

LIST OF MASTER'S DEGREE FINAL PROJECT
ACADEMIC YEAR 2023-2024

Student: Aguilar Ramírez, Carlos

Title: *On Pigs, Dogs and Octopuses. The human-animal relationship through contemporary literature.*

Supervisor: Ignacio Ramos Gay

Lines of research: Non-human animal studies

Abstract:

The human-animal relationship has been present from the very beginning of what we can begin to call the human community. The conceptualization of the animal within human culture is, above all, a subject dealt with by an almost infinite number of philosophies, cultures and aesthetic perspectives. However, within this relationship an incandescent truth has always been overlooked, a truth that we can find written, told, painted. The phenomenon of animal otherness. The animal as the other from which I am configured, the other that maintains a recognition of me, that sees me as an absolute I. And in that first encounter of the gaze, we find what we can begin to call an animal-subject. Subject-animal that looks at me, that makes me, that helps me to understand me, to write me.

However, we understand that the concept of animal-otherness is highly personal, intersubjective, so we will need a series of cases that exemplify it as universal and at the same time maintain a subjective level. Therefore, we will require a series of literary cases, formalized within a contemporary literary framework, in which we will find narrative characters, binomials between animal and human, that demonstrate and exemplify those processes for animal otherness to be carried out.

Consequently, in this work we will deal with the phenomenon of animal otherness, and the different processes or moments that are necessary for such otherness to take place. The explanations will be represented through a series of literary cases, particularly in Jean-Baptiste del Amo's *Reino Animal* (2016) and Steven Rowley's *Lily and the Octopus* (2016), and explained from a series of philosophical theses interpreted through a lens based on the multidisciplinary field of *Animal Studies*.

Keywords: animal-otherness, other, gaze, animal-subject, anthropocentrism

Student: Akhgari, Armaghan Akbar

Title: *Spanish language attenuation in Iran's foreign language classrooms*

Supervisor: Amparo Ricós Vidal

Lines of research: Spanish for foreigners

Abstract:

This study analyzes mitigation strategies in Iranian students of Spanish as a foreign language, focusing on intermediate and advanced levels. Mitigation is key in Spanish to soften requests and suggestions, contributing to polite interactions. The objective is to identify the difficulties faced by Iranians when using these forms in communicative situations.

The analysis of the *Sueña* and *Nuevo Prisma* textbooks reveals that, although they offer a good grammatical foundation, they do not dedicate enough attention to teaching the pragmatic use of mitigated forms. This is important for Persian students, whose native language differs in verbal politeness norms, which can lead to misunderstandings or to appearing rude in Spanish.

Through the CREA corpus, it is observed that native Spanish speakers frequently use expressions like "podría" (could) or "sería posible que" (would it be possible) to soften their speech. However, Iranian students tend to use more direct forms, which creates intercultural barriers. To address this, it is proposed to integrate pedagogical methods that include simulations, pragmatic feedback, and continuous assessment, in order to improve students' communicative and pragmatic competence.

Keywords: mitigation, Spanish as a foreign language, Iranian students, Communicative strategies, Verbal politeness.

Student: Batluk, Alona

Title: *Spanish multilingualism: learning and teaching among Russian speakers*

Supervisor: Amparo Ricós Vidal

Lines of research: Spanish for foreigners

Abstract:

The Master's thesis entitled 'Hispanic Plurilingualism: learning and teaching among Russian speakers' investigates how the phenomenon of plurilingualism in the Iberian Peninsula can be understood and applied in teaching Russian-speaking students. The rationale for the topic lies in the contemporary relevance, cultural diversity and linguistic complexity, and in the interest of the author, a teacher of Spanish for Russian speakers, in applying the findings in her teaching practice. The specific objectives include the historical analysis of multilingualism in Spain, the current sociolinguistic situation, the status of Hispanic minority languages in Europe, and the evaluation of the level of teaching of these languages in the CIS countries. The methodology is based on action research, ranging from literature review to practical implementation and development of adapted educational materials. The research questions explore historical, conceptual, political and pedagogical factors related to Hispanic multilingualism and its teaching to Russian speakers. The outcome of the study, firstly, is to define the level of knowledge and teaching of Spanish minority languages in the CIS (former Soviet Union) countries. Secondly, to understand the need for the teaching of minority and minority Spanish languages among Russian speakers. Finally, to make proposals that can improve the level of teaching and learning of minority and minority Spanish languages for Russian-speaking students.

