

**EDITORIAL**

In this issue of *Synergy* (no. 1/2008), the Journal of the Department of Germanic Languages and Business Communication of The Bucharest Academy of Economic Studies, we included a set of articles dealing with different aspects of teaching foreign languages and with initiating and developing research projects in the connected areas.

In the section entitled *Considerations on Educational Issues*, we find how linguistic skills can be improved through a non-formal way of learning called Family Learning (Monica Vlad and Ioana Ursache) and we explore some of the ways in which innovative concepts and instruments in language learning, such as blended learning, autonomous language learning, the online learning platform, are used to enhance the quality of less widely used less widely taught language learning packages (Rada Bălan and Anca Colibaba).

Considerations on LSP Teaching includes Adriana Chiriacescu's theoretical analysis of the importance of intercultural training for students of economics in a globalised society, while at the same time presenting some training activities. Elena Tălmăcian uses the same practical approach and argues on the necessity to include critical thinking techniques in language learning/teaching, with a focus on teaching Business English, while Maria Liana Lăcătuș presents the Games Theory and the definite interdependence of decisions in a real life economic context, and exemplifies it by an activity called the "prisoner dilemma".

The very consistent section of *Cultural and Literary Studies* includes articles from the area of journalism, such as the one by Marina Temmerman and Dave Sinardet on the comparison between journalistic approaches and the connection they have with the linguistic and cultural communities of Belgium. Organisational culture and the factors determining it constitute the core of Valentina Robu's article, while Monica Condruz-Băcescu focuses on the worries and the implications that the imposition of American lifestyles and values poses nowadays. Two articles deal with the issue of the self: on the one hand how it is reflected in the American short fiction of the late 70s and early 80s, in the article by Ștefan Colibaba, and on the other hand how the self is imbedded in the construction of the literary work in the

article by Claudia Dinu. In her article, Roxana Marinescu analyses different gendered instances of violence, as they are described in a number of novels written in English by authors of South-Asian origin, while Mihaela Dumitrescu focuses on Paul de Man's conception of the disruptive and rhetorical nature of language. In the last article of this section, we invite you to explore the investigation by Ida Galli, Roberto Fasanelli and Debora Sommella on the reasons for a revival of the extreme right movement in Italy.

We would like to thank all the contributors for their materials, and express our hope that you will find this issue as interesting and challenging as the previous ones.

Roxana MARINESCU