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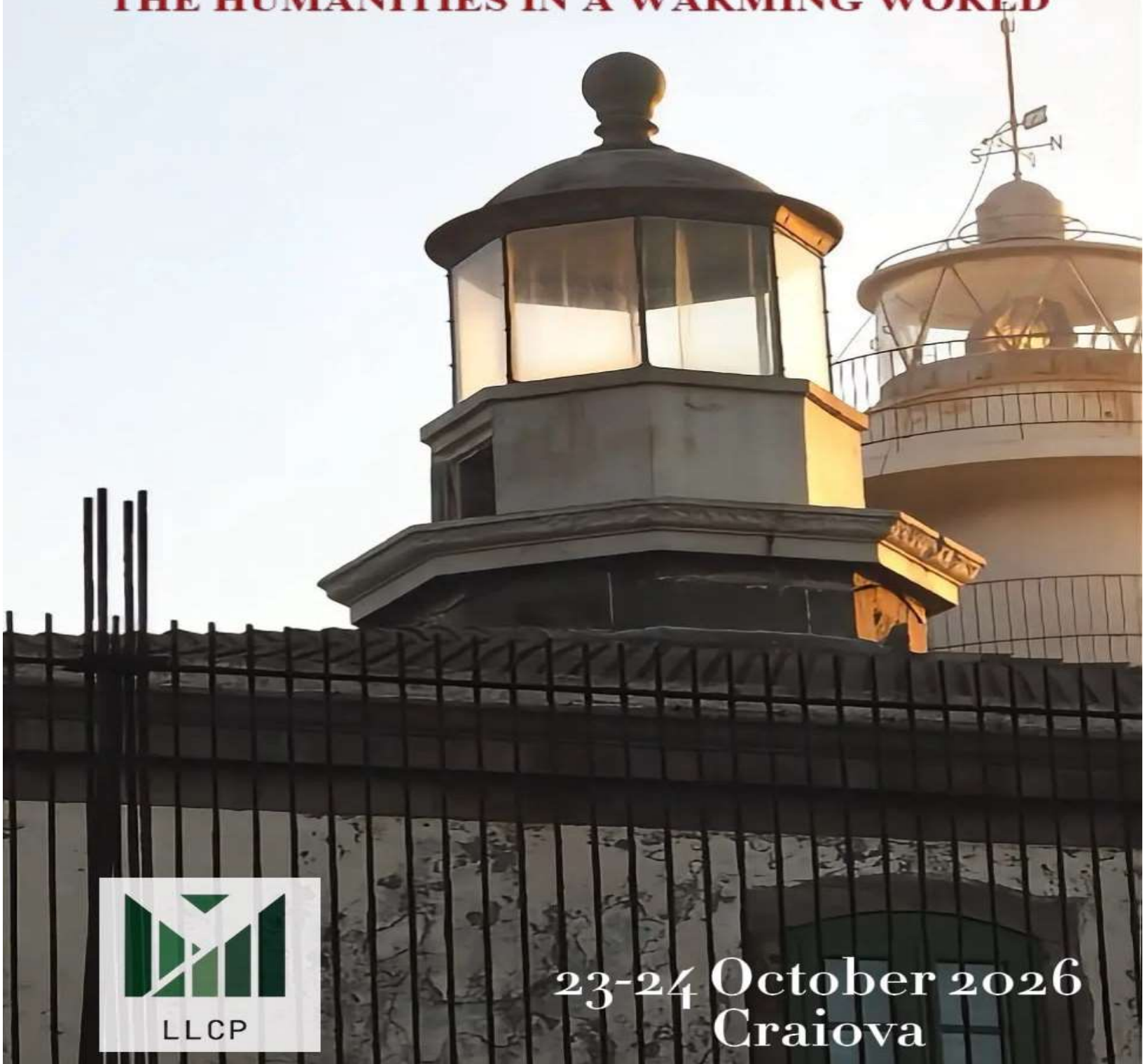
LANGUAGE, LITERATURE AND CULTURAL POLICIES (LLCP)

WEATHERING CHANGE:

THE HUMANITIES IN A WARMING WORLD



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Book of Abstracts

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Weathering Change in the Haunted Arctic: Ghosts of the Past and Transitions to the Future

The Arctic is known these days as a space changing rapidly under the effects of global warming. In literature, from Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* (1818) onwards, the Arctic often features as a haunted (and haunting) space. In the nineteenth-century imaginary, the Arctic's supposedly-blank canvas received the dreams and desires of numerous writers and explorers, but, as Frankenstein shows, those dreams also have their sinister side. In this talk, I explore how twenty-first century literature uses the idea of the Arctic as a haunted space to probe ideas about anthropogenic environmental change over time. Haunting is a device that is particularly good at drawing attention to change over time and bringing different temporal scales into view, allowing us to better see how ecological transitions are bound up with political, scientific, and economic concerns. I examine two novels which position a haunting figure at centre of stories about the legacies of Svalbard's political, industrial, and natural histories: Michelle Paver's neo-historical *Dark Matter: A Ghost Story* (2010) and its recent intertext, *Beyond the Frozen Horizon* (2022), a children's novel by Nicola Penfold. Both are influenced by Svalbard's interwoven geopolitical and natural histories, and reveal violent, buried pasts that have implications for the future.

Paver's novel is set in the interwar period of the 1930s, a time of transition in science, class and economic relations, and international politics, and uses its ghost to expose the effects of these intersecting forces on land, animals, and people. Penfold's *Beyond the Frozen Horizon* is a near-future story in which Svalbard has become a crucial location in the mitigation of the effects of anthropogenic climate change, yet struggles to escape the legacies of its past. Responses to climate change are often split along long-running political lines relating to individual and market freedoms that conflict with the state regulation and community emphasis necessary to curb resource consumption and CO2 emissions: a conflict particularly visible in the social and environmental histories of resource-rich Arctic regions like Svalbard. Expanding the concept of community to include animals, land, and water, the novels' use of haunting figures and repressed pasts works to inform possibilities for transition to more environmentally ethical futures.

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Weather and Atmosphere in the Dark Academia Aesthetic

This paper aims to examine the role of weather in Donna Tartt's *The Secret History* (1992), considering the meteorological phenomena not merely as elements of the setting, but as material directly involved in the construction of the novel's atmosphere and academic world. Based on ecocritical interpretations, the analysis explores how cold, snow, fog, rain, and seasonal changes interact with the academic space and narrative events. Particular attention is given to the relationship between Hampden College and the climate, as the college's idealized image is frequently associated with autumnal landscaped, darkness, snow, and a sense of isolation and enclosure. By reading weather as a recurrent and structurally significant element rather than as a symbolic representation of danger or melancholy, the paper argues that the meteorological experience contributes to the production of the distinctive atmosphere associated with Dark Academia.

