

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

Meaning and Knowledge Representation

13th International Conference

Vilnius University

July 1-3, 2026



Collaborators:

Vilnius University, Faculty of Philology & Go Vilnius.

This event is part of the R&D&I projects PID2023-146582NB-I00 and PID2023-147137NB-I00, funded by MICIU/AEI/10.13039/501100011033 and by ERDF, EU.



Faculty of
Philology



 **Go Vilnius**

13th International *Conference on Meaning and Knowledge Representation*
Vilnius University, July 1-3, 2026

Book of abstracts

Meaning and Knowledge Representation 13th International Conference

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

PLENARY TALKS	3
<i>Ángela Alameda-Hernández</i> REVISITING LEXICO-GRAMMATICAL FEATURES FOR CRITICAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS.....	4
<i>Nicolás José Fernández Martínez</i> THE CONVERGENCE OF LINGUISTICS AND AI: TRENDS, CHALLENGES, AND OPPORTUNITIES	5
<i>Jūratė Ruzaitė</i> EXPLICIT, IMPLICIT, AND CONTEXTUAL: LEGAL-LINGUISTIC INSIGHTS INTO HATE SPEECH.....	6
ABSTRACTS	7
<i>Yolanda Blázquez-López, María Enriqueta Cortés de los Ríos & Ángel Felices Lago</i> AUTOMATIC ANNOTATION OF CDA LEXICAL FEATURES IN THE ACUMEN PROJECT: EVALUATIVE LEXIS OF NEGATIVE NOUNS IN YOUTUBE VIDEO COMMENTS ON HOUSING INEQUALITY	8
<i>Davide Castiglione</i> CAPTURING LITERARY MEANING(S): TESTING COMPETING MODELS FROM LINGUISTICS	10
<i>Salma Errami Fennane</i> LEXICAL BLENDS IN ENGLISH DISCOURSE: A CONSTRUCTIONAL AND COGNITIVE ANALYSIS	11
<i>Francesca Ioana Gehl</i> COMPARING CONTEMPORARY CONCEPTUAL METAPHORS OF LIBERTY WITH REVOLUTIONARY METAPHORS OF LIBERTY IN AMERICAN POLITICAL RHETORIC	13
<i>Irina Iwanowa-Micewicz</i> PROPOSITIONAL STRUCTURE AS A SYSTEM OF CONSTRAINED CONCEPTUALIZATION	15
<i>Rocío Jiménez-Briones, M.^a Beatriz Pérez Cabello de Alba & José Rolanía Navarro</i> FROM SEMI-AUTOMATICALLY ANNOTATED GRAMMATICAL CHOICES TO SOCIAL INEQUALITY: A CRITICAL DISCOURSE STUDIES ACCOUNT OF IMMIGRATION-RELATED YOUTUBE COMMENTS	16
<i>Natalia Martínez-León & Ángela Alameda-Hernández</i> ETHICS AND AI IN LANGUAGE EDUCATION: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES	18
<i>Greta Maslauskienė</i> CONSTRUCTING COMMON GROUND IN SPOKEN ACADEMIC DISCOURSE: EVIDENCE FROM LITHUANIAN UNIVERSITY SEMINARS.....	20
<i>M^a Sandra Peña Cervel & Carla Ovejas Ramírez</i> TEMPORAL REFERENCES AS TRUNCATED SOURCES IN THE FORMATION OF LEXICAL BLENDS	21
<i>M^a Sandra Peña Cervel & Carla Ovejas Ramírez</i> STRADDLING THE DEMARCATION LINE BETWEEN BLENDING AND AFFIXATION.....	23
<i>Carlos Perrián-Pascual & Pedro Ureña Gómez-Moreno</i> AI-ASSISTED CRITICAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS: INVESTIGATING AFFECTIVE POLARISATION IN YOUTUBE COMMENTS	25
<i>Carlos O. Rocha Ochoa</i> CONCEPTUAL INTEGRATION OF FINANCIAL EDUCATION GLOSSARIES IN SPANISH: A SKOS-BASED KNOWLEDGE MODELLING APPROACH	26
<i>Anna Ruskan, Audronė Šolienė, Łukasz Grabowski & Davide Castiglione</i> SHIFTS IN STANCE AND VOICE IN ENGLISH-TO-LITHUANIAN AND ENGLISH-TO-POLISH LITERARY TRANSLATION: EVIDENCE FROM A PARALLEL CORPUS.....	28
<i>Jolanta Šinkūnienė & Erika Jasionytė-Mikučionienė</i> GERAI 'OKAY' IN SPOKEN LITHUANIAN: A CORPUS-BASED STUDY OF MEANING AND FUNCTION ..	29
<i>Dovilė Vengalienė & Živilė Nemickienė</i> THE PERSUASIVE FUNCTION OF LANGUAGE THROUGH RHETORICAL AUTHORITY AND DECISION BIAS IN AI-DRIVEN SECURITY ASSESSMENT.....	31
<i>Vilma Zubaitienė</i> HEADLINES OF PROPAGANDA TEXTS: A CORPUS-BASED ANALYSIS OF THE HALT-PROP DATASET..	33

Plenary talks

REVISITING LEXICO-GRAMMATICAL FEATURES FOR CRITICAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS

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As a broad discipline concerned with pressing social issues, there exist numerous approaches within Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) that present different methodological frameworks, but in general terms, without specifying which linguistic features are potentially relevant to the analysis. Drawing on the results of a systematic literature review that gathered publications in the field of CDA specifically applying the resources of Systemic Functional Linguistics (Alameda Hernández and Jiménez-Briones, 2025), this presentation outlines the process followed to provide a curated list of linguistic features that are effectively applied in this field. Since results from the review revealed a lack of consensus among practitioners and the actual analysis of a broader range of tools than those typically associated with canonical SFL, this process implied a series of steps that included conceptual and terminological revision of the raw inventory of features, as well as their structuring into a refined classification of lexico-grammatical elements.