Keywords: multilingualism, minority languages, language teaching for Russian speakers, cultural diversity, language policy

Student: Bayo Gisbert, Óscar

Title: *Linguistic strategies for expressing verbal (in)politeness and linguistic attenuation in Aristophanes' The Knights*

Supervisor: Juan Miguel Labiano Ilundain

Lines of research: Greek linguistics and pragmatics

Abstract:

The Knights of Aristophanes is the second of the author's preserved comedies, and one of the dramas that better reflects the characteristic of the ancient Greek comedy: political criticism. Two slaves, presumptuous of the generals Nikias and Demosthenes, lament because one of the servants, the Paphlagonius, a reflection of Demagogue Cleon, is making their lives impossible and is absorbing their master Demo, personification of the Athens of the moment. The only possible solution is to find a person with a worse temper, who ends up with the Paphlagonius. The continuous verbal riffs and raffles that structure the work show situations full of linguistic recourses typical of comical agonies: insults, orders, shouts, etc. The end of the comedy will not come until, after various verbal litigation, the Paphlagonius will be overthrown by the Sausageseller and the people of Athens will enjoy good political health again.

This context of verbal struggle is set as the perfect framework for the application of methodologies of politeness, conversational analysis and mitigation. These fields of study applied exclusively to modern languages have been little used in the languages of corpus. Thus, our commitment in this research is to show that they can be successfully applied to classical languages, in the conviction that they can show that the characterization of the characters is not how it has sustained criticism so far.

Keywords: Aristophanes; *The Knights*; (Im)politeness; Conversation analysis; Mitigation.

Student: Bullón Tarrasó, Carlota

Title (original): *Diminutives and racial discourse: a comparative analysis of English and Spanish terms in social media*

Supervisors: Manel Pérez Saldanya /Mayron Estefan Cantillo Lucuara

Lines of research: Contrastive Linguistics

Abstract:

This study examines the use of diminutives with racial terms in English and Spanish through a corpus-based critical discourse analysis of tweets. The analysis of diminutives of the Spanish racial terms *negrito*, *negrillo*, and *negrico* reveals three distinct uses: affectionate, pejorative, and euphemistic. In English, *darkie*, *niglet*, *nigette*, *niggie*, *blackie* and *blackling* were predominantly used as slurs, although *niggete* and *niggie* were also used as in-group markers by Black users. Based on the results, four primary functions of diminutives in racial terms, linked to (im)politeness, were identified. In Spanish, they are sometimes used as a positive politeness strategy, via reverse impoliteness, to affectionately refer to Black individuals with whom the speaker, who is not necessarily Black, has a close relationship. When used euphemistically, diminutives may demonstrate negative politeness if the racial subject is present (though this is rare) or help the speaker maintain their own positive face if the racial subject is absent (which is more common). In both English and Spanish, diminutives can also function as forms of impoliteness: they both serve as insults (positive impoliteness) and reflect a condescending tone (negative impoliteness), while also carrying mock politeness connotations. Finally, in-group usage within the English-speaking Black community serves as a positive politeness strategy to foster closeness.

Keywords: corpus linguistics, critical discourse Analysis, (im)politeness, diminutive, racial terms

Student: Carrillo Barberá, Helena

Title: *Bad examples and exemplary exceptionality: violence, transgression and gender in the prose fiction of Heinrich von Kleist and María de Zayas*

Supervisor: Ingrid García Wistädt

Lines of research: Compared Literature

Abstract:

This study analyses the prose of Heinrich von Kleist through three of his novellas in comparison with four stories from *Novelas amorosas y ejemplares* by the Spanish baroque writer María de Zayas. It is hypothesised that the German translation of the *Novelas amorosas* by Sophie Mereau in the 19th century may have influenced German literature, especially Kleist's work. The main aim is to identify and compare motifs shared by both authors, such as the representation of violence, deception, perspectives on justice and the role of women. Despite their differences, the aim is to demonstrate that both authors, through perspectivism, question patriarchal norms and social institutions and reflect concerns about justice. Their characters are often confronted with extreme situations and end up dragged into the circle of violence with a bittersweet or tragic ending.