Keywords: atmosphere, Dark Academia, ecocriticism, university, weather

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Digging up the Roots of Evil

Jan Carson's novel The Raptures hosts mystery story elements, fantastic ones, and religious issues to render a growing confusion within the limited setting of Ballylack, a town in Northern Ireland. The dominant perspective is that of a young girl's, Hannah, who tries to make her way through the stories her family and her colleagues tell her. Traumatic experience specific to Irish culture and history intertwines with the effect of chemical pollution, leading to terrifying images from the other world, that is the Ballylack after death. The presentation focuses on how an irresponsible decision can affect a community already shattered because of religious and ethnic discrimination, and how confusion and uncertainty fuel storytelling and religious practices.
Keywords: pollution, storytelling, religion, mystery, Ireland

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Translating for a Warming World: AI in Translator Education

In response to the growing need for sustainability-oriented and technology-enhanced translator education, the present paper explores the integration of AI-assisted translation tools into translator training as a means of fostering environmental literacy. We set out to develop a training model with MA students enrolled in the *Translation and Terminology in the European Context* Programme at the University of Craiova. The students engage with environmental policy texts at the intersection of translation competence, terminological awareness, and ecological responsibility. Within the framework of ecolinguistics and translation studies, we examine how translating EU directives and national climate action plans from English into Romanian, using AI-driven machine translation and terminology management systems, strengthens students' ability to manage specialised terminology while deepening their engagement with climate change discourse. Critical post-editing and reflective tasks are designed to ensure accuracy and consistency. Particular attention is paid to the ways in which environmental discourse combines legal, technical, and persuasive elements to shape environmental attitudes. We share the perspective that translator education calls for sustainability-oriented pedagogical models that bind technological competence, environmental consciousness, and critical human agency into a coherent vision: to translate responsibly.
Keywords: AI-assisted translation; translator training; environmental literacy; environmental policy discourse; post-editing.

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"AC or not AC?" That Is the Question the World Has for Europeans

In the past few weeks, Europe has been under an unprecedented heatwave. People took to the Internet to express their distress and look for sympathy, and found (mostly) Americans making

fun of them for not having air conditioning. This constant back-and-forth between these two parties has brought to the fore a number of problems, such as the effects of climate change (how much it is man-made and how much it is inevitable), and human sympathy.

This paper is an attempt at analysing the online discourse sparked by the recent heatwave on the social media platform Threads, and what it says about the general population's knowledge (or lack thereof) about climate change, and how this discourse stems from a highly individualistic and short-term thinking pattern, in which quick fixes done by individuals (i.e. getting AC units) affects people's empathy for large-scale and long-term problems (i.e. global warming).

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The Climatic Gothic: Weather Imagery, Environmental Anxiety, and Atmospheric Haunting in Emily Brontë's Wuthering Heights

Emily Brontë's Wuthering Heights (1847) has generated an extensive body of criticism concerning Gothic fiction, Romanticism, the sublime, landscape, social exclusion, and the relationship between environment and human emotion. More recent approaches to the novel have increasingly emphasized the significance of weather, the moorland, and the material environment in shaping its Gothic imagination.

This article builds upon these approaches while shifting attention from weather as symbolic background to the atmospheric structure through which environmental instability becomes a form of Gothic haunting. I propose the concept of atmospheric haunting to describe the function of weather in Wuthering Heights: storms, wind, cold, rain, darkness, and changing atmospheric conditions do not merely reflect the psychological states of the characters but materialize unresolved forms of violence, loss, memory, and environmental vulnerability.

The paper argues that the novel can be read as a form of Climatic Gothic, a mode in which weather destabilizes the boundaries between interior and exterior, human and nonhuman, psychological experience and material environment. The movement between the domestic spaces of Wuthering Heights and Thrushcross Grange and the exposed landscape of the moors repeatedly demonstrates the permeability of apparently secure boundaries. Weather enters houses, interrupts journeys, exposes bodies, transforms perception, and creates conditions in which the past becomes materially present.

It further addresses that the Gothic force of weather lies not simply in its symbolic association with emotional disturbance but in its capacity to make environmental conditions active participants in the production of vulnerability, memory, and haunting. Read in this way, Wuthering Heights is not climate fiction in the contemporary generic sense, nor should Brontë be treated as a modern environmental theorist. Rather, the novel provides a literary structure for imagining the relationship between atmospheric instability, bodily exposure, environmental dependence, and Gothic return. The concept of atmospheric haunting therefore offers a way of connecting nineteenth-century Gothic literature with contemporary discussions of environmental literature, weather symbolism, and the cultural imagination of climate uncertainty.

Keywords: Emily Brontë; Wuthering Heights; Climatic Gothic; atmospheric haunting; weather imagery; environmental literature; ecocriticism; Gothic studies; environmental anxiety; climate fiction

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"When we imagine new, resurgent stories": On Affirmative Rebellion and Anemopoetics in Sarah Hall's *Helm*

With weather patterns being thrown off kilter in what Jeremy Davies has outlined as 'the Holocene's terminal phase' (*The Birth of the Anthropocene* 2016, 192), is the planet hurtling towards unabated warming or might some local climes swerve towards glaciation? Pondering such a 'brutal reversal' is no mean feat of imagination, regional landscape writer Sarah Hall suggests in her aptly titled 2026 Faber lecture *Burning Snowflake. Nature, Writing, Rebellion* (2026), which pivots around the idea that the 'existential reckoning' precipitated by our 'turbulent, ecocentric times' warrants the elaboration of new narrative forms – 'solution stories and constructive virtualities' – whose insurgent affordances may prompt us to break through our current gloom and doom impasse. Climate collapse awareness eddies through the fluctuating tonalities of Hall's post-idyllic nature writing, from the elegiac pitches of her debut diluvial fiction *Haweswater* (2002) to the spasmodic atmospherics of her dystopian *Carhullan Army* (2007) and the resilient ethos of dwelling and creating amid disaster that innervates her pandemic-inspired novel *Burntcoat* (2021). Having devoted her writing to untangling the 'Cumbria conundrum', Hall proposes in *Helm* (2025), her latest novel, a form conducive to what she calls 'affirmative rebellion' – a form capacious enough, in other words, to distend the field of attention beyond the human and to foreground the aliveness of weather less by galvanizing grandly heroic gestures of global climate stabilisation than by pondering the legitimacy of minor interventions in a setting that has been downscaled to the iconic Westmorland her oeuvre is indissociably linked with. Focusing on *Helm*, a novel that unfolds like a vorticial foray into the deep history of England's sole named indigenous wind, I argue that Hall eludes the strictures of climate realism (unequipped, perhaps, to capture the inordinateness of catastrophe) and speculative irrealism (better suited to conjuring unconscionable apocalypse than to mobilizing action) by capacitating an aesthetic form whose structural choreography seems animated by the Helm's aeolian trajectories, wafting in and out of human consciousness, drifting with the disturbed materiality of the place, or dispersing and commingling the temporal layers of Cumbria's moribund wind.