As a result, we have provided a coherent and scalable dataset of linguistic features that can have multiple practical applications. On the one hand, as it is grounded in actual published research, it can guide the practice of other CDA scholars by providing the set of lexico-grammatical features that they have to focus on in their research to produce successful critical interpretations of discourse. Likewise, it can become the seed to develop a detailed methodology for systematically applying these features. Additionally, apart from being useful for traditional research, the findings of this study have already been successfully incorporated into AI systems, such as the YouTA corpus annotation tool, and in the future, they can also be incorporated into AI-assisted CDA, as in a module to be integrated into the TexMiLAB application.

THE CONVERGENCE OF LINGUISTICS AND AI: TRENDS, CHALLENGES, AND OPPORTUNITIES

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The rapid advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Natural Language Processing (NLP) has led to a profound impact on the field of linguistics. In turn, linguistics can inform AI and NLP, helping them to achieve a more intelligent understanding and generation of human language. This talk explores current trends, challenges, and opportunities at the intersection of linguistics, AI, and NLP.

We will discuss the significant contributions of linguistics to AI, including the development of Large Language Models (LLMs) that can learn and represent linguistic structures. I will share my experience in developing applications such as LORE (LOcative Reference Extractor) and YouTA (Youtube Text Annotator), a linguistically aware corpus annotation tool assisted by LLMs. These examples illustrate the power of interdisciplinary approaches, combining insights from linguistics, NLP, and AI.

The talk will also address the challenges and limitations of current approaches, including issues of explainability and evaluation. Finally, we will explore the opportunities and future directions for research and development, including the potential for LLMs to improve language understanding and language generation. By examining the convergence of linguistics and AI, we can unlock new possibilities for human-AI collaboration and advance our understanding of human language.

EXPLICIT, IMPLICIT, AND CONTEXTUAL: LEGAL-LINGUISTIC INSIGHTS INTO HATE SPEECH

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Hate speech encompasses a spectrum of communicative practices, from overt expressions of hostility to subtle, context-dependent forms that evade straightforward recognition. Drawing on European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) case-law, this plenary shows how courts systematically integrate multi-level linguistic analysis, contextual factors, and social meaning when interpreting harmful language, with explicitness informing, but not determining, the Court's evaluation of hate speech. Explicit hate is relatively easy to detect online and is more likely to warrant legal intervention, while implicit and camouflaged expressions (relying on cultural knowledge or coded cues) remain evasive and context-sensitive, demanding nuanced interpretation.

To highlight this challenge, I present a Lithuanian court case involving a neologism deemed “linguistically neutral” despite its hostile intent, illustrating how implicit forms can escape legal sanction. I also discuss examples from online discourse that rely on intertextuality and coded expression — forms likely to be classified as hateful in (manual) linguistic analysis but overlooked under current legal frameworks.

The plenary concludes with reflections on implications for automated hate speech detection: systems based solely on surface semantics or explicit markers will miss context-dependent and camouflaged hate speech, reinforcing the need for knowledge representations that integrate contextual, pragmatic, and discourse-level understanding.

Abstracts

**AUTOMATIC ANNOTATION OF CDA LEXICAL FEATURES IN THE ACUMEN
PROJECT: EVALUATIVE LEXIS OF NEGATIVE NOUNS IN YOUTUBE VIDEO
COMMENTS ON HOUSING INEQUALITY**

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This paper outlines the steps involved in the automatic annotation of CDA lexical features within the ACUMEN project, which explores social inequality through Critical Discourse Analysis and artificial intelligence. More specifically, this study focuses on the automatic annotation of evaluative lexis, with particular attention to negative nouns, within a Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) framework and a CDA-oriented interpretive approach to the analysis of YouTube comments. The study is applied to discourse on economic inequality in the United States, particularly housing inequality and rising rental prices.

The methodology comprises five main stages: (1) keyword selection and query design, (2) corpus compilation in the TexMiLAB computational workspace (Periñán-Pascual, 2024), (3) video filtering, (4) SFL-based comment annotation, and (5) CDA-guided interpretation. After filtering, the final dataset comprised 70 videos and 2,232 comments. These comments were automatically annotated with the support of Natural Language Processing (NLP) techniques implemented in the TexMiLAB tool and grounded in an SFL-based framework. They were then processed, analyzed, and quantified using the YouTA Tool (Fernández-Martínez, 2026), a context-aware linguistic annotation tool for the Critical Discourse Analysis of YouTube comments, specifically designed to support SFL-based corpus annotation and CDA-oriented explanation. The present study focuses on evaluative lexis, with a total of 983 automatic annotations detected, of which 485 were positive and 498 negative instances. Within the negative category, adjectives were the most frequent markers (52%), followed by nouns (38%) and verbs (10%). The analysis then concentrates on the most frequent negative nouns, their realization in the comments, and their possible interpretation and explanation from a CDA perspective.

These preliminary findings point to the potential of combining SFL-based annotation, CDA, and NLP techniques for the systematic annotation and analysis of evaluative meaning in large-scale online discourse. This approach may contribute to the development of replicable procedures for the automatic detection of linguistic lexical markers in comments on social inequality.

