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THE LINGUISTIC SEMINARS OF THE FACULTY OF PHILOLOGY, THE 2ND ANNIVERSARY

This thematic section is based on the papers presented at the Linguistic Seminars of the Faculty of Philology (LSFF) of the University of Banja Luka in academic years 2016/17 and 2017/18. Established in 2016 by three linguists from the Faculty of Philology, Dragana Lukajić (Department of French Language and Literature), Emir Muhić (Department of English Language and Literature), and Marija Runić (Italian Language and Literature), LSFF’s main objective was to become a platform where local linguists would meet to discuss their work with Faculty members, postgraduate, and advanced undergraduate students. At the same time, our intent was to invite linguists from the region and abroad to join our forces and give an additional impetus for the promotion of linguistic research at the University of Banja Luka. Considering a wide variety of research interests among local linguists, LSFF has been conceived as a venue where all sub-disciplines of linguistics as well as interdisciplinary studies would be nurtured.

As a matter of fact, in the first two years LSFF achieved all of the proposed goals. Sixteen researchers presented their work, out of whom six were from the University of Banja Luka, six from the universities in the region (Croatia, Serbia, and Slovenia), and four from the U.S., Western European, and Central American universities. The presented topics pertained to formal linguistics (syntax and semantics), psycholinguistics, sociolinguistics, dialectology, applied linguistics, and critical discourse analysis. From the very beginning, the linguistic seminars had a great reception among the local linguistic community, and soon established themselves as a place where researchers from the region could relate to and were eager to present their work.

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This section provides a collection of seven of the seminars held within LSFF in the first two years, and reflects faithfully its spirit. This means that papers included in the collection vary in covered topics, approaches, and language(s) they deal with or are written in. Cordero Monge and Leoni de León’s paper focuses on the treatment of verbal phraseological units with clitics without an expressed nominal reference in Costa Rican Spanish in the available dictionaries and proposes an alternative way for their lemmatisation. Dimitrijević’s paper looks at the role of phonotactic information in the perception and production of morphologically complex words in Serbian, based on two separate psycholinguistic studies. Jakop’s study is couched into traditional dialectological research and explores the relationship between borrowed and non-borrowed words in different dialects of Slovenian. Janjić’s paper offers a window into a multifaceted sociolinguistic eco-system of present-day India by examining the rise of Hinglish in public communication. Runić examines the use of first person in academic writing in English as a second language with first language speakers of Asian languages and suggests solutions for both student writers and writing instructors aimed at building consciousness about the self-centeredness of U.S. prose. Stevanović’s paper deals with the attitudes of proof-readers when it comes to the application of gender sensitive language in Serbian daily newspapers and elaborates further on the reasons behind those attitudes. Finally, Vućenović seeks to identify the background ideologies in homophobic speech in the Serbian public discourse through the lens of Critical Discourse Analysis.

Each paper underwent a thorough two-way anonymous reviewing process. I would like to express my deepest appreciation for the effort and commitment of the reviewers. This publication would not have been possible if it had not been for the encouragement and enthusiasm of the editor-in-chief of the journal Filolog, Saša Šmulja, who has been actively engaged in advancing research quality of the Faculty of Philology for years now. I would also like to thank our former Dean, Mladenko Sadžak, as well as our present Dean, Petar Penda, for their wholehearted help in every phase of LSFF.

Back in 2016 we could not envisage that LSFF would soon become some sort of a symbol for a lively and open-minded linguistic community. Nor could we believe that it would lead to the organisation of the 25th Eastern Generative Grammar School in 2018, for the first time ever in Bosnia and Herzegovina. However, thanks to the support and interest of many colleagues from the University of Banja Luka and wider, we have now entered our third year as a recognised linguistic circle with a full agenda for the future.
Unfortunately, LSFF has also gone through some very sad moments. In October 2017, one of its founders, Dragana Lukajić, passed away. Yet, we have felt her spirit and presence in everything we have done ever since. Therefore, I would like to use the opportunity to dedicate this publication to her memory.

In Banja Luka, April 9 2019