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## **Social Interactions in Intercultural Encounters**

### **Habilitation Thesis**

#### **Abstract**

This habilitation thesis describes my professional, scientific and academic career and the directions for further development in scientific research with the aim of demonstrating my qualification to conduct research in linguistics, with specific reference to discourse and conversation analysis.

My scientific and professional career has followed three main directions: the doctoral programme in linguistics, definitely the major steppingstone since it has built my professional and research profile, the CNCSIS research grant *Institutional talk and intercultural communication in international companies*, which helped broaden my research inquiries, and the MERIDIUM (Multilingualism in Europe as a Resource for Immigration - Dialogue Initiative among the Universities of the Mediterranean) grant, which contributed to gaining experience in conducting international research projects.

My main research activity started in 1997 when I entered a PhD part-time programme organised by the British Council Bucharest in cooperation with Lancaster University, UK and the Romanian Ministry of Education and Research, *PhD Programme in Applied Linguistics for Romanian Academics (LANCDOC)*. In 2002 I was awarded the doctoral degree in Linguistics by Lancaster University, UK, with the doctoral thesis *The Construction of Meaning in the*

*Interaction between Native Speakers of English and Romanians*. The thesis was published in two editions, *The Construction of Meaning in the Interaction between Native Speakers of English and Romanians*, 2003, Editura Universității Transilvania din Brașov, and *The Construction of Meaning in Intercultural Communication – Pragmatic analysis of interactions between native speakers of English and Romanians*, 2012, Lambert Academic Publishing. The thesis and the second edition of the book are indexed in KVK catalogue (3 in abebooks, one in amazon.de and one in British Union Catalog) <http://kvk.ubka.uni-karlsruhe.de/hylib-bin/kvk/>

Between 2007 and 2008 I was director of the CNCSIS research grant *Institutional talk and intercultural communication in international companies*. The scientific objective of the research is the identification of communicative and cultural practices in multinational companies. The study thus addresses issues of organizational research, from a discourse analytical perspective. The outcomes of the project are the participation in national and international conferences: Brasov, Timisoara and Cluj, *International Conference of the Bulgarian Society for British Studies* (2008), and CALPIU, Roskilde University, Denmark, (2008), and the publication of two books, one with the corpus of data (*Institutional talk and intercultural communication in multinational companies: Corpus of spoken interactions in English*, 2008, Editura Universității Transilvania din Brașov), and the volume of collective papers, *Institutional Talk and Intercultural Communication in Multinational Companies in Romania* (2008, Editura Universității Transilvania din Brașov).

The integration of the research conducted on the construction of meaning in the interaction between native speakers of English and Romanians and of interactions in international companies has been achieved in the book entitled *Activity types and social interaction*, published at Editura Universității Transilvania din Brașov, in 2010. The aim of the book is to investigate the procedures whereby Romanian participants interact in English with participants coming from different social and cultural backgrounds in an attempt to understand the complex interactional and institutional problems in which culture is embedded. In addition to this, the book also provides interested readers with data collected in Romania for further analyses.

Between 2008 and 2011 I was the Romanian team manager in the international project MERIDIUM (Multilingualism in Europe as a Resource for Immigration - Dialogue Initiative

among the Universities of the Mediterranean), initiated by Università per Stranieri di Perugia, Italy. One of the outcomes of the project is the publication of the volume *Migration, Multilingualism and Schooling in Southern Europe*, Sandro Caruana, Liliana Copesescu and Stefania Scaglione (eds.), Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2013, which is indexed in KVK catalogue and which has two references in *International Journal of Multilingualism*. <http://kvk.ubka.uni-karlsruhe.de/hylib-bin/kvk/>

I have six contributions to books published in international publishing houses: the paper 'Discourse analysis of communication in international companies' published in *Globalization in English Studies*, (M. Georgieva and A. James, eds), 2010, Cambridge Scholars Publishing, the paper 'Discursive hybridity at work', published in *Professional Communication across Languages and Cultures*, 2012, John Benjamins Publishing Company, co-author of 'Introduction: Migration-induced Linguistic Diversity in Southern European Countries', 'Conclusion' and 'Migratory Experience and Attitudes towards Multilingualism. The Romanian Case Study', in Sandro Caruana, Liliana Copesescu and Stefania Scaglione (eds.) *Migration, Multilingualism and Schooling in Southern Europe*, Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2013. I have participated in over 20 national and international conferences and published articles in academic journals. I am the initiator and main organiser of the annual **Conference on British and American Studies** at the Faculty of Letters, now at its 11-th edition.

In my academic career I have been teaching *ELT Methodology*, *Pragmatics*, *Discourse Analysis*, *Research in Applied Linguistics*, the optional course *Conversation Analysis* to undergraduate students, and *New Directions in Language Analysis*, *Qualitative Research Methods* to MA students.

As recognition of the research done in the field of discourse analysis, I am a member of the professional association *Romanian Society for English and American Studies (RSEAS)*, affiliated to the *European Society for the Study of English (ESSE)*.

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