female figures' experiences offers a unique perspective on resilience and the role of women in redefining public space. Furthermore, this study seeks to highlight how travel literature during the pandemic has assumed a political and social function, amplifying the voices of those who challenge traditional gender and geographic limitations. Ultimately, this research contributes to the contemporary discourse on travel literature by offering a critical reflection on emerging narratives in times of global crisis, emphasizing the significant role of women as protagonists of travel and agents of change.*

*Keywords: Gender and Mobility, Resilience and Identity, Pandemic Narratives.*

**14.00 – 16.00****Session II: Literature and Culture – Contemporary Literature, Classical Literature**

- Chair: Zuzana Cíváňová
- Assistant: Andrea Kóňová

**1. Nasiba Azizova: The Concept of Linguistic Personality in the Works of Alisher Navoi**

*This article examines the concept of "linguistic personality" in the works of the Uzbek thinker and founder of the Uzbek literary language, Alisher Navoi. For the linguocultural analysis of the concept of "linguistic personality," the works "Khamasa," "Divan," "Farhad and Shirin," and "Lison-ot-Tayr" (or "The Language of Birds") will be used. Additionally, a comparative analysis of the concept of linguistic personality will be conducted with European writers and poets such as Dante Alighieri, William Shakespeare, and Johann Wolfgang von Goethe.*

*Keywords: Uzbek thinker, poet, pseudonym, concept, linguistic personality, comparative analysis, European writers, Dante Alighieri, William Shakespeare, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe.*

**2. Marisa Kërbizi & Edlira Macaj: Stylistics Features in "Imaginary Encyclopedia" By Bajram Kosumi**

*The "Imaginary Encyclopedia" by Bajram Kosumi is a vast narrative corpus, characterized by an interactive relationship between truth and fiction. Biographical and historical truths are intertwined with fictional events creating a domain of real-fiction. Hence, the "Imaginary Encyclopedia" is fictional in terms of genre, or the literary devices, but on the other hand, it deepens the relationship with the truth because of the frequent references to real people and events: the later mainly come through the memories of the narrative voices, and the individual perspective makes each of them painful. This literary work exists as a world on its own, in which history, imagination, physics and metaphysics are intertwined. The "imaginary encyclopedia" rises as a massive structure, through which it conveys the life of the island and the islanders. This island sometimes takes attributes of the Albanian world (and Kosovo becomes the center of the narrative experience). Some other times, the island expands semantically, becoming the Balkans in the 19th and 20th centuries; or even Europe, which suffers the desecration of human dignity in the camps of Nazism or the prisons of communism; moreover the whole world becomes an island in Bajram Kosumi's novel, a big island which witnesses the death of Human Humanoid (1981-2050). This is a new world, built through simulacra, a world in which the boundaries between reality and its reflection are deliberately blurred and the concept of knowledge is reinterpreted; hence concepts such as reality, truth, reason, and imagination are functionalized again in a new context.*

*Keywords: island, past, truth, memory, pain.*

**3. Izabela Saraçi: Bojëndërr by Noa Nur: A Journey of Self-Discovery Through Poetry and Tales in Contemporary Albanian Literature**

*Bojëndërr by Noa Nur is a unique work within contemporary Albanian literature that interweaves tales, poetry, and rich symbolism to explore profound existential themes. The author herself describes it as a piece requiring courage, courage to face criticism and transition from dreams to reality. This work represents life, self-discovery, solitude, and the cyclical nature of journeys and returns. Despite its seemingly modest form, Bojëndërr resonates deeply, drawing readers into an emotional and sensory experience as they progress through its pages. The simplicity and clarity of Noa Nur's language, stripped of unnecessary complexity, allow the reader to engage directly with the essence of the work, facilitating a profound exploration of the human condition. This paper employs a qualitative method, analyzing Bojëndërr through a close reading of its tales and poetry to identify recurring themes and symbolic imagery. The focus is on how Noa Nur's work engages with existential questions, personal growth, and emotional resilience, reflecting both individual and universal human experiences. By exploring themes such as fear, hope, and transformation, this study aims to contextualize Bojëndërr as a significant contribution to contemporary Albanian literature that challenges readers to engage with their inner worlds. Through its poetic journey, Bojëndërr calls readers to introspect and recognize the complexities of human existence, highlighting the importance of understanding oneself amidst life's trials. The work underscores the power of literature to unearth strength and meaning, fostering a deeper appreciation for the emotional and philosophical foundations that guide our journey through life.*