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"Green stands for health". "Green stands for poison": Meanings and Uses of Environmental Terminology. Case study: Eco-friendly Cleaning Products Descriptions.

While the connotation of the colour green has significantly changed throughout the centuries, in modern times it has been associated with health and the protection of the environment. Moreover, a wide range of eco-terminology has developed to describe the positive characteristics of products that try not to harm the environment. But are these products really what they advertise as? Are eco-terms really describing the product or are they only used as catch words? The presentation analyses some of the most frequent affixes and collocations while focusing on cleaning products descriptions, in the attempt to investigate the most common structures and to determine whether they are rightfully or misleadingly used.

Keywords: eco/ environmental terminology, collocations, connotation, advertising.

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Arboreal Communication and Eco-Centric Philosophy in Richard Powers' The Overstory

This is an exploration of how Richard Powers' *The Overstory* challenges human exceptionalism by elevating trees from static background elements to active, communicative protagonists. By integrating real botanical science, specifically subterranean mycorrhizal networks, Powers constructs a narrative framework that mirrors ecological independence. Arguably the novel's four-part structural anatomy (Roots, Trunk, Crown, Seeds) functions as an eco-centric philosophical critique of the Anthropocene. Ultimately, the paper demonstrates how *The Overstory* translates complex ecological data into a profound moral empathy, offering a vital cultural roadmap for reframing human agency and environmental ethics within the contemporary climate crisis.

Keywords: Eco-centric philosophy, arboreal communication, anthropocene, climate fiction, environmental empathy

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Weathered Lives: Confronting Nature in Edgar Allan Poe's Fiction

Edgar Allan Poe's fiction repeatedly presents characters in distress when confronted with natural forces that exceed the ordinary limits of understanding and control. Focusing on "The Fall of the House of Usher," "MS. Found in a Bottle," and "A Descent into the Maelström," this paper examines the different forms assumed by these encounters and the ways in which terror and the sublime emerge from experiences of extreme exposure to the natural world. Although all three tales present characters subjected to environments that threaten their physical or psychological integrity, their confrontations with nature follow different trajectories. In "The Fall of the House of Usher," the oppressive landscape and increasingly violent atmosphere gradually destabilize the distinction between the external environment and human consciousness, culminating in destruction, in "MS. Found in a Bottle," the narrator's attempts to observe and record the extraordinary phenomena surrounding him persist even as nature increasingly exceeds the possibility of rational comprehension, while in "A Descent into the Maelström," the initial experience of terror develops into contemplation and careful observation, allowing the fisherman to recognize patterns in chaos and to survive.

Keywords: nature, terror, sublime, perception, consciousness.

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Drowning the Robinsonade: The Evolution of the Island Trope and the Spatial Reconfiguration of the Novel

Recent trends in climate change fiction and ecopoetry signal that climate crisis is no longer a marginal subfield of literature and literary studies, but has lately become a central thematic paradigm. This growing literary concern with weather and climate has also renewed attention to distinctive places such as islands, which are associated with environmental vulnerability and ecological insight. In the Western imagination, islands have always been represented as stable prelapsarian spaces that serve not only as geographical landscapes, but also as culturally constructed realms onto which fantasies of isolation, otherness, and utopia could be projected. If the eighteenth-century Robinsonade legitimised this pristine narrative laboratory as a metanarrative of human progress and civilisation, 21st century cli-fi charts the absolute collapse of this grand narrative, where the old fantasy of beginning anew gives way to the haunting sense that there is no elsewhere to find refuge. This study aims to trace how climate change has reconfigured the spatial mechanics and formal boundaries of the novel by tracing the evolution of the literary island trope from the founding work of the literary genre of the Robinsonade to the twenty-first century dystopian Robinsonades of Margaret Atwood and other contemporary cli-fi writers. I explore how the shift from a singular Robinson to a plurality of characters echoes the environmental transition from a passive stage to an unpredictable agent. I examine H. G. Wells' *The Island of Doctor Moreau* (1896), William Golding's *Lord of the Flies* (1954) and Margaret Atwood's *MaddAddam* trilogy (2013) to argue that in the Anthropocene, climate change marks the spatial reconfiguration of the novel, the death of literary insularity, and the radical transformation of material culture.

Keywords: Robinsonade, island trope, novel form, climate change fiction, environmental humanities.

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***biologisch, biometrisch, biodeutsch*: Zum Werdegang von *bio-* im Deutschen**

Wörter mit dem griechischstämmigen Bestandteil *bio* sind ab Anfang des 18. Jahrhunderts im Deutschen belegt. Seitdem hat dieses Wortschatzelement einen bemerkenswerten kontinuierlichen Wandel in Bezug auf Semantik, morphologischen Status, kombinatorische Möglichkeiten und Anwendungsbereiche erfahren. Aus einem Ausdruck des Bildungs- und Fachwortschatzes ist es in den letzten Jahrzehnten mit neuer Bedeutung zu einem produktiven, diskursiv aufgeladenen Schlüsselwort des Umweltschutzdiskurses geworden.

Vorliegender Beitrag setzt sich eine mehrdimensionale Untersuchung der sprachhistorischen Entwicklung von *bio* zum Ziel: Zunächst soll seine morphologische Entwicklung – vom Konfix in Fremdwortbildungen über ein Kompositionsglied in hybriden Bildungen hin zu einem eigenständigen Wort – beleuchtet werden. Danach wird seine inhaltliche Entfaltung über die Zeit hinweg und damit verbunden der stetige Zuwachs seines Wortbildungsnetzes und seiner Verwendungsweisen besprochen. Schließlich sollen die unterschiedlichen Konnotationen von Lexemen mit *bio-* in dessen jüngster Bedeutung ‚ökologisch erzeugt' in der aktuellen gesellschaftlichen Wahrnehmung thematisiert werden.

Keywords: *bio-*, Konfix, Wortbildungsmuster, Polyfunktionalität, Umweltschutzdiskurs

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Climate Education in English Language Classes: Vocabulary, Grammar, Discourse and Life Skills

In addition to the consideration of a modern teaching-learning process, 21st century foreign language classes ought to reflect real-world challenges and enhance life skills. For example, integrating a topic into an English lesson requires more than the selection of the subject followed by the introduction of related words or expressions and the presentation of information. Learners need structured opportunities to observe language choices, comprehend content, evaluate claims, discuss approaches, and articulate thoughts or insights. This paper explores how these objectives can be supported through a practical, interdisciplinary teaching-learning sequence with a focus on climate education. The proposed sequence combines vocabulary and grammar development, source analysis, critical reflection, as well as environmental communication. Particular attention is given to the teacher's role in selecting appropriate materials, using suitable teaching methods, and guiding students towards acquiring subject-matter knowledge while working on their accuracy and fluency in English.