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CAPTURING LITERARY MEANING(S): TESTING COMPETING MODELS FROM LINGUISTICS

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Modelling meaning in a systematic and linguistically grounded manner is a key desideratum of stylistics, and one that would allow to bridge the gap between linguistic theory and hermeneutics, i.e., a general theory of interpretation. While such grand aim is clearly beyond the scope of any individual presentation, here I want to examine how competing linguistic theories can help us explore part of what we loosely call the content, subject or theme of a text, and has technically been referred to as *textbase* (van Dijk and Kintsch 1983) or *ideation base* (Halliday and Matthiessen 1999) and which underlies mental representations.

More specifically, I will analyse a grammatically encoded aspect of content: noun and noun phrases, and their semantic implications. My case study is D. H. Lawrence's 'The Rocking Horse Winner', since literary texts tend to be particularly subtle in how they exploit linguistic resources. In a preliminary analysis, I observed how noun phrases in the beginning of the story tend to be short and simple when they refer to external reality, but long and complex when they refer to one of the character's inner world. Even without drawing on specific linguistic theories, the finding has implications for how a literary text communicates meaning through structural opposition.

In this presentation, I build on that observation by re-examining the nouns and noun phrases in the aforementioned story in light of two related concepts: *delicacy* in systemic functional linguistics (Halliday and Matthiessen 1999: 326-328) and *specificity* in cognitive grammar (Langacker 2008: 55-57): both concepts allow to examine how richly (or sketchily) reality can be linguistically construed. Further, I relate high delicacy/specificity to effects of proximity and experiential richness, whereby low delicacy/specificity suggests distance and generality, but also greater potential for symbolic meanings. I conclude by assessing the strengths, shortcomings and implications of each account from the vantage point of stylistics.

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LEXICAL BLENDS IN ENGLISH DISCOURSE: A CONSTRUCTIONAL AND COGNITIVE ANALYSIS

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Lexical blends —such as mansplainer, greenager, or craptacular— offer a revealing window into the interaction between linguistic creativity, interpretive strategies, and culturally anchored meaning-making. Although research on blending has traditionally focused on phonological overlap and structural constraints (Kemmer 2003; Gries 2013), the discursive settings in which blends circulate offer equally valuable insights into how these forms become intelligible and socially meaningful. This study examines lexical blends as morphologically complex constructions and their discursive positioning, revealing principles at the morphology-pragmatics interface. Drawing on constructionist approaches to language (Goldberg, 2007; Hoffmann & Trousdale, 2013) and information structure theory (Lambrecht, 1994), it shows that blends follow systematic patterns in two recurring constructional schemas: (i) focus-driven constructions, where blends occupy prominent focal positions that increase salience and evaluative force, and (ii) pseudo-topicalization constructions, in which an apparent topic establishes an interpretive setup that is overturned by the focal impact of the blend. A central claim is that evaluative-attitudinal meaning is integrated into their morphological form, constraining interpretation and strengthening discursive commitments (Potts, 2005).

From a dataset of 107 novel blends extracted from Reddit, the study also compares them to their non-blended paraphrases, showing that blends retain propositional content but intensify focal salience, axiological commitment, and communicative impact. Qualitative analysis reveals five recurrent discourse-pragmatic functions: expressing evaluation or affect; assigning identity or social type; performing affiliative or ritual work; producing mundane or playful humor; and providing metapragmatic commentary.

Focus-heavy configurations feature primarily: (i) predicative frames like X suffers from Y, as in For a mid-week vocabulary boost: our Government leaders suffer from high “Glibido”: All talk and no action, where glibido (glib + libido) diagnoses political verbosity as a pathological compulsion; and (ii) imperatives like Don’t be X, as in Don’t be a mansplainer!, where mansplainer (man + explainer) merges gender and condescension frames through the RESULT FOR ACTION metonymy to project identities for social regulation. These exploit theme-focus asymmetry, with prosodic salience amplifying authority beyond non-blended forms.

Pseudo-topicalization uses apparent topics as scaffolds that are later subverted by focal blends, e.g., I have one very dear friend that is a gem. Her single issue: she is an askhole (ask + asshole). Here, it denies praise through BEHAVIOR FOR PERSON (Ruiz de Mendoza & Pérez, 2001). This anticipatory mechanism generates frame-shifting punchlines, as in Are you from Europe? Because Europiece of shit. Such configurations thus enable blends to achieve expressive economy.

Overall, blends surpass non-blended paraphrases in quotability and engagement (e.g., glibido vs. empty rhetoric), as they compress multiple semantic domains, evaluation, and emotional tone into a single token. They encode presuppositions and culturally shared schemas as portable stance markers, signaling affiliation and ironic evaluation more effectively than dispersed descriptions.

This analysis reconceptualizes word formation and discourse organization as mutually constitutive: morphological innovation directly shapes information-structural design, unlocking distinctive meaning potentials. It contributes to cognitive linguistics, construction grammar, and lexical innovation research, broadening our understanding of how hybrid forms function in contemporary discourse.