*Keywords: personal discovery, growth, life and solitude.*

#### 4. Drita Isufaj: The Rhetoric of Flowers in Albanian Folk Erotic Lyrics: A Study of Symbolism and Eroticism

*In the lyrics of Albanian folk erotic songs, signifiers from the world of flowers are ubiquitous; we notice that they are so present that the verses of these texts, in a certain sense, can also be considered as verses of the cult of the flower. The symbolism of flowers, in its history, has a variety of embedded meanings, mostly related to feminine and sexual associations. Flowers represent female puberty, first sexual experience, fertility, etc. All these stages in the lyrics of our folk erotic songs are described by the terminology of flowers, thus making the flower a synonym of the girl/woman. The most mentioned flowers in Albanian erotic lyrics are: rose, violet, cloves, lily, jasmine, hydrangeas, daffodils, etc., that is, the most common ones in our gardens and yards. It is generally considered that flowers are covered with erotic connotations, but in fact, during our observation, we will notice how they are not simply covered with eroticism, but actually contain eroticism themselves. Each flower, in our folk lyrics with erotic motifs, appears to us with its unique individuality and eroticism, which we will explore more deeply in the articles of this paper, through a detailed semiotic approach. Thus, we intend to open new paths in the future studies of the erotic codes of the Albanian folk lyrics, seeing the latter also in the context of intercultural exchanges.*

*Keywords: flower, rose, lily, eroticism, folk lyric.*

#### 5. Paula Pířová: L'oeuvre de Marek Vadas par rapport de la poésie du réalisme magique

*The aim of the present study is to contextualize the authorial poetics of the Slovak writer Marek Vadas in his African-inspired short stories. The poetics of his texts is primarily reminiscent of the work of the authors of the so-called magical realism. On the basis of a comparison of the basic textual practices of these authors with the short stories of the Slovak writer, we prove the stylistic similarity of the selected texts. Despite the considerable resemblance, it is not possible to say that Marek Vadas is a representative of magical realism, which is tied to the cultural and geographical context of Latin America. For this reason, we will focus on the term "Black Realism", which was used by the author himself and which seems to be the most apt.*

*Keywords: contemporary literature, poetics, Marek Vadas, interpretation.*

#### 6. Sidita Dano Hoxhiq: Kurt Vonnegut and Kasem Trebeshina used science fiction prose as a means to narrate the atrocities of the time

*This study examines the literary portrayals of war and dictatorship in the works of Kurt Vonnegut and Kasem Trebeshina, focusing on their distinct yet converging critiques of violence and oppression. Despite their differing historical and cultural contexts, both authors expose the absurdity and dehumanization caused by war while challenging the social structures that sustain such conflicts. The study employs a comparative literary analysis, exploring *Slaughterhouse-Five* by Vonnegut and *Odin Mondvalsen* by Trebeshina. Closely reading their narratives, themes, and stylistic choices—such as Vonnegut's use of nonlinear storytelling and dark humor and Trebeshina's depiction of resistance against tyranny—highlights their shared denunciation of war's futility. Additionally, the research considers historical and autobiographical influences, analyzing how each author's personal experiences shape their literary approach. The findings suggest that while Vonnegut and Trebeshina differ in many aspects of their literary careers and art—one incorporating science fiction elements and satire, the other focusing on realism and political allegory—they ultimately converge in their critique of war's senseless brutality, sharing some common elements of narrative and genre. Their works serve as powerful commentaries on the devastating psychological and societal consequences of war, emphasizing the necessity of resisting oppressive regimes. This study concludes that, despite their geographical and cultural differences, Vonnegut and Trebeshina's literature fulfills a similar purpose: raising awareness about the horrors of war and dictatorship, advocating for empathy, and challenging institutionalized violence through compelling storytelling.*