Keywords: climate education; English language teaching and learning; life skills; environmental communication; critical thinking and reflection

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Human-Nature Relations in Folktales: A Corpus-Based Study of Environmental Narratives

Folktales offer a culturally rich lens through which to explore how people understand and relate to the natural world. In the context of today's climate crisis and growing environmental challenges, understanding how folktales represent nature, environmental change, and human responsibility towards the environment has become increasingly important. As stories that transmit cultural values, beliefs, and ways of interpreting the world across generations, folktales contribute to shaping how children perceive nature, understand human-nature relations and responsibilities and make sense of the environmental challenges. Therefore, examining environmental narratives in traditional storytelling can offer valuable insights into the cultural foundation of human attitudes toward nature and provide a starting point for exploring the role of storytelling in fostering environmental awareness from an early age. Against this background, this study investigates how nature and environmental change are represented in traditional folktales through a corpus-based approach. The starting point was a compilation of a nature-center corpus from 1,518 English-language texts included in the Folktale Trilogy dataset 1. We developed a method for identifying stories in which nature plays a significant role. Initially, we used an LLM-based (cross-encoder/nli-MiniLM2-L6-H768) and a zero-shot classification method (DeBERTa-v3) to extract the nature-centric stories from the whole folktale set. These methods proved unreliable: the first one selected too many stories with little or no environmental content (1275 stories), while the other too few (only 132). We therefore developed a programmatic and transparent dictionary-based procedure using vocabulary related to weather and natural phenomena, landscape, vegetation, animals, environmental change and human actions such as hunting, trapping, felling or clearing. Based on this word list which contains 312 lemmas, we grouped the stories into five main themes: climate and natural phenomena, environmental change, human–nature relations, human impact on nature and animal predation. We removed duplicate texts and subsequently checked manually the selected

stories to improve the reliability of the resulted corpus. The obtained collection provides a foundation for examining how traditional narratives imagine the natural world and changes within it. Particular attention was given to depictions of weather events, transformations of landscapes and vegetation, and the agency attributed to humans and animals. Beyond the contribution to the environmental humanities, the study addresses the methodological challenges involved in automatically identifying environmental themes automatically in literary and folkloric texts. The proposed dictionary-based approach is transparent and adaptable to other languages, offering opportunities for cross-cultural comparisons of how folktales represent nature and human-nature relations.
This work was supported by a grant of the Ministry of Education and Research, CCCDI-UEFISCDI, project number PN-IV-P6-6.1-CoEx-2024-004.
Keywords: folktales, environmental humanities, ecocriticism, human–nature relations, corpus analysis.

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Rhetoric of Absence and Ecological Hauntings in Cormac McCarthy's *The Road*
Cormac McCarthy's *The Road* (2006) offers a harrowing depiction of post-environmental collapse that disturbs the familiar relationships between human existence, environment and weather. The soot-choked landscape where the biosphere is reduced to grey ash reveals the way that the novel captures a world stripped of atmospheric stability and biological life. The images presented in the novel offer the opportunity to examine *The Road* through ecocriticism and spectrality theory. The need of adaptation and human solidarity are triggered by the portrayal of not merely physical extinction, but of a linguistic and psychological "weathering" of human culture. As the natural world vanishes, the language used to describe it undergoes a parallel decay. By analysing McCarthy's stark rhetoric, ash imagery, and spatial disorientation, this paper intends to demonstrate how the novel constructs an ecology of absence. Ultimately, the article contends that *The Road* serves as a mirror which illustrates that losing a functioning climate entails a tragic loss of human memory, language, and moral meaning.
Keywords: climate haunting, environmental degradation, vulnerability, extreme weather

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„Wetterbericht" - Regen und Sonne in der rumäniendeutschen Lyrik
Die vorliegende Studie untersucht die Motive von Regen und Sonne in der deutschsprachigen Lyrik aus Rumänien (rumäniendeutsche Lyrik), insbesondere in den Werken von Autorinnen und Autoren der Banater Schwaben und Siebenbürger Sachsen vom 20. Jahrhundert. Ausgehend von der Beobachtung, dass Wetter- und Landschaftselemente in dieser Literatur nicht nur deskriptiv, sondern häufig symbolisch und metaphorisch aufgeladen sind, analysiert die Arbeit die poetische Funktionalisierung von Regen (als Zeichen von Trauer, Unterdrückung, Reinigung oder Heimatverlust) und Sonne (als Metapher für Hoffnung, Gewalt der Macht, Wärme der Erinnerung oder unbarmherzige Realität).
Ziel der Studie ist es, aufzuzeigen, inwiefern die scheinbar einfachen Naturelemente Regen und Sonne komplexe kulturelle, politische und identitäre Bedeutungen transportieren und damit einen

spezifischen Beitrag zur Landschaftslyrik und zur Literatur der Minderheiten in Südosteuropa leisten. Die Ergebnisse sollen sowohl die poetische Eigenständigkeit der rumäniendeutschen Lyrik als auch ihre Verflechtung mit größeren Traditionen der deutschsprachigen Natur- und Heimatdichtung verdeutlichen.
Keywords: rumäniendeutsche Literatur, Lyrik, Naturelemente, Literatur der Minderheiten

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Science as a Lie: Discursive Strategies and Framing in Climate Denial Propaganda
Contemporary climate-sceptical discourse has transcended the confines of scientific denial, now functioning as a cogent rhetorical system with easily recognisable strategies, recurring narrative frames and an ideological dimension ever more deeply embedded in populist communication. The present article puts forth an analysis of the main discursive mechanisms whereby the propaganda against climate change constructs its credibility, sways public opinion by blatant appeals to emotion and delegitimises scientific consensus.
Drawing on framing theory (Entman, 1993) and the categories of classical rhetoric (ethos, logos, pathos), the study examines a corpus of editorials and feature articles published in Anglophone and francophone conservative media sources (2020-2024). Our analysis follows three main directions: firstly, the dominant narrative frames: climate as an item on the ”globalist agenda”, science as an instrument of control, environmental policies as a threat to national sovereignty and prosperity; secondly, ethos construction strategies: appeals to ”common sense” and ”patriotism”, capitalising on the figure of the ”dissident expert” and attacks against mainstream scientific voices and thirdly, the mechanisms at play for emotional mobilisation: the rhetoric of fear, of victimisation and of the elitist conspiracy.
Our central argument revolves around the thesis that climate-sceptical discourse is neither disorganised nor simply reactive; rather, it constitutes an insidious form of strategic discourse with clear political objectives and recognisable rhetorical repertoires converging with those of contemporary populist communication.

