

# **Analyzing the Influence of Translators, Language, and Collaborative Learning on Academic Performance**

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## **Abstract**

This research compilation from the Faculty of Foreign Languages at AAB College presents a diverse range of studies that explore language, translation, culture, and identity, offering valuable resources for students, especially those pursuing research at the master's level. Key areas of focus include the role of translators in children's literature, emphasizing their active contribution in recreating texts, and the evolution of writing systems, such as Scriptio Continua, which influences reading processes and language development. Additionally, the research delves into language's role in constructing national identity in post-conflict societies, with a focus on urban semiotic landscapes. Collaborative learning's impact on student motivation and academic performance in language classrooms is also highlighted. Other studies examine the strategic use of language in political discourse and public diplomacy, as well as specific linguistic features of the Albanian language. Overall, this collection provides insightful perspectives that encourage critical thinking and guide students in developing relevant research topics.

**Keywords: Language, translation, culture, identity, education, political discourse**

## **Introduction**

The Faculty of Foreign Languages at AAB College has compiled a rich collection of research that explores various aspects of language, translation, culture, and identity. This collection is intended to guide students in their academic journeys, particularly in their future research endeavors. By delving into important topics and contemporary challenges, these studies provide valuable insights that will aid students in deepening their understanding of the field and refining their areas of interest. Moreover, this collection serves as an excellent resource for master's students, helping them select relevant thesis topics and further develop their research skills.

One key area of focus in this research is the role of translators, especially in children's literature. The research emphasizes the importance of considering the translator not only as someone who transfers meaning but as an active participant in recreating the text. This approach highlights the significant influence that translators have in shaping the narrative and how young readers engage with the material. This perspective encourages students to think critically about the impact of translation on the interpretation of texts and the role of the translator in conveying cultural and ideological messages.

Another important theme explored in the research is the evolution of writing systems, particularly the concept of *Scriptio Continua*. This writing style, which omits spaces between words, is examined in the context of modern languages. The research investigates how such a system influences reading processes and language development. Understanding how writing systems shape communication can inspire students to explore the cognitive and linguistic aspects of language learning and use.

Additionally, the research addresses the ways in which language contributes to the construction of national identity, particularly in post-conflict societies. By analyzing the linguistic and semiotic landscapes of urban spaces, the studies explore how language, symbols, and signage are used to express political ideologies and national pride. This area of study is particularly valuable for students interested in sociolinguistics, language policy, and the intersection of language and politics in shaping identity.

The research also highlights the role of collaborative learning in enhancing student motivation and academic performance, particularly in language classrooms. It shows how group dynamics and peer interaction can create a more engaging and supportive learning environment. This finding is especially relevant for students pursuing studies in pedagogy and language instruction, as it underscores the importance of creating interactive, student-centered classrooms.

Other areas of research in this collection examine the role of language in political discourse, public diplomacy, and cultural expression. These studies explore how language is used strategically to influence public opinion, construct national narratives, and foster international relations. Understanding the power of language in these contexts can help students develop a more nuanced understanding of how language shapes social and political realities.

Finally, the collection includes studies on specific linguistic features of the Albanian language, such as discourse particles and numerals, providing a deeper understanding of the structural and semantic properties of language. These studies offer valuable insights for students interested in linguistics and the complexities of language use in specific cultural contexts.

In summary, the research conducted by the Faculty of Foreign Languages at AAB College offers a wide-ranging exploration of contemporary issues in language, translation, identity, and culture. For students, these studies provide a wealth of knowledge and serve as a guide to developing research topics that are both meaningful and impactful. Whether in translation, sociolinguistics, language pedagogy, or political discourse, the studies in this collection invite students to think critically and engage with the evolving challenges of the field.

Below, you will find a brief summary of each study conducted. The full studies can be easily accessed by referring to the bibliography at the end, as these resources are openly available.

