

## Abstracts

Henning Lobin, *Current Language Policy Controversies Surrounding German*

In recent years, some topics related to the German language have developed into language politics controversies that are being hotly debated today. These include topics such as gender-inclusive language, which has been increasingly taking centre stage in the media and among the general public due to various legal and journalistic implications. The subject of the so-called politically correct use of language has also led to polarized debates. This article aims to trace the main features of these debates and show how these topics have found their way into the political domain through the media and the VDS (German Language Association). From a language standpoint, it is important to draw the boundaries of what is political so that the language itself is left unscathed amid such controversies.

Elisabetta Mengaldo, *«Spuren einer Erscheinung»: Lichtenberg, Volta's Electrophore and the Narration of a Scientific Discovery*

The essay examines the scientific article *Von einer neuen Art die Natur und Bewegung der elektrischen Materie zu erforschen* (1777) by Georg Christoph Lichtenberg, in which the author reports on his discovery of electric figures that have since gone under the name of «Lichtenberg figures», a fortuitous discovery he made using Volta's electrophore for experimental purposes. The essay investigates the commingling of epistemological issues and rhetorical and narratological aspects in Lichtenberg's text (with some comparative forays into Volta's writings on electricity). More specifically, the complex relationship between the observation of an elusive and mysterious epistemic object such as electricity and its forms of textual representation (metaphors, narrative time, aesthetic dimension of the visible effects of the electrical phenomenon); the role of the observer and the narrator; the dialectics between the contingencies inherent in scientific discovery and experimental routine.

Francesca Turri, *Arcadia, the woman and the temptation of the exotic: the representation of Italy in Karen Blixen's «Seven Gothic Tales»*

Even though most scholars acknowledge that Italy plays a crucial role within Blixen's production, there are only few studies addressing the discourse on 'il Bel Paese' in *Seven Gothic Tales*. Two notable works that partially consider this niche are *The Image of Italy in Karen Blixen's Tales* by Marquart Scholtz and *Omvejene til Pisa. En fortolkning af Karen Blixen «Vejene omkring Pisa»* by Sørensen and Tøgeby. Yet, they both overlook the relationship between the representation of Italy and the literary genres Blixen drew inspiration from. This paper aims to fill this gap by illustrating the strategies employed by Blixen in shaping Italy as a literary space. On the assumption that Blixen's Italy is a hardly realistic setting, I will analyse its intertextual and symbolic implications while concentrating on the following aspects: 1) references to the context of the Grand Tour; 2) the representation of Italian women; 3) Italy as the obverse of a petty bourgeois life.

Federica Missaglia, «Man kann nicht nicht betonen». *A Contrastive Analysis of the Prosody of Negation in German*

This paper discusses the prosodic shaping of negation-containing expressions and sentences in German against the background of teaching experience in GFL phonetic courses in Italy. It presents phonetic regularities in prosodic realization (accentuation *vs* non-accentuation or de-accentuation) of German negation expressions at the word and sentence level in order to explain the typical mistakes Italian learners make in this specific area of German prosody.

Gianluca Cosentino, *The Language of Silence in Franco Biondi's Works: Stylistic Devices and Poetic Forms of Representation*

The aim of this paper is to investigate the connections between multilingualism and creativity in the pages of Franco Biondi. Through the analysis of selected excerpts from his work, the paper will focus on the poetic and illocutionary power of his most used linguistic strategies and experiments. This unique use of the German language provides a portrait of lives and challenges of guest workers as members of the working class and reflects their existential sense of estrangement while encountering the unknown in German society.