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COMPARING CONTEMPORARY CONCEPTUAL METAPHORS OF LIBERTY WITH REVOLUTIONARY METAPHORS OF LIBERTY IN AMERICAN POLITICAL RHETORIC

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On the 250th anniversary of American independence, following the theoretical framework of conceptual metaphors set up by Lakoff & Johnson (1980) and the method for formulating conceptual metaphors proposed by Coll-Florit & Climent (2019), this present research identifies conceptual metaphors of LIBERTY in contemporary American political rhetoric and compares them to the metaphors of LIBERTY found in the political rhetoric of the American revolutionary period. Liberty was the goal of the American War of Independence and it is still an often-occurring theme in American political discourse. However, today's political context differs vastly from that of two and a half centuries ago, therefore it is to be expected that the conceptualization of LIBERTY in the American mind has also undergone change. The present study confirms this hypothesis. By analyzing and comparing the speeches and writings of shapers of the public opinion at the time of the Revolution (Joseph Warren, Thomas Jefferson, Thomas Paine, Patrick Henry and John Dickinson) and major speeches (Inaugural and State of the Union Addresses) of Presidents Joseph Biden and Donald Trump, this study reveals, first of all, that political leaders of the Revolution conceptualized LIBERTY by means of much more diverse metaphors. A telling finding is that the metaphor LIBERTY IS AN OBJECT is present in both time periods, however the revolutionaries often employed more specific understandings (e.g.: LIBERTY is a GIFT, an INHERITANCE), while modern texts do not include such special-case sub-metaphors (Ogarkova & Soriano 2014). Adding to the contrast between the two time periods, the conceptual metaphor LIBERTY IS A PERSON (and more specifically, LIBERTY IS A WOMAN), which is encountered in revolutionary rhetoric was not found in the analyzed contemporary texts. Given the mentioned conceptual metaphors (and others), the present study has found that revolutionaries had a more "embodied" (Lakoff & Johnson 1980) understanding of LIBERTY, while nowadays, political leaders' understanding of LIBERTY is simpler and less concrete. Revolutionary leaders desired to move their audiences to fight for independence; today political leaders mainly invoke liberty in order to demonstrate that one or another is a more apt custodian of it.

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PROPOSITIONAL STRUCTURE AS A SYSTEM OF CONSTRAINED CONCEPTUALIZATION

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Contemporary models of sentence semantics typically assume a stable correspondence between a denotative domain and its propositional representation, often seeking a single underlying structure capable of encoding a given type of situation. This paper challenges that assumption by demonstrating that such a one-to-one mapping does not hold: the same denotative domain can be realized through multiple formally distinct propositional configurations.

Building on a verbocentric approach to sentence structure, the study argues that the predicate determines not only the number and type of argument positions, but also the space of structurally admissible configurations through which a situation may be represented. The interaction of the categories of dynamism vs. staticity and directionality vs. non-directionality yields four predicate types (vectorial, relational, scalar, and developmental), each associated with specific constraints on argument structure and combinatorial possibilities.

Within this framework, propositional structure is reconceptualized as a constrained configuration space rather than a fixed semantic template. While not all combinations of features are admissible, many denotative domains allow more than one well-formed representation. Crucially, the selection among these alternatives is not determined by the denotative domain itself, but by the speaker's focus of attention and communicative intention. The speaker foregrounds particular components and relations within a complex denotative domain, thereby selecting a specific configuration that becomes linguistically instantiated.

This selection process can be interpreted as a discourse-level operation: language does not directly encode reality, but constructs it through a sequence of constrained representational choices. In this sense, discourse emerges as a structured sequence of configuration selections, each corresponding to a particular mode of conceptualization. Cross-linguistic data further demonstrate that different languages may systematically prefer different representational strategies when encoding the same denotative domain, which suggests that propositional structure functions as an interface between linguistic form and general principles of structured knowledge representation.

The proposed approach thus redefines predicate–argument structure as part of a broader mechanism governing how structured representations of situations are generated and selected. This makes it possible to relate formal semantic analysis to models of constrained representation widely used in knowledge representation and computational linguistics.

**FROM SEMI-AUTOMATICALLY ANNOTATED GRAMMATICAL CHOICES TO
SOCIAL INEQUALITY: A CRITICAL DISCOURSE STUDIES ACCOUNT OF
IMMIGRATION-RELATED *YOUTUBE* COMMENTS.**

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Within the ACUMEN research project (the Spanish acronym for “Critical Discourse Analysis Assisted by Association-Rule Mining”), this study examines a corpus of 100 Spanish comments posted on a YouTube video about immigration within the framework of Critical Discourse Studies (CDS; van Dijk, 1993; Fairclough, 1995, 2003, among others). After automatically annotating and manually filtering some of the most frequent grammatical features drawn from the Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) inventory (Halliday, 1994; Eggins, 2004; Halliday and Matthiessen, 2014) present in the corpus (e.g., types of processes, participants, etc.), these features are interpreted and their relevance is explained from a CDS perspective in order to reveal how the YouTube community constructs and reacts to the social inequality issue of immigration in Spain.

Drawing upon Blázquez-López and Cortés de los Ríos (in press) and Blázquez-López and Felices Lago (in press), the objectives of the study are threefold. First, using the TexMiLAB workspace (Text Mining Laboratory; Perrián-Pascual, 2024), the methodology employed to compile the complete dataset of Spanish videos on immigration and their comments is outlined. Second, we analyze 100 comments on one target video ([El Impacto del Multiculturalismo en Europa: piden meter de lleno el ISLAM en los colegios](#)) as a case study to illustrate the process of manually refining the automatic annotation of the SFL features provided by three TexMiLAB tools: Data Pre-processing, Dataset Exploration, and YouTA (YouTube Text Annotator; Fernández-Martínez, 2026). Finally, after identifying some of the most frequently deployed grammatical choices in the video comments, we present their CDS interpretation as indicators of how contemporary Spanish YouTube users understand and shape in discourse the sensitive topic of immigration as a social problem.