### **Brief summary of studies**

#### **Alla, A. (2024). An invisible storyteller or a loud recreator? A translator-centered approach to the translation of children's literature.**

This paper examines the role of translators in children's literature, specifically in terms of how their influence is perceived. Alla argues for a translator-centered approach, which emphasizes the active role of the translator in recreating a text for young readers rather than simply transferring meaning from one language to another. The author explores how translators can serve as "invisible storytellers" or as more assertive, "loud recreators" who shape the narrative. By analyzing translation choices, the study reveals the significance of cultural, linguistic, and ideological factors in the translation process. Alla stresses that the translator's decisions have a lasting impact on how young audiences engage with the text and its underlying messages.

#### **Butskhrikidze, M. (2021). What do modern languages with Scriptio Continua have in common?**

Butskhrikidze's paper delves into modern languages that utilize Scriptio Continua, a writing style that omits spaces between words. The study identifies the key characteristics shared by such languages, analyzing historical and contemporary examples. By comparing different languages

and examining their evolution, the author provides insight into how Scriptio Continua influences reading processes and linguistic development. The paper discusses the implications of this writing system in modern linguistic contexts and highlights its potential to shape communication patterns in contemporary languages.

**Demaj, U. (2022). Constructing national identity in the public space: The discursive transformations of the semiotic-linguistic landscapes of Pristina, Kosovo.**

Demaj explores the role of public spaces in shaping national identity in Pristina, Kosovo. The paper focuses on the semiotic-linguistic landscapes, or the ways in which language and symbols are used in the urban environment to communicate national and political ideologies. The study highlights how the city's public spaces have transformed in the post-war period, reflecting the discursive construction of Kosovo's national identity. Demaj uses a range of examples to show how language, symbols, and signage are used to assert sovereignty and national pride, thus playing a significant role in the ongoing process of state-building and nationhood in Kosovo.

**Demaj, U. (2023). Language and symbolic identity building in Kosovo: A qualitative examination into changing historical landscapes.**

This paper by Demaj examines how language plays a crucial role in the construction of symbolic national identities in Kosovo. Focusing on qualitative data, the study looks at the changing historical landscapes, particularly how language is used in public discourse to assert a sense of identity and belonging. The author explores how different linguistic practices—such as the use of specific dialects, symbols, and commemorative language—help to reinforce Kosovo's political and cultural narratives. Demaj argues that these linguistic changes are deeply intertwined with the broader process of identity construction, serving as tools for both remembering the past and building a unified future.

**Demaj, U., Alla, A. (2023). BAC, U KRY! Space, Albanian commemoration and the Gheg variety as a linguistic symbol of state independence in postwar Kosovo.**

Demaj and Alla's collaborative paper analyzes the role of the Gheg variety of the Albanian language in Kosovo's postwar independence narrative. The paper investigates how language, particularly the Gheg dialect, has been employed in public commemorations to reinforce the symbolic significance of Kosovo's statehood. The authors examine the phrase "BAC, U KRY!" as

a linguistic symbol, demonstrating its cultural and political weight in the context of Albanian nationalism and Kosovo's quest for recognition and sovereignty. The study highlights how space, language, and memory intersect in shaping the national identity of a post-conflict society.

**Demaj, U., Vandenbroucke, M. (2024). The geosemiotics of ethno-political graffiti in Kosovo: Polyphony, emplacement, and heteroglossia.**

This paper explores the geosemiotics of ethno-political graffiti in Kosovo, focusing on the ways in which these visual texts convey political and ethnic messages. Demaj and Vandenbroucke examine how graffiti functions as a form of resistance, identity expression, and territorial marking. The study explores the concept of polyphony in graffiti, noting that multiple voices and perspectives are often represented within the same space, reflecting the diverse and sometimes conflicting ideologies in post-conflict Kosovo. The authors argue that graffiti serves as both a marker of emplacement and a site for the negotiation of power, memory, and identity.