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Terminologie im Bereich des Klimawandels
Das geplante Forschungsprojekt untersucht Klimakommunikation als Schnittstelle von Terminologie, öffentlicher Verständigung und wissenschaftlichem Diskurs.
Der Klimawandel gehört zu den meistdiskutierten Themen der Gegenwart und prägt zunehmend den öffentlichen sowie wissenschaftlichen Diskurs. Im Mittelpunkt dieses Beitrags steht die Analyse der Klimakommunikation und der damit verbundenen Terminologie in unterschiedlichen Kontexten. Ziel der Untersuchung ist die Erstellung eines Korpus aus Wörtern, Schlüsselbegriffen und Redewendungen aus dem Bereich des Klimawandels. Das Korpus umfasst sprachliche Einheiten aus wissenschaftlichen Artikeln, Medienberichten, politischen Reden sowie öffentlichen Debatten.

Die Studie untersucht, wie bestimmte Begriffe und Ausdrucksweisen verwendet werden, welche Bedeutungen sie in verschiedenen Kommunikationssituationen annehmen und welche Wirkung sie auf die Rezipienten ausüben. Mein Augenmerk liegt auf metaphorischen Strukturen, argumentativen Strategien und terminologischen Variationen. Darüber hinaus wird analysiert, wie wissenschaftliche Sprache in den öffentlichen Diskurs übertragen wird und welche sprachlichen Mechanismen zur Vermittlung komplexer klimabezogener Inhalte beitragen. Die Untersuchung verbindet Ansätze der Diskursanalyse, Terminologieforschung und Korpuslinguistik.

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Teaching English for Medical Purposes in a Changing Academic World. OET Listening Activities

This paper explores English for Medical Purposes (EMP) teaching in a rapidly changing academic and professional landscape. The focus is on the adaptation of Occupational English Test (OET) listening activities for EMP classes. OET listening tasks typically include patient consultations, workplace briefings, and professional discussions. They provide realistic contexts that develop learners' ability to understand clinical information, interpret professional discourse, and use specialized terminology in different situations. This study examines how these activities can be adapted to support active listening, history and note-taking, critical thinking, and medical communication. By combining exam preparation with real-world communicative demands, OET listening activities can enhance both assessment performance and professional readiness. The paper argues that integrating OET-based materials into EMP syllabus supports better education and prepares medical students for global healthcare settings.

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Environmental Instability in Margaret Atwood's *MaddAddam* Trilogy

In creating a world distorted by ecological decay, climate alteration, technological interference and extinction, Margaret Atwood questions the idea of human oppression over nature by connecting environmental calamity to economic and technological manipulation. In the *MaddAddam* trilogy, *Oryx and Crake* (2003), *The Year of the Flood* (2009), and *MaddAddam* (2013), weather and landscape represent much more than a setting for the plots, they stand as witnesses of the ecological imbalance brought to the world through human intervention and enable significant debates about actions, consequences and responsibility but also about evolution and survival. This paper aims to examine how Atwood uses climate change to highlight human and nonhuman vulnerability.
Keywords: MaddAddam trilogy, climate change, extinction, instability

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(Fremd)bestäubung als ökologische Metapher für Intertextualität

Mein Beitrag widmet sich der Analyse des botanischen Begriffs der Bestäubung im Hinblick auf sein Intertextualitätspotenzial. Die bis in die Antike zurückreichende Tradition der Bienen- und Blütenmetaphorik wird exemplarisch anhand von Seneca und Keats untersucht, um darauf aufbauend das Konzept der Bestäubung als Metapher für Intertextualität zu entwickeln. Der zeitgenössische Fokus auf Fremdbestäubung aus ökologischer Sicht – mit Bezug auf fließende Übergänge, Hybridität und dynamisch vernetzte Systeme – unterstreicht zudem die steigende Relevanz der Metapher nicht nur für die Literatur- und Intertextualitätstheorie, sondern auch für die Kulturwissenschaften im Allgemeinen.
Keywords: (cross)pollination, honeybee metaphor, intertextuality, ecology, cultural studies

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Conceptualizing Weather Change: Embodiment, Image Schemas and Conceptual Metaphors in Public Discourses

Abstract: Weather is a fundamental domain of human experience and a productive source of conceptualization. As climate change challenges our understanding of environmental processes, embodied experiences of heat, cold, storms, floods, and fire provide cognitive frameworks for understanding them. This paper analyses weather metaphors in climate-related discourses of Pope Francis, António Guterres and David Attenborough, bringing together religious, institutional and scientific-environmental perspectives. Drawing on Cognitive Semantics, particularly Conceptual Metaphor Theory, the analysis shows how weather-related source domains are projected onto the abstract target domain of climate change and how these mappings structure the conceptualization of environmental change.
Beyond identifying metaphorical expressions and image schemas, our research explores the role of embodied source domains in shaping environmental transformation as an experiential and cognitive phenomenon. It compares the ways the three speakers use shared conceptual mappings across different communicative contexts and examines the relationships between metaphorical conceptualization and notions of vulnerability, agency, responsibility, and urgency. We thus emphasize that weather metaphors function as cognitive resources which link embodied experience to abstract knowledge, shaping how climate change is conceptualized in public discourses.
Keywords: conceptual metaphor, embodiment, image schema, weather change, public discourse

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Weathering Uncertainty: Inferential Evidentiality and Epistemic Positioning in French and English Weather Reports

This study investigates how uncertainty is linguistically calibrated in French and English weather reports through the interaction of inferential evidentiality and epistemic position. It proposes that weather forecasts do not simply express predictions, but they linguistically calibrate varying degrees of confidence associated with future-oriented knowledge claims. Inferential evidentials provide the evidential basis for prediction, while epistemic markers adjust the level of certainty attached to forecast statements. The comparison is expected to reveal distinct French and English

forecasting styles and to contribute to current research on evidentiality, epistemic stance and the communication of uncertainty in expert discourse.
The analysis is based on a comparable corpus of fifty institutional weather forecasts comprising 25 French-language and 25 English-language texts collected from official meteorological services and specialized weather platforms. Combining qualitative and quantitative analysis, the study focuses on inferential evidential markers (e.g. les modèles suggèrent que, models suggest that) and epistemic markers encoding different degrees of confidence in the certainty of future facts (e.g. pourrait, devrait, semble, probable, possible; likely, may, might, could, expected to, etc.)
Keywords: climate discourse, weather forecast, evidentiality, epistemic modality.