By addressing these three objectives, this work contributes to the ACUMEN project, which aims to explore social inequality by combining CDS with artificial intelligence. In doing so, it also provides relevant findings for the fields of sociology, corpus linguistics, SFL, and the very framework of CDS.

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ETHICS AND AI IN LANGUAGE EDUCATION: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

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The rapid integration of Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) into all fields of life and scientific research is undoubtedly reshaping our access to knowledge and redefining meaning representation. Particularly within the educational context, it has surfaced complex ethical challenges that extend beyond simple academic integrity. As part of a comprehensive research project on ethical AI-enhanced language teaching, this paper presents preliminary work intended to develop a multi-level critical framework for ethical AI integration, synthesized from an analysis of socio-technical harms and classroom practices (Hutson et al., 2022). It argues that responsible pedagogy must bridge the gap between micro-level "misuse" (over-reliance and cheating) and macro-level structures, including data extraction, exploitative labour, and environmental costs (Mohamed, 2024).

The framework identifies seven interconnected dimensions of ethical concern:

- Data colonialism and linguistic inequality: Examining how AI models, built on the "original sin" of indiscriminate data scraping, marginalize non-hegemonic languages and reinforce English-dominant norms (Mohamed, 2024).
- The political economy of "ghost work": Highlighting the invisible, often exploitative labour force in the Global South that maintains the illusion of autonomous "smart" tools.
- Epistemic harm and the erosion of truth: Addressing the risks of hallucinations and fabricated citations which undermine communicative competence (Jacques et al., 2024).
- Contested authorship and creativity: Moving from a narrow "cheating" lens to a broader understanding of "entangled agency" between human and machine in second-language writing (Khup & Bantugan, 2025; Omran Zailuddin et al., 2024).
- Opacity, surveillance, and governance: Interrogating "black box" models and data-driven governance that threatens learner privacy and teacher autonomy (Alfaleh, 2026; De la Fuente, 2025).
- Environmental and intergenerational ethics: Considering the high carbon and water footprints of Large Language Models (LLMs) within a climate emergency.
- Responsive classroom pedagogy and emotional resilience: Developing strategies such as process-oriented assessment and disclosure statements to mitigate misuse while addressing teachers' AI-induced emotions and burnout (Sánchez-Ruiz et al., 2025; Xie et al., 2026).

The proposal unfolds a three-level methodological approach. Starting at the meso level, we design a framework based on the seven dimensions. The macro level adds the legal dimension emanating from institutional policies that provide the basis for eventually working and at the micro level on needs, training, and material development.

This framework will help us shape future research on how to design pre-service teacher education so that graduates understand AI not only as a pedagogical tool but as a site of ethical, linguistic, labour, and environmental politics; scaffolding critical AI literacy for our language learners to be informed users and critical consumers and how can we, from our institutions advocate for transparent, equitable and rights respect adoption of educational AI.

This paper is funded by the ERASMUS+ KA220 project: New-Gen Language Teachers: Empowering Language Teaching with Ethical AI-Enhanced Guidance.

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CONSTRUCTING COMMON GROUND IN SPOKEN ACADEMIC DISCOURSE: EVIDENCE FROM LITHUANIAN UNIVERSITY SEMINARS

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Academic knowledge is not only transmitted in university teaching; it is also continuously represented as shared, familiar, or collectively accessible. This paper examines how common ground is constructed in spoken Lithuanian academic discourse through expressions such as *žinoma* ‘of course’, *kaip žinome* ‘as we know’, *kaip žinia* ‘as is known’, and *natūralu* ‘naturally’. Within Hyland’s model of stance and engagement, such forms may be understood as shared knowledge markers: resources through which speakers invite the audience to treat selected claims as part of a common epistemic frame rather than as purely individual assertions (Hyland 2005). Although typically infrequent, these markers are pragmatically significant because they help organize knowledge as recognizable, expected, or self-evident within a discourse community (Hyland & Jiang 2016; Zou & Hyland 2021).

The study is based on a self-compiled cross-disciplinary corpus *VUSemCorp* that consists of 36 naturally occurring university seminars recorded across six disciplines: philosophy, literature, and linguistics, sociology, political science, and communication sciences. The corpus captures lecturers’ largely spontaneous and highly interactive speech produced in direct interaction with students, offering evidence of how academic knowledge is represented and negotiated in real teaching contexts.

The analysis focuses on how lecturers use shared knowledge markers to link new material with prior knowledge, activate students’ disciplinary expectations, and position them as co-participants in academic reasoning. The paper argues that common ground in university seminars is not merely a pre-existing background of shared information, but an interactional achievement through which knowledge is framed as already known, natural, or collectively available. By foregrounding Lithuanian spoken academic discourse, the study contributes to research on meaning and knowledge representation by showing how linguistic markers mediate between individual explanation, disciplinary knowledge, and the local construction of shared understanding.

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TEMPORAL REFERENCES AS TRUNCATED SOURCES IN THE FORMATION OF LEXICAL BLENDS

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The literature on proper nouns as constituents of blended words is abundant (DiGirolamo, 2012; Balteiro, 2013; Renner, 2015; Jang, 2021; Kotowski et al., 2021; Vujić & Šuković, 2024; Belosevic, 2025). To date, attention has been mainly paid to personal-name blends combining two personal names (e.g. *Merkozy* < (*Angela*) *Merkel* + (*Nicolas*) *Sarkozy*) or a personal name and a common noun (e.g. *Reaganomics* < *Reagan* + *economics*) to the detriment of proper noun (PN) blends in which the PN designates a calendar item or a geographical name.