**Kasumi, H., Xhemaili, M. (2023). Student motivation and learning: The impact of collaborative learning in English as Foreign Language classes.**

Kasumi and Xhemaili's study investigates the impact of collaborative learning on student motivation and academic performance in English as a Foreign Language (EFL) classroom. The authors find that collaborative learning environments significantly enhance student engagement, fostering a sense of community and shared responsibility. Through a series of surveys and interviews, the paper reveals that students who participate in collaborative learning are more motivated and show improved language proficiency. The study emphasizes the importance of peer interaction and group dynamics in motivating students to take an active role in their learning process.

**Latifi, F., & Kasumi, H. (2022). Teachers' perspectives on innovative and interactive teaching methods: Perspective of mobile learning.**

Latifi and Kasumi explore how mobile learning is perceived by teachers as an innovative and interactive teaching method. The study focuses on teachers' experiences and attitudes toward integrating mobile technologies into the classroom, especially in the context of English language instruction. The authors highlight that mobile learning tools, such as educational apps and online resources, are seen as valuable for fostering student engagement and enhancing learning outcomes.

Teachers noted that mobile learning encourages more interactive, student-centered teaching practices, but also raised concerns about accessibility and the potential for distractions.

**Llunji, V., Paçarizi, A. (2023). Antithesis as a powerful linguistic tool of persuasion in political speeches in Kosovo.**

Llunji and Paçarizi examine the use of antithesis as a rhetorical strategy in political speeches in Kosovo. The study highlights how this linguistic tool is employed by politicians to create stark contrasts between opposing ideas, thereby enhancing the persuasive power of their messages. By analyzing several political speeches, the authors show how antithesis is used to appeal to emotions, solidify political ideologies, and frame national issues in a way that resonates with audiences. The paper underscores the role of language in shaping public opinion and political discourse in Kosovo.

**Ramadani, F. (2021). Representative Symbols of the American Society: Revisiting F. Scott Fitzgerald's Selected Novels.**

Ramadani's paper revisits F. Scott Fitzgerald's selected novels, exploring the representative symbols of American society depicted in his works. The author analyzes the way Fitzgerald uses symbols, such as the American Dream, wealth, and social class, to critique the moral and social fabric of American life during the Jazz Age. The paper focuses on how these symbols reflect the broader cultural and societal values of the time, providing readers with a deeper understanding of the historical context within Fitzgerald's novels.

**Ramadani, F., Krasniqi, K. (2022). Homeland and America in the work of Anzia Yeziarska.**

In this paper, Ramadani and Krasniqi examine the theme of homeland and the immigrant experience in the work of Anzia Yeziarska. The study focuses on Yeziarska's exploration of identity, belonging, and the tension between the Old World and the New World. The authors analyze how Yeziarska's characters navigate the complexities of immigration, social mobility, and cultural assimilation, providing insights into the struggles of Jewish immigrants in early 20th-century America. The paper sheds light on Yeziarska's portrayal of the American Dream and the challenges immigrants face in the pursuit of it.

**Ramadani, F., Sallauka, A. (2024). Symbolism in "A Curious Case of Benjamin Button" (1922) by F. Scott Fitzgerald.**

Ramadani and Sallauka's paper explores the rich symbolism in F. Scott Fitzgerald's novella *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*. The authors focus on the ways in which Fitzgerald uses the concept of aging in reverse as a metaphor for time, identity, and existential questions. The paper analyzes the symbolic meanings behind the character of Benjamin Button, his life trajectory, and the relationships he forms, suggesting that the story serves as an allegory for the human experience and the passage of time. The study highlights the importance of symbolism in Fitzgerald's work and its commentary on the complexities of life and death.

