



Universitatea *Transilvania* din Braşov

**HABILITATION THESIS
SUMMARY**

LANGUAGE IN INTER(ACTION)

Domain: PHILOLOGY

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I. Summary of the Habilitation Thesis Entitled *Language in Inter(Action)*

The habilitation thesis entitled *Language in (Inter)Action* is structured in three parts, which present my professional career, my teaching and research interests and achievements, and the main objectives for my professional and scientific future development.

My teaching, scientific and professional career has followed three directions, namely feminism, English for Specific Purposes and institutional talk, presented in Section 2.

A major area of interest in my professional and research activity has been feminism, which started with the Ph.D. programme at “Al. I. Cuza” University Iași; my thesis is entitled *Feminist Attitudes in Eighteenth Century English Fiction* and was supervised by prof. Grigore Vereș, Ph.D. and prof. Ștefan Avădanei, Ph.D. The dissertation interprets woman’s situation as it presented in 18th century novels, conduct books, essays and letters, the analysis being made mainly from a cultural studies perspective.

I published my dissertation and I wrote papers on woman’s relation to society, finance, education and family, which I presented at various national and international conferences. Later, I have analysed the way in which women are represented in tabloids and the way in which they speak in institutions.

As far as English for Specific Purposes is concerned, my interest in this area started at the beginning of my teaching career, with the *Project for English for Specific Purposes in Romania*, and has continued after I defended my Ph.D. dissertation. The project was jointly managed by the Romanian Ministry of Education and the British Council Romania and has had a significant impact on my professional development, particularly in terms of research and teaching methodology, with an emphasis on vocabulary. As the result of my participation in the project I obtained the degree of Master in Education from Manchester University, I co-authored and co-edited the evaluation study of the project, wrote several English for Specific Purposes textbooks in science, business and legal areas, and papers on project methodology.

My interest in discourse analysis started with the CNCSIS-funded project entitled *Institutional Talk and Intercultural Communication in International Companies in Romania* in which I

participated as a member. The aim of the project was to identify the cultural and communicative practices in the multinational companies set up in Romania, a recent phenomenon in our country. As the result of the project I co-edited a book and wrote several papers which were presented at conferences and published by national and international publishing houses: John Benjamins, The Publishing House of Transilvania University of Braşov, Star Cluj Napoca Publishing House, St. Kliment Okhridski - Sofia University, Cambridge Scholars.

The topics which I analysed in order to identify the features of this new type of institutional language and culture in these companies, where English is used as lingua franca, are: use of questions, evaluation, humour, mitigation, argumentation, politeness and power. I also made use of the data provided by another project conducted by colleagues from Transilvania University of Braşov, who studied institutional communication in Romanian companies, and I made comparisons between the Romanian and joint companies in order to identify similarities and differences in terms of institutional culture and power relationships.

The *Institutional Talk and Intercultural Communication in International Companies in Romania* project involved the master's degree students of the Faculty of Letters from Transilvania University of Braşov mainly during the transcription stage and has provided a data basis for further research and analysis to other researchers, business companies, and teachers of English and Romanian.

Next I present the academic and teaching components of my career, the courses I teach, the projects in which I have participated as manager, trainer or researcher, the conferences which I have attended and organised, and my activity as a peer reviewer.

The second part of the habilitation thesis, entitled *Plans for developing my professional, scientific and teaching career*, describes my future aims in these areas, based on my teaching experience, students' results and feedback, as well as my research interests. This part has three subchapters – plans for developing the American Studies programme which I coordinate, the changes that I plan to implement in terms of the content and methodology of the courses I teach, and, starting from my latest research, my future research plans.

The third part presents the main bibliographical sources used for my research and teaching activity.

The thesis also includes a portfolio with ten of my publications, considered as representative for my scientific activity.

I have published 2 books as sole author, 3 books as co-author and 2 books as co-editor at accredited Romanian publishing houses, 2 chapters in books published at international publishing houses, 9 chapters in volumes published by national publishing houses, 18 studies in the volumes of national and international conferences; out of these books and studies, 4 are ISI indexed and 20 are indexed in international data bases. I co-organised 10 conferences at the Faculty of Letters, Transilvania University of Braşov, and participated in 20 boards for academic promotion. I have been peer reviewer for the *Synergy Journal* (The Journal of the Department of Foreign Languages and Business Communication, The Bucharest University of Economic Studies), 4 issues of the *Scientific Bulletin of Transilvania University of Braşov*, and 6 volumes of the *Conference on British and American Studies*.

During my academic career I have taught English language classes to students from the technical and economic departments of Transilvania University; at the Faculty of Letters I have taught lectures and seminars on syntax, vocabulary, cultural studies, mass media discourse and research methods, and I have published courses for most of them.

I have been a member of RSEAS (the Romanian Society for English and American Studies) and IADA (International Association for Discourse Analysis).