This proposal fills a gap in the study of PN blends by providing a fine-grained, corpus-based qualitative analysis of blends taking splinters (non-morphemic units that recurrently attach to (parts of) bases) that result from the truncation of lexical items denoting months of the year, more specifically *-uary* (< *January* but sometimes also *February*), from the perspective of Construction Morphology (Booij, 2010) and Evaluative Morphology (Grandi & Körtvélyessy, 2015). To this end, a corpus of 120 *-uary* formations has been gathered from the *NOW* Corpus.

While months are named calendar units with unique reference, *-uary* blends combine with other (parts of) bases to express meaning beyond temporal reference. These blends have been found to reflect cultural traditions and symbolism. As the opening month of the Gregorian calendar, January occupies a distinctive position within collective consciousness. It is commonly associated with topics of renewal, reflection, and new beginnings, functioning as a symbolic threshold between past and future. Situated at the juncture of one year's conclusion and the commencement of another, January encourages introspection and the formulation of intentions for the period ahead. Thus, *-uary* blends can refer to challenges and/or campaigns related to New Year's resolutions meant to improve our physical and mental health, career, and financial status (e.g. *veganuary* < *vegan* + *January*; 'campaign that encourages people to follow a vegan diet for the whole month of January to improve their eating habits and become healthier'; *runuary* < *run* + *January*; 'fitness challenge that encourages people to engage in daily running or walking throughout the month of January'). Other blends activate the shopping frame to refer to typical actions related to our shopping habits in December and January (e.g. *returnuary* < *return* + *January*; 'surge in product returns that typically follows Christmas'). A third group of *-uary* formatives denote unexpected weather conditions in January and/or February (e.g. *Springuary* < *Spring* + *January/February*; 'a period of spring-like weather during the months of January and February').

This proposal also attests to the pervasiveness of metonymy in language. Several *-uary* blends act as metonymic anchors to whole scenarios; for instance, *ginuary* (< *gin* + *January*) provides metonymic access to a celebration of gin consumption during January that acts as a counterpoint to the abstinence-oriented initiative "Dry January".

Additionally, attention will be paid to the exocentric nature of most of these blends, which contrasts with the widely held claim that most blends are interpretable as endocentric formations (Peña Cervel, 2022).

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STRADDLING THE DEMARCATION LINE BETWEEN BLENDING AND AFFIXATION

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In Construction Morphology, the notion of affixoid is used to refer to free-standing morphemes that recurrently attach to other bases with a more general meaning (Booij & Hüning, 2014). For instance, Booij and Hüning (2014) regard ‘free’ as an affixoid in examples like *fat-free* or *gluten-free*. In these formatives, ‘free’ has undergone semantic generalization, its meaning being ‘without what is denoted by the base word’. According to Mattiello (2023: 11), *-exit* (as in *Brexit* and *Frexit*) is a suffixoid that has been productively used to coin new lexical items with the meaning ‘withdrawal process of a given country from the European Union’. Mattiello (2023: 11) argues that affixoids should be distinguished from combining forms (CFs) (non-morphemic units that recurrently combine with whole bases or with truncated bases; Lehrer, 1998; Bauer, Lieber & Plag, 2013; Peña Cervel, 2022). While the meaning of both CFs and affixoids has been reinterpreted to become more general than the meaning of their corresponding bases, Mattiello (2023: 16) states that CFs bear higher semantic weight and lexical density than affixes and affixoids. This scholar further claims that while forms clipped from compounds and that correspond to free morphemes (e.g. *must-* < *must-have* in examples like *must-read*) are combining forms, linguistic elements that result from the truncation of blends such as *-exit* (which was originally cut off from *Grexit* and then used to coin series of novel words, the first of which was *Brexit* and has become more popular and well-known than its model word) and that likewise exist alongside free morphs are to be considered as suffixoids because of their level of abstraction and semantic weight (Mattiello, 2023: 11).

In this proposal, on the basis of a corpus of 150 lexical items ending in *-exit* that have been taken from the *NOW* Corpus, we show that *-exit* should be regarded as a combining form rather than as a suffixoid in lexical blends because it meets all the criteria to be classified in this way: its meaning has become more general in *-exit* blended words, it is used productively in the formation of other words, and it displays high semantic density (in a way that is fully comparable to the semantic density of forms stemming from the shortening of compounds and that correspond to free morphemes). We also argue that the meaning of *-exit* in blends such as *Brexit* or *Calexit* (< *California* + *exit*) has bleached in examples like *Whexit* (< *Whatsapp* + *-exit*) and it refers to leaving any situation or place that is considered annoying or causes discomfort. Thus, we have found that *-exit* does not only combine with names of countries but also with proper personal names (*Megxit* < *Megan Markle* + *-exit*) and with nouns that denote social media platforms (*Whexit* or *Twexit* < *Twitter* + *-exit*) among others, and even with verbs (*regrexit* < *regret* + *-exit*) and adjectives (*smexit* < *smooth* + *-exit*). Finally, we will also explore the pejorative meaning conveyed by *-exit* blends (Grandi & Körtvélyessy, 2015).