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When Nature Answers: Rain, Wind, and Sun as Agents of Apocalypse in Ray Bradbury's Short Fiction

Proposing for analysis four of Ray Bradbury's short stories, namely *There Will Come Soft Rains, The Highway*, *The Wind* and *All Summer in a Day*, this work examines the different roles meteorological phenomena play in the face of a reordered world, whether shaped by human extinction, nuclear war or the emergence of a new environment to live in. In turn, these phenomena represent foreshadowing, pathetic fallacy, an obstruction to seeing the truth, a distant memory about the world as it used to be, or a stringent reminder of human hubris. Against a background of changes in humanity's core values and continuous development on all fronts, the only constant is nature and its limitless resources. Yet nature cannot remain indifferent to what is being done to it, so it must fight back at all costs.
Keywords: wind, rain, sun, technological advancements, hubris

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Weathering the Great Stink of 1858: From Sanitary Reform to Conflicting Urban Improvement

The paper discusses a well-documented historical event, i.e. the Great Stink of 1858, when a summer heatwave – which dried up the Thames in central London – intensified the squalid smell emanating from the raw sewage that flowed directly into the river. Widely covered by the press of the time, the "Great Stink" was a major cause of anxiety, particularly because both members of the upper class and MPs believed that the river's miasma was responsible for the spread of disease. Although engineers like Joseph Bazalgette, along with politicians and health reformers, made concerted efforts to sanitise the river and to modernise the banks of the Thames by commissioning the building of the Embankment, the Victorians' views on the matter remained diverse and conflicting. This was not only because of their rigid class-based system and moral bias against the poor whom they perceived as a real source of disease, but also because the belief in progress strengthened by the construction of a new underground sewage system transformed the river's geography, generating strong opposition against the traditional, picturesque landscape of the Old Thames.
Keywords: The Great Stink, central London, miasma, sanitary reform, urban improvement

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A Practical Approach to Teaching Adults Through CLIL and Functions in Eco-communication

Adults in business regard the ability to use functions at work as essential. This analysis was grounded in the main principles of CLIL and examined different types of functions in eco-communication connected to the business world, i.e., reporting what business people say or think, forecasting, speculating, and planning ahead. We presented language examples in various business contexts to build a useful, efficient set of classroom materials for teaching functions. Results showed that both pre-experience students and adult learners are open to learning functions through a range of real-life examples about environmental sustainability. Our findings suggest that Romanian economics students and employees can further improve their use of functions and are eager to practise them in genuine business contexts.
Keywords: functions, reporting, forecasting, speculating, sustainability.

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Communicating Urgency in Extreme Weather: A Contrastive Pragmatic Study of English and Romanian Emergency Alerts

This presentation analyzes mobile emergency alert systems, more specifically, Romania's Ro-Alert and the UK's Emergency Alert system, in order to examine how extreme weather hazards are communicated in emergency situations. Using semiotic, pragmatic, and multimodal frameworks, the study highlights how both systems employ semiotic hyper-codification, spatio-temporal deixis and non-verbal acoustic signals in order to capture immediate user attention and retain it until all advice has been provided. Their linguistic approaches, however, differ significantly.
Ro-Alert prioritizes extreme brevity, direct verbs, and prominent capitalization to convey urgency quickly, though it sometimes omits practical, detailed safety actions.
Conversely, the UK alert provides comprehensive, actionable guidance but introduces extra length through overly polite or considerate phrasing.
The presentation concludes that an optimal system should combine Ro-Alert's concise, direct framing with the UK system's clear, actionable instructions. Such a system would work for the whole world, making the process of taking safety precautions and preparing for any weather hazard less stressful.
Keywords: Weather, hazard, pragmatics, deixis, multimodality, Ro-Alert.

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Climate Voices on Stage: AI-Supported Readers Theatre for Oral Language Learning in a Warming World

In the context of climate change, language education must foster intercultural understanding and engagement with sustainability. While generative AI has raised concerns about misuse, this paper argues for its pedagogical potential in designing meaningful, socially grounded learning activities. Drawing on social learning theory, the study explores how AI can support oral language development through Readers Theatre, a collaborative, performance-based approach that promotes fluency, engagement, and confidence. Rather than producing student texts, AI is used to generate prompts, roles, and scenarios that stimulate interaction and co-construction of meaning. Students enact "climate voices" from diverse geographical, social, and generational contexts, engaging with different perspectives on climate challenges and solutions. The study also addresses the paradox of AI's environmental impact, encouraging critical reflection on its energy and water demands. The paper argues that AI-supported Readers Theatre fosters oral proficiency, intercultural competence, and critical sustainability awareness.

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Desertic Dualities in Didion's Work

The desert is a space of dual nature: a ruthless environment hostile to humans and not particularly responsive to attempts at industrialized transformation, and a space of retribution for crimes committed against nature. In Didion's work, the omnipresent desert and the heat are representative of her paranoia and conviction that American society was headed in the vague direction of certain perdition; her observation of desertic imagery provides a hyperreal, hypersaturated landscape of a culture obsessed with surplus and control. By employing a Baudrillardian framework, Didion's desert of the real, and its dual aspect, become visible. The desertic weather, when analyzed in this complicated, paradoxical dynamic with the variant of American culture contemporary to Joan Didion, becomes a symbol of self-referential alienation, paranoia, and of grappling with the threat of societal decay.

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Blowing Across Languages: Comparing the Romanian Translations of WIND Metaphors in ''Aeolus'' from James Joyce's *Ulysses*

The ''Aeolus'' episode from James Joyce's novel *Ulysses* portrays journalism as a flawed mechanism of expression, establishing wind as the central motif to symbolise empty rhetoric, sensationalism, and financial instability. This study provides a comparative analysis of metaphorical constructions linked to the domain of WIND across two Romanian translations: Mircea Ivănescu (1996) and Rareș Moldovan (2023). Grounded in George Lakoff and Mark Johnson's (2003) Conceptual Metaphor Theory and Peter Newmark's (1981) metaphor translation typology, the research aims to: identify the strategies favoured by each translator, highlight the challenges involved, determine whether the underlying conceptual mappings remain intact or undergo domain shifts, and assess how each version balances source-image fidelity and target-language idiomatic functionality. Ultimately, this corpus investigation contributes to cognitive

linguistics and literary translation studies by addressing a research gap regarding the cross-linguistic rendering of metaphorical networks in Romanian Joyce scholarship.
Keywords: *Ulysses*, comparative analysis, wind metaphor, Conceptual Metaphor Theory, translation strategies, cognitive linguistics and literary translation studies.