*Keywords: narrative, science fiction, prose, dehumanization, absurdity, war literature, dictatorship.*

#### 7. Valbona Kalo: Alienation and Absurdity in Contemporary Albanian Literature: The Case of Bashkim Shehu

*This paper explores how the concepts of alienation, absurdity, memory, and consciousness are constructed in Bashkim Shehu's novel *The Game: The Collapse of the Sky*. Drawing on existentialist philosophy and contemporary narrative theory, the study examines the representation of historical trauma through non-linear structures, post-human narration, and the metaphor of the game. The narrator of the novel, operating beyond the limits of time and life, creates a metaphysical space where the voice of the victim and that of the witness intersect. At the center of the analysis is the character of Aleks, a survivor of the dictatorship, who through a theatrical reenactment seeks a symbolic form of redemption. The article relies on cultural memory theory (Assmann), the notion of narrative as an ethical act (Ricoeur), and Huizinga's concept of the "serious game" as a mode of confronting guilt and the past. Methodologically, the study combines thematic literary analysis with narratological and interdisciplinary approaches. The findings reveal that the novel is not merely a testimony to past violence, but a narrative form through which trauma is processed, symbolic justice is articulated, and collective memory is preserved in a post-totalitarian world.*

*Keywords: alienation, absurdity, cultural memory, post-human narration, the game.*

## 8. Florinda Boriçi: The Chastising Voice of James Baldwin in American Literature

*James Baldwin was one of the most important writers of the twentieth century American Literature. He was not only a writer but also a civil rights activist, one of the first black public intellectuals and an outspoken cultural critic of American society. Baldwin was always outspoken about race relations in America not only in his works but also in public speeches and talks. James Baldwin through his works has helped to raise awareness of the racial and sexual oppression in the United States of America. Through the sincere portrayal of his personal experiences in America he chastised his own country regarding its core national values of equality and justice. This study aims to trace Baldwin's chastising voice in some of his works such as, *Another Country*, *The Fire Next Time*, *Notes of a Native Son* and *Giovanni's Room*. The influence of Baldwin's courageous voice and legacy continues up to this day in American Literature.*

*Keywords: racism, race relations, sexual oppression.*

## 9. Mirela Shella: Exploring Femininity and Feminism Through the Lens of Albanian Writers

*This paper explores the interplay between femininity and feminism in the narrative works of contemporary Albanian writers, whose contributions are becoming increasingly prominent in Albanian literature. These writers not only add to the literary landscape in quantity but significantly enhance it in quality, engaging with traditional Albanian literature as both a model and a point of departure. Often inspired by this tradition, they seek to renew it through innovative and personal styles informed by their own experiences. The study specifically examines the portrayal of female characters by prominent Albanian writers, aiming to understand these characters beyond the simplistic roles of "object" or "subject." Through analysis and comparison, the paper seeks to uncover the complex relationships among female characters created by women writers. It investigates how traditional archetypes—such as wife, mother, sister, lover, friend, and rival—are reimagined in the contexts of both private and public spheres. By focusing on feminist themes and feminist literary criticism within Albanian literature, this paper seeks to contribute to a growing body of scholarship on gender studies in Albania and establish a foundational framework for current and future research on these vital topics.*

*Keywords: Albanian literature, feminism, femininity, women writers, female identity.*

## 10. Jaroslav Kušnír: Hawaiian Cultures and Identities in Kristiana Kahakauwila's "This is Paradise and Lisa Kanae: "Kimo's Red Collar"

*In their fiction, both Hawaiian authors often depict a diasporic position and the complex formation of Hawaiian identity within the context of postcolonialism and contemporary sensibilities shaped by media and popular culture. This paper will analyze Kahakauwila's and Kanae's portrayal of Hawaiian cultural identity, which is influenced, on one hand, by Oceanic sensibility and cultural tradition, and on the other, by the diasporic nature of Hawaiian culture, along with the impact of media, advanced technologies, and pop culture as manifested in their short stories *This is Paradise and Red Collar*. Additionally, the paper will explore Hawaiian cultural identity in postcolonial times, drawing on Bill Ashcroft's concept of the 'transnation' to highlight the unique specificity of Hawaiian cultural identity.*