Keywords: Baroque Perspectivism, María de Zayas, Heinrich von Kleist, Sophie Mereau, Exemplum

Student: Falaguera Jorge, Andrea

Title: « *J'ai décidé que je voulais faire un enfant avec toi ! L'union inter-espèces dans les langues de l'animal de spectacle. Une analyse de Hate (2018), par Laetitia Dosch.*

Supervisor: Ignacio Ramos Gay

Lines of research: Non-human animal studies

Abstract:

The aim of this master's thesis is to conduct an analysis of the semiotic elements used in the representation of the stage animal in the play *Hate* (2018) by Laetitia Dosch, first performed at the Théâtre Lausanne in 2018. We will first establish a preliminary framework of study in the current of Animal Studies, the studies of zooscenography and zoosemiotics of the non-human animal. We will then go on to perform analyses of all the elements involved in scenography and how these are conjugated through the performance of Laetitia and Corazon's characters as a way to confront the violence exercised by anthropocentrism through the communion between species. In this manner, language will be reinstated as the tool of colonization and anthropocentric domination par excellence and we will endow the analysis with a species individualism, establishing the ethnological limitations of our study. We will also establish some first notions of the linguistics of silence and how they can be applied to the nonhuman animal, which in *Hate* (2018) is relegated to the background at the linguistic level through ventriloquism.

Keywords: animals; semiotics; Laetitia Dosch; zooscenography; anthropocentrism

Student: Ferrándiz Gómez, Celia

Title: '... und es ist eine Freiheit, ich werde ein Glanz': La flâneuse i el seu espai in the literature of the Weimar Republic

Supervisor: Isabel Gutiérrez Koster

Lines of research: German Literature

Abstract:

In the 1920s, the inter-war context of the Weimar Republic, Germany undoubtedly entered a period of profound social, cultural and historical transformations which led to a situation full of contrasts. In opposition to the progress, such as the greater independence acquired by women, there was a negative side, characterised by the misery caused by the war. In addition, consequence of this new independence, the *Neue Frau* appears as a challenge to the establishment. On the other hand, the city found its summit in this context, and Berlin became the epicentre for the development of a metropolis with its own identity. This is where the *flâneuse* emerges, the woman who wanders through the city, observing and appropriating the urban space. This figure is indispensable for understanding the bidirectionality of the influence between woman and city; the *flâneuse* not only moves through the city, but shapes and is shaped by it. Starting from the theoretical basis of the spatial turn, it is possible to prove that the conceptualisation of this new woman is linked to the representation of the city. The city threatens, but also constructs female identity. Through the study of Irmgard Keun's novel *Das kunstseidene Mädchen* (1932), it becomes clear to what extent the new woman has an impact on the way in which literature depicts a city that is witness to an infinite number of events, which in turn becomes a reflection of both sides of society, and particularly of this new woman.

Keywords: Weimar Republic, *Neue Frau*, *flâneuse*, city, writing

Student: Lang, Yuxuan

Title: *The metaphorical conceptualisation of anger in Spanish and Chinese sayings*

Supervisor: María Amparo Montaner Montava

Lines of research: Contrastive and Cognitive Linguistics

Abstract:

This work focuses on comparing metaphors of anger in Spanish and Chinese proverbs from the perspective of cognitive linguistics. There are many comparative studies on emotions, but most of them focus on studying phraseological units. This study aims to compare the conceptualization of anger in the proverbs of both languages and explore the underlying cultural influences. The methodology used is mixed and includes both quantitative and qualitative analysis. The corpus includes five sources of Spanish proverbs, three of Chinese proverbs, and one bilingual source. In total, 191 metaphorical and 46 non-metaphorical proverbs have been collected. Through the analysis of conceptual metaphors and marked aspects, we conclude that Spanish and Chinese proverbs share many metaphors, although specific conceptualizations are influenced by their different cultural contexts. In Spanish culture, the Christian religion presents God as an all-powerful figure and collectivist traits play an important role. In Chinese culture, divine figures are used to show anger without emphasizing its destructive force. Additionally, Chinese medicine theory conceptualizes anger through the concept of 气 (*qì, gas*), highlighting the importance of maintaining its balance to avoid illness. Finally, both languages emphasize the control of anger and reflect a patriarchal hierarchy.