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Winter, Fire and (the Need for) Warmth in *New Year's Day* by Edith Wharton
Far from being just a dimension of the setting, a background element meant to contribute to the dynamics of the plot or to highlight the profile of the characters, weather (winter in New York) and natural elements, even if possibly man-triggered (fire), acquire a key role in contrasting social patterns and lifeviews, in the New York of the 1870s. Winter, namely the New Year's Day (the title of the novella), and the fire broken out at a hotel uncover hidden realities or trigger a new course of events. New York's upper-class, with its social customs and a family scandal, are recalled by one of the characters years later, adding an experience- and wisdom-enriched retrospective view. It is a broader view which represents a reinterpretation of the events across social classes and even generations, and enables the narrative voice to point out the need for authentic relationships, for warmth, literally and figuratively, at the same time focusing on individual freedom vs. social constraints, and desire vs. responsibility.
Keywords: pragma-stylistic, retrospective, symbol, winter, fire, warmth

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Advancing Environmental Literacy Through Multimodal Learning: A Conceptual Framework for Inquiry, Assessment, and Student Agency
Environmental literacy is often measured by what students know; environmental action, however, begins where certainty ends. Students must learn to read partial evidence, hold competing perspectives in view, and justify choices whose consequences extend beyond the classroom. This paper proposes a multimodal pedagogy in which writing, images, sound, quantitative data, direct experience, and interaction become complementary ways of thinking through environmental questions.
Rather than treating modes as a menu of media, the framework uses them to organise an evidentiary journey from noticing to judgement. Learners encounter an environmental trace, turn it into an investigable question, follow evidence across representations, recast their findings for a defined audience, and decide what response is proportionate to the problem. This journey brings together six functional modes, a five-stage inquiry sequence, and a four-dimensional assessment model linking disciplinary understanding with interpretation, communication, and agency.
Accessibility, critical source evaluation, consent, and sustained institutional support keep this journey both demanding and fair. The paper locates the educational value of multimodal work not in the sheen of the final artefact, but in the thinking it reveals: how students interpret evidence, revise their positions, and defend a course of action. For conference participants, the framework

offers a transferable design logic for making environmental inquiry visible, discussable, and assessable across educational contexts.

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Does Global English Threaten the Local Language? EMI, Linguistic Identity and Sustainable Multilingualism in Romanian Higher Education

English-Medium Instruction (EMI) has become an increasingly visible component of higher-education internationalisation, raising questions not only about language proficiency and academic performance but also about the sustainability of multilingual and cultural identities. This study examines how Romanian university students negotiate the relationship between English as a global academic language and their native linguistic identity within an English-medium Computer Science programme. The analysis draws on responses from 108 undergraduate students to the *Identity and Language section of the Linguistic Identity and English-Medium Instruction Survey*. Ten items measured students' perceptions of native-language attachment, self-expression, global belonging, cultural distance, language preservation and pride in using English. Descriptive statistics and correlation analysis reveal a pattern of additive rather than subtractive bilingualism. Students report strong pride in using English professionally, confidence in expressing themselves in both languages and an enhanced sense of global belonging, while showing comparatively little concern about cultural distance or native-language loss. The findings suggest that EMI can support a form of sustainable multilingualism in which participation in global academic discourse does not necessarily entail linguistic or cultural displacement. The paper consequently considers how EMI environments may reconcile internationalisation with the preservation of linguistic diversity and local identities.

Keywords: English-Medium Instruction (EMI), linguistic identity, global English, higher education, linguistic diversity.

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Water Symbolism in Elif Shafak's *There Are Rivers in the Sky*

In Elif Shafak's 2004 novel, *There Are Rivers in the Sky*, a single rain drop makes a symbolical connection between three moments in history, three geographical and cultural spaces, and three human experiences and interactions with history and historical time. Water becomes the oldest, silent witness to political corruption, historical erasure and ecological disaster, carrying people's stories and memories along the centuries. In this context, mythology and the phenomenology of water operate as counter-historical, metaphysical modes of remembering, enabling a critique of modernity in general and of modern historical consciousness in particular, providing a means of ahistorical, ontological resistance against ecological destruction which represents more than political or historical failure, but a complete metaphysical collapse of meaning.

Keywords: archetypal criticism, history, memory, water phenomenology

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Ecolinguistics in ESP Classes: A Comparative Media Analysis of Climate Events

This article explains how to teach environmental language and media analysis to Romanian students studying Geography and Tourism in English. Future tourism managers need to understand how global news shapes public opinion. To build these skills, the lesson shows how to compare large groups of news articles in the classroom. Students find out which words appear most often in real news. This helps them see how different countries report on the exact same climate event. The main focus is a classroom activity about the 2023 summer heatwave in Southern Europe. The lesson compares news from the UK (The Guardian) with news from the US (the PBS News). The analysis reveals two very different ways of talking about the event. The British news treats the heatwave as a physical threat. It uses urgent words, health warnings, and names of mythical monsters like "Cerberus" to focus on the danger to people. The American news treats the heatwave as a business problem. It talks about cancelled trips, empty hotel rooms, and money lost, viewing the climate event as a financial setback. By seeing these differences, students learn that tourists from different countries have different expectations based on the news they read at home. A British tourist might cancel a trip because they fear for their safety. An American tourist might cancel because they worry about flight delays and wasted money.

Keywords: ecolinguistics, English for specific purposes (ESP), corpus analysis, climate communication, tourism management

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***Heart of Darkness* Before and After Ecocriticism**

Traditionally approached through psychological, anthropological, and postcolonial perspectives, with the Congo frequently interpreted as an unfamiliar territory against which European identity and the limits of civilization are defined, Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness* acquires new meanings when read in the light of contemporary ecocritical theories. This paper traces the intersection of these readings by examining the impact of the Congo upon the European Other and the changing relationship between human beings and the natural world. The African space, whose material and atmospheric conditions – heat, fog, air, water, and vegetation – continually affect human experience, exposes the limits of colonial attempts to dominate nature and the material forces that resist such control, shaping Marlow's physical and perceptual journey and culminating in Kurtz's gradual absorption into the world around him.

Keywords: ecocriticism; colonial environment; human–nature relationship; otherness.

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Haunting as Climate Becoming Legible: Dark Seasonality and Spectrality in Emily Brontë's Wuthering Heights

This paper offers an Ecogothic reading of Wuthering Heights in which hauntings make environmental change perceptible without making it fully comprehensible. Combining Laura op

de Beke's "dark seasonality" with Laura A. White's "ecospectrality" and extending the latter to the Victorian Gothic, it reads the novel's snow, storms, and unstable seasons as an experience of disorder that precedes modern climate science but shares its sense of change felt before it is understood. Lockwood's dream of Catherine at the snowy window and Heathcliff's plea to be haunted show the ghost arriving through weather, as the return of what persists beyond individual life. The novel's ending, where the dead are said to walk the moors, makes the landscape itself the site of this persistence. The paper closes by noting that Lockwood's ghost is built from scratched names, marginalia, and a branch against the glass. This resembles, without being equivalent to, generative AI, which also gives uncanny new form to accumulated traces, though without a single lost person behind it.