*Key words: Hawaiian literature, cultural identity, transnation, Oceanic sensibility*

## ROOM A121

**11.00 – 13.00**

### Session II: Literature and Culture – Intercultural Communication

- Chair: Martina Juríčková
- Assistant: Ivana Vargová

#### 1. Muhammad Arinal Rahman: Cultural Hybridity and Identity Formation: A Narrative Study of Russell Peters

*The study investigates how language interacts with culture and identity in a narrative by Russell Peters, a well-known comedian and second-generation Canadian of Indian descent. The study uses cultural hybridity theories (Bhabha, 2012; Hall, 1995) and language as a tool for identity construction in a narrative inquiry of Peters' autobiography, Call Me Russell, alongside his publicly available stand-up comedy performances and interviews. The major themes are cultural hybridity, identity struggles, experiences of racism, and language in the construction of a sense of belonging. The major finding is that Peters navigates complex identities and that laughter reconciles both public expectations and his own heritage, while he negotiates belonging across multicultural settings. This study contributes to the sociolinguistics literature with insights into the dynamics of identity formation in second-generation immigrants and the way language plays a role in the mediation of cultural experiences.*

*Keywords: Sociolinguistics, cultural hybridity, identity, second-generation immigrants, narrative inquiry.*

#### 2. Anita Neziri: Cultural differences in the reception of black humor

*Black humor blends absurdity with morbidity, challenging societal norms and addressing taboo subjects. This paper explores how cultural factors influence the reception of black humor across different societies. By analyzing stand-up comedy, literature, and film, the study highlights the varying degrees of acceptance and rejection shaped by history, religion, and social structures. Findings suggest that black humor, while universally present, is interpreted through the lens of cultural experience, revealing deeper insights into societal values and collective memory.*

*Keywords: black humor, cultural reception, intercultural communication, societal values, humor studies.*

#### 3. Albana Hodaj & Kseanela Sotirofski: Literature of northern Albania as an instrument of cultural diplomacy: the role of literary figures in shaping national identity and Albania's international image

*The literature of Northern Albania represents a fundamental pillar in shaping national identity and constructing a cultural narrative that has often served the purposes of cultural diplomacy on the international stage. This paper aims to analyze the work and persona of some of the most representative authors of this region—such as Gjergj Fishta, Ndre Mjeda, Ernest Koliqi, and Martin Camaj—not only from an aesthetic and linguistic perspective but also as carriers of both national and European visions. Through an interdisciplinary approach that combines literary analysis with cultural policy and international relations, this study seeks to highlight the role of these figures in conveying Albanian heritage values beyond its borders and in preserving a collective memory that supports the country's European integration. Northern Albanian literature, with its emphasis on the Gheg dialect and ethno-cultural dimension, re-emerges as a key element in shaping Albania's image in international diplomatic, academic, and cultural contexts. The reinterpretation of these figures in contemporary discourse offers a renewed opportunity for Albanian cultural diplomacy in the age of globalization.*

*Keywords: national identity, Northern Albanian literature, cultural diplomacy, international relations.*

#### 4. Jolanda Lila: The Role of Literature in Preserving Minority Languages in the Period of Globalization: A Case Study of Arbëresh

*The Arbëresh community, descendants of Albanian emigrants who settled in Southern Italy between the 15th and 18th centuries, has preserved a distinct linguistic and cultural heritage over the centuries. Despite their deep integration into Italian society, the Arbëresh has maintained its language, traditions, and customs. Since the 19th century, to reach a broader audience, Arbëresh poets have adopted bilingualism, incorporating both Albanian and Italian within their literary works to preserve the archaic form of Albanian. This paper examines the role of literature, specifically poetry, in preserving the Arbëresh language in the context of globalization. The global dominance of major languages and cultural homogenization poses significant threats to the survival of minority languages. However, literature has proven to be a powerful tool for preserving linguistic diversity, serving as a medium through which cultural memory, identity, and heritage are transmitted. Through an analysis of contemporary Arbëresh poetry, this study explores how literature safeguards the Arbëresh language and culture while fostering a continued sense of identity within the community. The paper also discusses the challenges and opportunities facing Arbëresh literature in a globalized world, underscoring its role in preserving the linguistic and cultural heritage of the Arbëresh people. It highlights how Arbëresh's literature, by maintaining a connection between the*