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AI-ASSISTED CRITICAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS: INVESTIGATING AFFECTIVE POLARISATION IN YOUTUBE COMMENTS

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The integration of corpus linguistics into Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) has strengthened discourse research by providing more robust quantitative evidence. However, this approach has often encouraged a focus on statistically significant lexical patterns, sometimes leaving the interpretive dimensions of discourse analysis underdeveloped (De Paoli, 2024). Recent advances in large language models (LLMs) offer new possibilities in this respect. Although these models are increasingly used for tasks such as machine translation, text summarisation, and conversational systems, their potential as tools to support qualitative discourse analysis remains relatively unexplored. In this regard, our study investigates how an LLM-based system can assist the qualitative analysis of affective polarisation (Renström et al., 2023) within a CDA framework. The approach is illustrated through the analysis of a corpus of YouTube comments referring to the Spanish far-right political party Vox. Online discussions about this topic provide a context for examining how ideological conflict, evaluative stance, and emotional positioning are articulated in social media discourse. Methodologically, we propose a workflow for AI-assisted CDA that integrates the three-dimensional model of discourse analysis (Fairclough, 1992) with a structured analytical framework supported by an LLM (Perinián-Pascual, 2026). The analysis begins with the identification of relevant lexico-grammatical markers, which are then interpreted with the assistance of the LLM to contextualise them and identify broader discursive patterns across the corpus. The workflow has been computationally implemented as a tool integrated into TexMiLAB (Perinián-Pascual, 2024), an open-access platform for text-mining experimentation. The findings suggest that LLMs can support researchers in identifying underlying discourse structures and producing more nuanced interpretations of affective polarisation in social media data. At the same time, we highlight the importance of sustained human oversight to ensure the reliability of the analysis. More generally, the study contributes to current methodological and epistemological debates on the role of generative artificial intelligence in digital discourse research.

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CONCEPTUAL INTEGRATION OF FINANCIAL EDUCATION GLOSSARIES IN SPANISH: A SKOS-BASED KNOWLEDGE MODELLING APPROACH

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This paper addresses the challenge of conceptual integration among dispersed institutional lexical resources in the domain of financial education from the perspective of knowledge modelling. Across the Spanish-speaking world, central banks, commercial banks, and regulatory bodies produce glossaries independently, resulting in a fragmented landscape of competing designations, overlapping definitions, and divergent domain boundaries. While surface semantics (e.g., keyword matching across independent glossaries) would fail to capture deeper equivalences, this study argues that a robust, formally represented knowledge base is required—one that reflects how financial concepts are organized in human cognitive systems across different institutional and geolinguistic contexts.

The empirical basis is a corpus of 59 digital financial education glossaries from 18 Spanish-speaking countries. The analysis reveals significant terminological variation, including inconsistent domain boundaries and asymmetric coverage across national varieties (Rocha Ochoa, 2024). Rather than normalizing this variation, the paper treats it as essential evidence of how financial knowledge is cognitively structured within pluricentric language communities (Freixa, 2006). This perspective aligns with frame-based and prototype theories of categorization, where conceptual borders are inherently context-dependent. The proposed methodology is grounded in the SKOS data model (Miles & Bechhofer, 2009). Source concepts are mapped onto a unified but non-prescriptive conceptual structure through explicit identification of equivalence, hierarchical, and associative relations. Competing denominations are assigned to `skos:prefLabel` or `skos:altLabel` based on principled criteria—corpus frequency, institutional provenance, and geolinguistic distribution—rather than assumed defaults. The resulting thesaurus preserves conceptual plurality within a formally interoperable system aligned with Semantic Web standards and linked open data practices. The resource is designed in accordance with FAIR principles (Wilkinson et al., 2016) to guarantee reusability across multiple natural language processing applications, including financial text analytics, educational dialogue systems, and cross-variety information extraction. Following the methodological guidelines for sustainable terminology resources (Vezzani, 2021, 2022), the thesaurus is built to support open science environments and knowledge organisation system interoperability. More broadly, the paper argues that conceptual integration across dispersed resources is not a pre-theoretical data cleaning task but a consequential act of knowledge modelling, one whose decisions encode assumptions about terminological and conceptual authority that deserve explicit justification.

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SHIFTS IN STANCE AND VOICE IN ENGLISH-TO-LITHUANIAN AND ENGLISH-TO-POLISH LITERARY TRANSLATION: EVIDENCE FROM A PARALLEL CORPUS

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In literary translation, stance is especially difficult to render because fiction involves multiple “voices” (Biber et al. 1999), the narrator’s and the characters’, which operate on distinct narrative levels (Landert 2017). For this reason, analysing how stance is conveyed and transformed in translation is crucial to understanding the stylistic and pragmatic effects of translated literary discourse. In this corpus-based comparative study, we aim to explore how Lithuanian and Polish translators approached the translation of reporting verbs contributing to the expression of stance, which shapes narrative and characters’ voices. Using fragments of A. Huxley’s *Brave New World* extracted from the InterCorp corpus (v.15), we conduct a qualitative corpus analysis aimed at identification and comparative description of fragments where stance was modified in the Lithuanian and Polish translations as compared with the English original. We also discuss how shifts in stance altered the perceived distance between the narrator, character and reader. The findings highlight cross-linguistic similarities and differences in how stance and narrative voice encoded in English reporting verbs are recreated in Lithuanian and Polish literary translations of *Brave New World*, leading to subtle shifts in stylistic effects. The results also confirm that reporting verbs represent a flexible space in which the translators can subtly express their own stance by strengthening or softening characters’ or the narrator’s voices.