**Rushiti, B. (2024). The discourse particle *vallë* in Albanian.**

Rushiti's paper explores the discourse particle *vallë* in the Albanian language, examining its syntactic, semantic, and pragmatic functions. The study discusses how *vallë* operates in various conversational contexts, particularly in questions, and how it influences the tone and meaning of the utterance. By analyzing its role in both formal and informal speech, the paper highlights the complexity of *vallë* as a discourse marker, which can signal uncertainty, seek confirmation, or emphasize a rhetorical question. Rushiti's analysis provides a deeper understanding of how Albanian speakers use such particles to manage discourse and communication strategies.

**Rushiti, B., & Dobrovie-Sorin, C. (2023). Distributive numerals in Albanian.**

In this study, Rushiti and Dobrovie-Sorin investigate the use of distributive numerals in Albanian, focusing on their syntactic and semantic properties. The paper provides a detailed examination of how these numerals are used to indicate distribution in various linguistic structures, comparing their behavior to similar constructions in other languages. Through an analysis of sentence patterns and distributional features, the authors explore the role of distributive numerals in sentence structure and meaning, highlighting their significance in the expression of quantity and distribution in Albanian.

**Saliu, H., Lljunji, V. (2022). Cultural diplomacy of Kosovo after the declaration of independence.**

Saliu and Lljunji's paper examines the role of cultural diplomacy in Kosovo following its declaration of independence. The authors explore how Kosovo has utilized cultural diplomacy as a tool to strengthen its international image, promote national identity, and foster relations with foreign countries. The study analyzes Kosovo's cultural initiatives and their impact on public

diplomacy, highlighting the country's efforts to leverage its cultural heritage to gain recognition on the global stage. The paper also addresses the challenges faced by Kosovo in the realm of cultural diplomacy and the role it plays in its broader foreign policy strategy.

**Takovski, A. (2021). Lubricating cultural awareness and critical thinking through humour.**

Takovski's paper explores the role of humor in fostering cultural awareness and critical thinking. The study examines how humor can serve as a tool for bridging cultural gaps and promoting deeper understanding between diverse social groups. Takovski discusses the cognitive and emotional effects of humor, highlighting its potential to challenge stereotypes, question social norms, and encourage critical engagement with cultural issues. The paper emphasizes the importance of humor in education and intercultural communication, suggesting that humor can be an effective means of engaging individuals in discussions about culture and societal values.

**Takovski, A. (2022). Political alliance with COVID-19: Macedonian politics and the strategic use of the pandemic.**

In this paper, Takovski examines how the political establishment in North Macedonia used the COVID-19 pandemic strategically to influence public opinion and political alliances. The study investigates the discourse surrounding the pandemic, focusing on how political leaders framed the health crisis to serve their agendas, secure power, and manage the national narrative. Takovski analyzes speeches, media coverage, and political rhetoric during the pandemic, revealing how Macedonian politics shaped public perception through the lens of the crisis, making it a tool for political maneuvering and alignment.

**Takovski, A. (2023). Grandpa was fatally administered by the Bulgarians: Family narratives, state history and national identity.**

Takovski's paper delves into the complex relationship between personal family narratives and national history in shaping collective identity. By focusing on the phrase "Grandpa was fatally administered by the Bulgarians," the paper explores how historical events are interpreted at the familial level and how these interpretations intersect with state-sponsored narratives of national identity. The author examines how individual stories of trauma, resistance, and survival contribute to the construction of a national identity, shedding light on the role of history and memory in both personal and collective experiences.

**Xhemaili, M. (2022). The importance of the English language in public diplomacy and international relations.**

Xhemaili's paper discusses the pivotal role of the English language in shaping public diplomacy and international relations. The author argues that English, as a global lingua franca, facilitates communication and diplomatic engagement on the international stage. The study explores how the use of English in diplomatic contexts allows for better understanding and collaboration between nations, serving as a bridge in global politics. Xhemaili examines case studies to illustrate the significance of English in international discourse, emphasizing its value in advancing national interests, fostering alliances, and shaping global policies.