Keywords: ecogothic, dark seasonality, ecospectrality, hauntings, ghosts, AI.

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Vom Wetter zum Klima – Sprachliche und konzeptuelle Veränderungen im deutschen Umweltdiskurs.

Die zunehmende Präsenz ökologischer und klimatischer Themen im öffentlichen Diskurs geht mit tiefgreifenden sprachlichen und konzeptuellen Veränderungen einher. Der Beitrag untersucht, wie sich die deutsche Umweltkommunikation von einer primär wetterbezogenen Wahrnehmung hin zu einer stärker klimabezogenen Deutung globaler Umweltveränderungen entwickelt hat. Im Mittelpunkt steht die Frage, wie sprachliche Mittel zur Konstruktion und Vermittlung von Vorstellungen über Wetter, Klima und Klimawandel beitragen und welche Veränderungen sich dabei auf der Ebene von Lexik, Semantik und Konzeptualisierung beobachten lassen.Anhand ausgewählter Beispiele aus unterschiedlichen Formen des öffentlichen Umweltdiskurses – insbesondere aus Medien, politischen Debatten und institutioneller Kommunikation – wird analysiert, wie Begriffe wie *Wetter*, *Klima*, *Klimawandel*, *Klimakrise* oder *Erderwärmung* verwendet und semantisch kontextualisiert werden. Besonderes Augenmerk gilt dabei der Wechselwirkung zwischen sprachlichen Entwicklungen und gesellschaftlichen Veränderungen: Neue Bezeichnungen, metaphorische Konzepte und diskursive Muster spiegeln nicht nur veränderte Wahrnehmungen ökologischer Phänomene wider, sondern tragen zugleich zu deren konzeptueller Strukturierung bei.

Keywords: Sprachwandel, semantischer Wandel, Konzeptualisierung, Lexik, Umweltdiskurs

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Ökopädagogik in der Praxis: Interkulturelle Ansätze zu Nachhaltigkeit und Klimaschutz im DaF-Unterricht

In diesem Beitrag untersuche ich die methodische Verankerung von Nachhaltigkeit und Klimawandel im DaF-Unterricht unter besonderer Berücksichtigung der Interkulturalität. Basierend auf meiner Teilnahme am Projekt „Ecofootprint Romania" in Wien und dem dortigen intensiven Austausch analysiere ich, wie Umweltverantwortung praxisnah vermittelt werden kann. Die Arbeit vor Ort ermöglichte mir einen Dialog über bewährte Erfolgsmodelle sowie eine

tiefgreifende Reflexion über kulturell geprägte ökologische Einstellungen im gesamten deutschsprachigen Raum.
Im Fokus steht die ökopädagogische Vermittlung von Konzepten wie dem „sanften Tourismus“, wobei die Sprache als Brücke zwischen den unterschiedlichen ökologischen Mentalitäten in Deutschland und Rumänien dient. Die praktische Umsetzung in einem nachhaltigkeitsorientierten Curriculum erfolgt durch handlungsorientierte Projekte, wie den Einsatz von „Energie-Wächtern“ und digitalen Anwendungen zur Ressourcenanalyse. Die Ergebnisse zeigen, dass die Kombination aus frühzeitiger Bildung, gezielter Sensibilisierung und interkulturellem Vergleich entscheidend ist, um ein langfristiges globales Verantwortungsbewusstsein zu fördern. So stellt der Fremdsprachenunterricht eine effektive Plattform für globale ökologische Herausforderungen dar.

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Storms Between Languages: Translating Poe’s Weather into Romanian

The current paper examines the translation of weather imagery into Romanian in three short stories by Edgar Allan Poe: “The Fall of the House of Usher,” “MS. Found in a Bottle,” and “A Descent into the Maelström.” Combining translation studies with an ecocritical perspective, it explores how Romanian translations convey weather as a physical force, a source of psychological disturbance, and a means of constructing Gothic atmosphere. The central question is how translators’ lexical and stylistic choices shape the reader’s experience of threatening environments.
In “The Fall of the House of Usher,” the discussion concentrates on the gloomy opening conditions and the climactic storm, examining their connection with apprehension and architectural collapse. In “MS. Found in a Bottle,” it considers the progression from oppressive heat and extraordinary calm to violent winds and extreme cold. In “A Descent into the Maelström,” the analysis distinguishes the hurricane from the oceanic whirlpool while exploring how their interaction produces terror, wonder, and heightened observation.
Through close comparison of the English originals and selected Romanian translations, the study investigates meteorological terminology, sensory imagery, personification, intensification, and sentence rhythm. It pays particular attention to whether translation preserves the tension between precise environmental description and the narrators’ emotionally charged perceptions. It also considers how shifts in register or figurative language may strengthen or diminish the natural world's apparent agency. By approaching weather as both material experience and literary expression, the paper contributes to discussions of environmental representation, Gothic fiction, and the interpretive role of literary translation.
Keywords: Edgar Allan Poe; Gothic atmosphere; Literary translation; Romanian translation; weather imagery.

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The Future According to Our Children. Children’s Creative Text Productions

What will the world be like in fifty years? As part of the theatre project “I Will Be Everything…” (2017–2020), children aged eight to twelve from across Europe were invited to envision their future selves and the world they would inhabit. Their ideas were expressed through written and

visual narratives, which subsequently formed the basis for a theatrical performance staged in the participating countries. These narratives constitute the empirical material for the present study. The material provides valuable insight into children's creativity and imagination and, given the project's international scope, enables cross-cultural comparison. Employing narratology as an analytical framework, the study examines how children from different parts of Europe envision the future, with particular emphasis on representations of climate change and environmental concerns.

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The Geometry of Controlled Climates: Fractal Striation and the Domestication of Heat in Dubai

Contemporary climate change debates often focus on scientific mitigation, yet the humanities offer a crucial lens for understanding the "domestication" of extreme weather. This paper examines the architectural morphology of Dubai as a radical cultural response to a warming world. Utilizing Deleuze and Guattari's concept of "striated space," I argue that the city's pseudo-fractal geometries function as a technological apparatus designed to seal the interior from the desert's extreme heat. This systematic recording and control of temperature transform the unpredictable force of nature into a measurable, indoor commodity. However, this totalizing domestication results in a "death of the sensible," where human agency and environmental literacy are diminished within a sterile, air-conditioned interface. By critiquing this fractal enclosure through the framework of the Anthropocene, the study explores how the humanities can reshuffle architectural methodologies to foster a more vulnerable, yet resilient, kinship with our warming planet.