

## ■ A WORD FROM THE EDITORIAL

The eleventh issue of the *Philologia Journal* offers to its readership ten original scientific articles carefully evaluated and recommended by the journal's editorial board, as well as four book reviews. The five articles comprising the Linguistics Section cover a wide range of topics and analyze linguistic problems from the phonetic and phonological perspective, as well as from the viewpoint of pragmatics, sociolinguistics, cognitive linguistics and second language acquisition.

The author of the first article, Isao Ueda, tackles the problem of an idiosyncratic functional speech disorder characteristic of a Japanese-speaking child, providing plausible explanations for this non-organic phenomenon in the framework of Optimality Theory. The second article moves within the same field, that of phonetics and phonology, but this time the author comes to grips with the perceptual assimilation patterns of vowels that can predict difficulties of Bulgarian ESL learners at the tertiary level of education. Serbian requests as a form of speech acts are the topic of the next paper, which offers their analysis based on the relatively recent theoretical model of speech act scenarios. The issue of age and language transfer in second language acquisition is looked at in the article that follows. The transfer of morphosyntactic features is analyzed in two groups of informants, resulting in the favour of so-called *Conservative Hypothesis*. Finally, the last paper in the Linguistics Section provides results of a study that investigated the usage of pragmatics by non-native speakers of English in email requests.

Four articles collected in the Literary Studies contribute to Francophone, Hungarian and Anglo-American literary studies. We are immensely proud to publish an article on the enlightening work and research of the French philosopher, art critic and writer Denis Diderot (1713-1784) in the year when the world celebrated tricentennial of his birth. Work of another great man-of-letters Kosztolányi Dezső (1885-1936), a classic of Hungarian modernism, is introduced to the readers. His novel *The Golden Kite* is analyzed from the translator's perspective, since the author of the paper tackles the translator's dilemmas when choosing among available translation possibilities. With the article on Toni Morrison (1931) we mark another significant anniversary – twenty years since the first black woman in history was awarded the Nobel prize. She is still the only black woman who has received the Nobel prize for literature. We have tried not to neglect the popular culture and literature, focusing on the various graffiti types in DeLillo's *Underworld*. The author of the article presents the design, aesthetics and politics of the graffiti, and their relations to other cultural and artistic forms.

In the Cultural Studies we present the article on the position of the Vlach minority in Serbia and their linguistic rights. The author advocates that the state should provide mechanisms to help the sustainability of the ethnic, cultural and linguistic particularity of the Vlachs, as well as raise public awareness of the importance of multicultural and multilingual society. We are proud to make this small contribution to the fight for the Vlach minority language.