**Xhemaili, M. (2023). Student motivation and learning: The impact of collaborative learning in English as foreign language classes.**

In this study, Xhemaili investigates the impact of collaborative learning on student motivation and language acquisition in English as a foreign language (EFL) classrooms. The paper highlights how group activities, peer interaction, and collaborative tasks enhance student engagement and encourage active participation in the learning process. Through qualitative analysis, the author finds that students who engage in collaborative learning exhibit higher levels of motivation and improved language proficiency. The study underscores the importance of creating interactive and cooperative learning environments to boost students' language skills and motivation.

**Xhemaili, M., Kasumi, H. (2023). Teachers' perceptions of the importance of linguistics in the teaching of speaking skills in EFL – A case study in the Republic of North Macedonia.**

Xhemaili and Kasumi's paper explores the perceptions of teachers regarding the importance of linguistics in teaching speaking skills in English as a Foreign Language (EFL). The study, conducted in North Macedonia, investigates how teachers view the integration of linguistic theories and concepts in speaking instruction. The authors highlight that teachers recognize the value of understanding linguistic structures, pronunciation, and cultural nuances in teaching speaking skills. The paper discusses how linguistic knowledge can enhance teaching methods and improve students' speaking proficiency, emphasizing the importance of linguistics in EFL teacher training.

**Xhemaili, M., Kasumi, H. (2023). Teachers' perceptions of the importance of linguistics in the teaching of speaking skills in EFL: A case study in the Republic of North Macedonia.**

This paper by Xhemaili and Kasumi examines the role of linguistic knowledge in the teaching of speaking skills in English as a Foreign Language (EFL) classroom in North Macedonia. The study reveals that teachers perceive linguistics as essential for enhancing students' speaking abilities, as it aids in understanding speech production, accent, and pragmatic usage. Through interviews and surveys, the authors show that teachers who integrate linguistic insights into their teaching methods foster more effective speaking instruction. The paper advocates for the incorporation of linguistic training in teacher education programs to improve EFL speaking outcomes.

**Xhemaili, M., Maliqi, F. (2024). Native language interference in writing: A case study of Albanian high school EFL learners in the Republic of North Macedonia.**

Xhemaili and Maliqi's study focuses on native language interference in writing among Albanian high school students learning English as a foreign language (EFL) in North Macedonia. The paper analyzes common errors and challenges that arise from the influence of the Albanian language on students' written English. The authors examine various aspects of writing, such as syntax, vocabulary choice, and grammar, to identify patterns of interference. The study offers recommendations for addressing these challenges in EFL instruction, emphasizing the importance of awareness of native language influence in the teaching and learning process.

## **Conclusion**

In conclusion, the research compiled by the Faculty of Foreign Languages at AAB College offers a comprehensive and insightful examination of various critical topics within the fields of language, translation, culture, and identity. The studies presented serve as an invaluable resource for students, particularly those pursuing postgraduate research, as they offer a nuanced understanding of contemporary challenges and diverse issues across different linguistic and cultural contexts. The research not only deepens students' understanding of key concepts but also provides practical guidance for selecting relevant thesis topics and honing essential research skills.

The studies covered a wide array of subjects, from the pivotal role of translators in children's literature to the complex relationship between language, identity, and national narratives in post-conflict societies. They also highlight the importance of innovative educational practices, such as collaborative learning and the integration of mobile technology, in enhancing student motivation and academic performance. Furthermore, the research delves into the strategic use of language in political discourse, public diplomacy, and the construction of national identities, reflecting the power of language in shaping social and political realities.

By addressing these pressing and thought-provoking topics, this collection encourages students to think critically about the evolving dynamics of language and its role in various societal domains. The studies not only contribute to a deeper understanding of linguistic and cultural phenomena but also provide students with the tools to explore their academic interests and pursue meaningful research in the future. Overall, this research collection represents a vital contribution to the field and serves as a guide for students embarking on their academic journeys in language and related disciplines.

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