Keywords: conceptual metaphor, anger, proverb, cognitive linguistics, cultural context

Student: Mallén Dorado, Blanca

Title: *The didactics of ethics and machine translation in the undergraduate degrees of TeI in the Valencian Community: an analysis of the teaching guides*

Supervisor: Diana González Pastor

Lines of research: Ethics and new technologies in the translation industry

Abstract:

In an era of globalization and technological advancement, machine translation has become a crucial component of translators' professional practice. Therefore, when recent graduates enter the workforce, they encounter a growing integration of machine translation, which requires developing new skills. In this context, ethical considerations have regained relevance, leading to a reassessment of their role in translator training programs in Higher Education. Although more and more scholars have warned about the ethical implications of these new systems, contributions from academia aimed at incorporating these concerns into translator training remain scarce. This master's thesis seeks to put forward the current training scene to present how machine translation fits into professional translator ethics and the main trends in the didactics of translation technologies that include an ethical perspective. Besides, we conduct a mixed-methods exploratory study based on the content analysis of the syllabi from public universities in the Valencian Community. This study aims to determine the current status of the training provided in machine translation and professional ethics. The results exhibit a training gap in MT ethics, which stems from a limited approach to these issues and the pedagogical methods adopted for their integration in the classroom.

Keywords: machine translation, professional ethics, translation didactics, syllabi, exploratory study

Student: Mengual Gilabert, María Isabel

Title: *Homosexuality during Fascism: comparative analysis of* In Italia sono tutti maschi *and* Una giornata particolare

Supervisor: Begonya Pozo Sánchez

Lines of research: Comparative literature; Gender studies, literature and cinema.

Abstract:

This Master's thesis analyses the film *Una giornata particolare* (1977) by Ettore Scola and the graphic novel *In Italia sono tutti maschi* (2010) by Sara Colaone and Luca de Santis, two works that deal with homosexual repression during Fascism. The aim is to understand how the representation of homosexuality was constructed under Mussolini's regime in order to investigate the discrimination to which homosexual men were subjected, and to delve into the experience in the concentration camps where they were imprisoned. Through a contrastive analysis with a gender perspective, the narrative and visual discourses are broken down to understand the social and cultural construction of homosexuality and masculinity at the time. It is, then, a transversal study in which the historical reflection of the discourse of each work is integrated through the semiotic analysis of the narrative elements that make up the stories, applied to both the cinematographic language and the sequential art of the comic, in order to extract the symbols, meanings and images associated with homosexual men, taking into account the particularities of each code. This research examines how each narrative format –cinema and comic– conveys ideas of gender and aesthetics, and how the historical context influences the representation of homosexual exclusion. In doing so, attention is paid to how visual and verbal codes convey deep meanings about gay male identity, while also considering the impact of historical context on narratives and how narrative techniques influence the reception of the work.

Keywords: genre, discourse, cinema, graphic novel, Fascism

Student: Sarrià Navarro, Josep

Title: *The construction <V1-I-V2> in Catalan: a corpus analysis using the grammar of constructions*

Supervisors: Jesús Jiménez Martínez / Andreu Sentí i Pons

Lines of research: cognitive linguistics, grammar of constructions, corpus linguistics

Abstract:

The <V1-and-V2> construction (*va i diu, va i resulta, agafa i se'n va*) is a linguistic phenomenon that consists of the combination of two verbs that is halfway between a coordination and a periphrastic verbal construction. In Catalan, as well as in other languages, this construction is made up of three conjuncts: a first verb (V1), the copulative conjunction *i* (and), and a second verb (V2). The first verb has a very limited range of possibilities (*anar* or *agafar/agarrar* in Catalan) and it lost its original meaning; in contrast, the second verb has a much broader range of possibilities, it selects the argument structure of the sentence, and provides the basic meaning of the predicate. The present work is an empirical, usage-based study, meaning data will be extracted from oral and written Catalan corpora such as the Parlars corpus, *CTILC*, or *CIVAL*. We will describe the behaviour of this construction within the framework of construction grammar theory (Goldberg, 1995, 2003, 2006). As can be seen from the results after analyzing the results, this structure undergoes grammaticalisation and acquires new semantic and pragmatic nuances of mirativity (DeLancey, 1997), indignation, or abruptness. In addition, we will be comparing this construction with matching constructions in other languages, and we argue that its behaviour is similar to that of discourse adverbs, in line with Bravo (2020).