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GERAI ‘OKAY’ IN SPOKEN LITHUANIAN: A CORPUS-BASED STUDY OF MEANING AND FUNCTION

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Discourse markers have long been considered an exciting area of language development and change, as they are highly susceptible to such processes as grammaticalization or pragmaticalization (Heine 2013; Degand & Evers-Vermeul 2015). They typically diverge from their original lexical meaning and acquire additional pragmatic functions to manage interaction between interlocutors and to organise text. One such marker, widely investigated in English, is *okay*, defined as “one of those interactionally rich items that may take on very different meanings depending on its prosodic packaging and sequential context” (Waring 2008: 586). In his Grammar of Interactives framework, Heine (2023) uses *okay* as an English language example for three distinct types of interactives related to their functions: discourse markers, response signals and social formulae. Empirical studies of uses and pragmatic development of *okay* in English confirm its rich pragmatic potential. Filipi and Wales (2003), for example, show that *okay* in Australian English conversation can undertake different functions, i.e. be primarily used as a response token, an acknowledgement token and a marker of closure. In her analysis of spoken British English, Leone (2024) reveals that in interrogative settings *okay* functions as a response elicitor that calls for an explicit answer or as an assurance-seeking marker, whereas in acting as an affirmative utterance, *okay* can perform four functions: response form, prefatory function, hedge and discourse operator with a closing function.

Okay is analysed in different varieties of English and in languages other than English (for an extensive overview see Betz et al. 2021), however, its semantic and functional equivalents in other languages than English are not so widely researched. Following Heine’s (2023) framework, this study focuses on distributional features and the range of functions performed *gerai* ‘okay’ in spoken Lithuanian. The study employs the Corpus of Spoken Lithuanian (around 320,000 words) which consists of conversations of 1,086 informants aged 3 to 81. The preliminary results of the study show that *gerai* is used frequently in the corpus both in its propositional meaning as a manner adverb, and as an interactive marker. Especially interesting are its functions as a discourse marker which include not only topic management, but also perspective shifting.

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THE PERSUASIVE FUNCTION OF LANGUAGE THROUGH RHETORICAL AUTHORITY AND DECISION BIAS IN AI-DRIVEN SECURITY ASSESSMENT

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Large language models (LLMs) are increasingly being used to assess organizational security, yet their outputs are often interpreted as objective assessments rather than linguistically constructed artifacts. This study examines how the rhetorical authority embodied in LLM results can lead to epistemic biases and overconfidence in decision-making contexts. Drawing on speech act theory, which asserts that “to say something is to do something” (Austin, 1962), and the theory of rhetoric, according to which discourse functions as “the use of language as a symbolic means of facilitating cooperation” (Berk, 1969), the article defines queries and results as performative acts that shape interpretation rather than merely conveying information.

The analysis also draws on genre theory, which defines genres as “typical rhetorical acts based on recurring situations” (Miller, 1984), to explain how the structure of question formats influences perceived authority and legitimacy. At the same time, findings from research on human-AI interaction highlight that users tend to “over-rely on automated systems even when they make mistakes” (Parasuraman & Riley, 1997)—a phenomenon further amplified by a persuasive linguistic framework. An empirical study evaluates two questionnaire designs for assessing providers, which are applied in several LLM systems within the context of European regulation. The results show that compliance-oriented queries generate categorical decisions despite insufficient evidence, whereas queries reflecting uncertainty yield more nuanced results, separating conclusions from data. These results demonstrate that epistemic bias arises not so much from factual inaccuracies as from how meaning, truth, and authority are linguistically encoded.

This paper contributes to research on knowledge mapping by showing that LLM outputs function as implicit epistemic representations in which rhetorical and pragmatic properties serve as carriers of authority. This underscores the need to consider query design as a mechanism that regulates the construction of meaning and reduces bias in AI-driven decision-making environments.

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HEADLINES OF PROPAGANDA TEXTS: A CORPUS-BASED ANALYSIS OF THE HALT-PROP DATASET

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This study investigates the headlines of 1,000 propaganda texts included in the HALT-PROP corpus, a human-annotated Lithuanian dataset compiled in 2025 (Maliukevičius et al., 2025). The corpus consists of 2,870 news articles annotated for the presence of propaganda and a subset of 1,000 articles annotated for specific techniques and narratives using expert cross-annotation (Rizgelienė et al., 2025). This study focuses on the headlines of the latter subset.

The analysis is grounded in framing theory, which views headlines as key elements in shaping audience interpretation (Entman, 1993). Headlines function as condensed carriers of evaluative and ideological meaning (van Dijk, 1998; Dor, 2003). In contemporary media, persuasive strategies are often concentrated in headlines and are often emotionally charged, simplified, and attention-oriented (Horne & Adali, 2017; Rashkin et al., 2017).

Lithuanian research highlights the specific linguistic and communicative features of headlines, including their brevity, expressiveness, and persuasive potential (Kalinauskaitė, 2014; Švėgždaitė, 2016). Previous studies also point to manipulative strategies such as evaluative language, contextual distortion, and euphemisation (Koženiauskienė, 2009; Smetonienė & Daučiūnaitė, 2014), as well as broader linguistic strategies characteristic of propaganda discourse (Zubaitienė et al., 2025).

The study aims to identify recurrent linguistic patterns and framing strategies in propaganda headlines. The findings are expected to contribute to the understanding of propaganda at the micro-textual level and support research on low-resource languages, as well as inform the development of linguistically grounded features for knowledge representation and automatic propaganda detection in natural language processing systems. To achieve this aim, a mixed-methods approach is employed, combining corpus-based and qualitative discourse analysis. Headlines are treated as the primary unit of analysis and examined for recurrent lexical, syntactic, and rhetorical features, with particular attention to evaluative and emotionally charged vocabulary, intensifiers, metaphorical expressions, and syntactic structures (e.g., interrogative and exclamatory forms).

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