*past and the present, plays a crucial role in language survival and promoting intercultural dialogue in an increasingly globalized context.*

*Keywords: minority languages, Arbëresh literature, globalization, language preservation, cultural identity.*

#### **5. Anila Berberi & Alma Dema: Preserving the Albanian Language in the Diaspora: An Imperative for Cultural Survival**

*The 19th-century thinkers Wilhelm von Humboldt and Johann Gottfried Herder profoundly understood that language is the soul of the nation. Today, Albanian transcends geographical boundaries; it is a vital symbol of cultural identity-encompassing cultural, psychological, sociological, and pedagogical dimensions. In an increasingly interconnected world, the challenge of preserving and learning Albanian in the diaspora has never been more urgent. With approximately 15 – 25 million speakers globally, according to Ethnologue (18th ed., 2015), Albanian represents a unique branch of the Indo-European family. As Albanian speakers, it is our responsibility to confront the challenges posed by distance and assimilation. This study aims to illuminate the obstacles we face in preserving the Albanian language within communities abroad, focusing specifically on Italy. Through this detailed exploration, we will draw didactic and practical recommendations for ensuring the vibrancy of our cultural heritage. Every day, dedicated researchers, academic institutions, and community interest groups tirelessly work to safeguard the Albanian language alongside our customs, traditions, and cultural expressions. Yet, this is not merely an academic endeavour; it is a collective call to action. Preserving our language is crucial for maintaining our identity and fostering a sense of belonging among future generations. Employing descriptive, comparative, and analytical methods, we will arrive at specific, actionable conclusions that can galvanize our community's efforts.*

*Keywords: challenge, diaspora, cultural heritage, Albanian, Albania.*

#### **6. Martin Machata: Cultural and Linguistic Specificities of a Foreign Minority Magazine P**

*The article focuses on the cultural and linguistic specificities of the monthly magazine of the Croatian national minority in Croatia, Prameň. The periodical, published by the Union of Slovaks in Croatia, based in Našice, has played an important role for almost 30 years in strengthening and preserving the cultural and linguistic identity of this expatriate enclave. The magazine serves as a tool for fostering the minority language and traditional Slovak culture, but it also provides a space for discussions on social, political, and cultural issues affecting the community. Most of its content, therefore, focuses on documenting the life of the minority, its education system, history, traditional culture, organization, and social events of Slovaks in Croatia. The contributors to the magazine are mainly members of the minority community, for whom Croatian is the majority language and culture, though they also have some knowledge of Slovak culture and the Slovak language. The cultural and linguistic specificities of the magazine are therefore characterized by a unique blend of Slovak and Croatian elements. Stylistically, Prameň, in its edited form, is characterized by a formalized yet accessible language, understandable to members of the Lower Land minority communities as well as to readers in Slovakia. The specific nature of the magazine, as a space for continuous interlingual and intercultural communication between the minority and majority language and culture in Slovakia and Croatia, is the central focus of this paper.*

*Keywords: magazine, language, culture, national minority, education.*

#### **7. Eurona Leka: Comparative Approach to Women's Education in Totalitarianism and Post-Totalitarianism in Albania**