Keywords: <V1-and-V2> construction, pseudocoordination, multiverbal constructions, corpus linguistics, construction grammar, movement verbs

Student: Song, Ni

Title (original): *The Manifestation of Animal Mistreatment in Contemporary Animal Exhibitions*

Supervisor: Ignacio Ramos Gay

Lines of research: Animal ethics

Abstract (original language):

In our daily lives, the animals that surround us are one of the closest, most direct, and vivid companions with which we interact, establishing diverse connections with the world. In the growing popularity of contemporary art today, the theme of animals has also been used in contemporary art. However, here, animals are no longer simply animals in themselves, but rather an expression of the artist's conception. Even so, the use of live animals in artworks is also common, with one of the most controversial and contentious aspects being the injury and death of animals during the creation or exhibition process, or in works that clearly present a violent meaning. What is worth reflecting on is whether the problem of animal abuse, when dressed in the mantle of art, culture, or even religious customs, ceases to be animal abuse. Is the ethical challenge to animals in contemporary art an artistic expression or simply a covert way to continue speciesism?

Keywords: contemporary art, Animal ethics, Animal abuse, Speciesism.

Student: Vives Martínez, Mireia

Title: *Family conflict in Effi Briest (1895): between the domestic and the political*

Supervisor: Ingrid García Wistädt

Lines of research: German Literature

Abstract:

The aim of this paper is to explore Theodor Fontane's depiction of the family in late nineteenth-century German society in his major work, *Effi Briest* (1895). Although the presence of the motif of adultery in the plot has favoured its inclusion in the literary canon and has contributed to establishing links between this and other key novels of European Realism, it cannot be overlooked that Fontane's work is also a valuable testimony to the social and power structures, moral norms and thinking of the last decades of the nineteenth century in Imperial Prussia. In accordance with the principles of poetic Realism, Fontane focuses on the day-to-day life of two wealthy families of the time and depicts the interaction between their members, revealing, among other things, the gradual assimilation of the aristocracy into the bourgeois family model. However, behind the seemingly conventional and somewhat complacent portrayal of the family in this work, it is possible to hint at underlying tensions resulting from an age in transition, which foreshadow more far-reaching transformations. Personal disagreements and conflicts are indicative of a family crisis, which, on a small scale, hints at a crisis of the social and political order.

Keywords: Theodor Fontane, *Effi Briest*, German Empire, familial conflict, bourgeois society

Student: Xu, Xiaochen

Title: *The comparative study between Chinese and Spanish in interrogative sentences. interrogative sentences. Application in the ELE classroom*

Supervisor: Amparo Ricós Vidal

Lines of research: Spanish for foreigners

Abstract:

The interrogative is a type of sentence defined according to modality. It can be classified into total and partial interrogative, as well as direct and indirect interrogative. In Chinese and English, in the case of partial interrogative, the sentence usually contains an interrogative word. The interrogative sentence has its grammatical structure, which will be discussed in this paper together with the syntactic analysis. The interrogative also has a pragmatic and rhetorical function in context. In this TFM, a didactic proposal is made with the aim of getting to know the grammatical structure and the pragmatic and rhetorical function of this type of sentence in the degree of Hispanic Philology in Chinese universities. On the one hand, after observing the unified syllabus of the fundamental stage of this degree in China, two subjects that can deal with the interrogative as a specific topic, Intensive Reading and Spanish Grammar, are analysed. On the other hand, some self-designed exercises are presented which will deal with the formation of the interrogative sentence according to the syntactic structure, the transformation between different types of interrogatives and translation. The exercises are also designed for reading coherent texts, so that students understand the function of the interrogative in context.

Keywords: interrogative, Spanish grammar, Spanish teaching, Hispanic Philology, Intensive Reading