*This paper explores the evolution of women's education in Albania, contrasting the experiences of women under totalitarian rule with those in the post-totalitarian era. Under the communist regime, Albania implemented policies of universal education, which increased female enrollment rates. Education was highly politicized, and women's roles were largely defined by the state's ideological needs rather than their personal or professional aspirations. In the post-totalitarian period, following the fall of communism, Albania transitioned toward a more democratic society, with significant reforms in education. Women gained greater autonomy in pursuing education, particularly in urban areas, where access to higher education and professional careers expanded. However, the legacy of totalitarian control still lingers in some sectors, with gender inequalities remaining in rural areas and certain academic fields. This paper examines the shifting dynamics of women's education, analyzing key policy changes, statistical data, and personal narratives from both periods. By comparing these two distinct eras, the study highlights both the progress made and the challenges that persist, offering insights into the ongoing role of education in empowering Albanian women and contributing to national development in a post-totalitarian context. This analysis aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the transformative impact of educational reforms, offering valuable perspectives for future policy and gender equity initiatives in Albania.*

*Keywords: women, totalitarian, post-totalitarian, education.*

#### **8. Denisa Celami: British Perspectives on Post-Communist Albania: Analyzing the Works of Clarissa de Waal, Miranda Vickers, and Fred Abrahams**

*This article analyzes the portrayal of Albania's post-communist transformation in three British travel books: Clarissa de Waal's *Albania Today: A Portrait of Post-Communist Turbulence*, Miranda Vickers' *The Albanians: A Modern History*, and Fred Abrahams' *Modern Albania: From Dictatorship to Democracy in Europe*. Albania, once one of the most isolated countries in Europe, faced significant social, political, and economic challenges following the fall of communism. The three*

books focus on different aspects of Albania's turbulent transition, offering insights into the country's struggle to rebuild state institutions and re-establish connections with the Western world. The accounts presented in these books, spanning the 1990s and early 2000s, highlight the evolving views of British writers on Albania's progress towards democracy. In all three cases, the writers act as cultural intermediaries, documenting the rapid and often painful changes in Albania's political landscape while also shaping Western perceptions of the country's potential and future prospects.

Keywords: travel writing, british writers, post-communist Albania.

#### 9. Alketa Dumani & Alida Tomja: Russian Threat, the US, and the Transatlantic Response in the New World Context

This article analyzes the evolving geopolitical implications of Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine, particularly its effects on NATO, transatlantic unity, and the broader global security landscape. The invasion has significantly reshaped European defense strategies, strengthening NATO's collective security framework and prompting increased military spending among member states. Moreover, the conflict has accelerated efforts to diversify energy sources, reduce reliance on Russian energy exports, and bolster cybersecurity defenses across NATO countries. In addition to these shifts, rising global tensions—exemplified by a deepening Russia-China partnership and shifting dynamics within the Global South—further complicate the strategic environment. The outcome of the 2024 U.S. presidential election, with its potential to steer U.S. foreign policy towards a more transactional approach, plays a critical role in shaping NATO's response to these challenges. This article explores both the internal and external factors affecting NATO's strategy amid Russian aggression and broader geopolitical shifts, emphasizing the need for continuous transatlantic collaboration, strategic foresight, and adaptation.

Keywords: NATO unity, Russia-Ukraine conflict, transatlantic security, 2025 developments.

#### 10. Lorena Çadri & Ledian Beshaj: How the language used in social media impacts youth perception about mental health problems

This article explores youth perception and the impact of language used in social media regarding to mental health problems. In the Albanian society the number of people facing mental health problems is increasing and still we have insecurities or stigma when it comes to talk about it. Social media platforms are very popular and used especially by young boys and girls and they have the power to influence their opinions. Recently, social media is used as a platform to advocate, to talk, about mental health problems. The problem is how the language is used to transmit this information and how relatable is this information. Positive language can influence for good, increasing awareness, but hate speech often use in social media can do damages on people suffering from this problem, or led to disinformation. The study was conduct with young girls and boys aged 15-25 who are the age that use different social media platform, living in different cities in Albania. Literature review and quantitative methods are used for this study. When it comes to a sensitive topic such as mental health problems the language used to talk, to write about it should be selected carefully with responsibility, in order to promote a positive perception about mental health and to reduce stigma that comes along with it. The right language usage in social media can make a big impact on today's youth when talking about mental health, in promoting healthier perceptions or actions.

Keywords: language, society, mental health, social media.