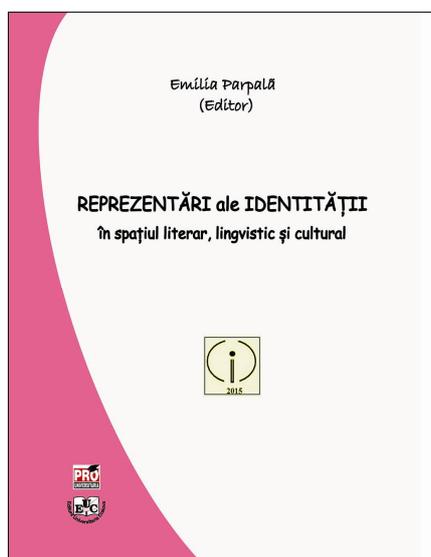


Emilia Parpală (editor), *Representations of Identity in the Literary, Linguistic and Cultural Space*, Universitaria, Craiova & ProUniversitaria Publishing House, Bucharest, 2016, 425 pages.

Emilia Parpală (éditeur), *Représentations de l'identité dans l'espace littéraire, linguistique et culturel*, éditions Universitaria, Craiova & ProUniversitaria, Bucarest, 2016, 425 pages.

Emilia Parpală (editor), *Reprezentări ale identității în spațiul literar, lingvistic și cultural*, Editura Universitaria, Craiova & Editura ProUniversitaria, București, 2016, 425 pagini

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The volume edited by Emilia Parpală contains a selection of 51 articles presented at the 8th edition of the international conference she coordinates since 2008, *Comparatism, identity, communication* (CIC2015), Craiova, 16th-17th of October, 2015.

The title reveals the centrality of identity issue (this concept was declared by *Dictionary.com* the word of the year 2015) and the interrelation between its media of expression: literature, linguistics and culture.

If literature “exploits the change of identity under the pressure of exterior contacts and interior ethical revisions”, linguistic identity is “implicit in theories of enunciation, in stylistics, pragmatics of linguistic use, in humour, irony and in strategies of representation” (Parpală 2016: 9). Globalization enhances “cultural identity construction” (Wang 2007: 83) that cannot be thoroughly carried on by means of a uniform descriptive conception of culture. The diversity and

heterogeneity of cultural codes uncover the relativity of realities experienced by individuals from different cultures, while they also reveal the dynamics of identity – otherness, as dialectical process with the meaning of “integrator of contraries”(Vinsonneau 2002: 8). With the advent of globalization, the question of identity is unveiled and reflected by the constant rethinking of the identity crisis, by the search of solutions to overcome this crisis, as well as by an ever more intricate examination of the relationship between self and Otherness.

The topic of identity is relevant for performing the analysis and interpretation of linguistic and literary texts which, implicitly or explicitly, choose as subject matter the cultural problematic of the relationship between self and the Other, between convergence and divergence, between singularity /particularity and uniformity.

In spite of interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approaches which include comparativism, semantics, semiotics, pragmatics, discourse analysis, we are highly aware that different explorations of identity in this volume demonstrate how nowadays identity has become a notion that is characterized as hybrid, Métis, intercultural and very difficult to grasp.

As the centrality of identity issue is emphasized in this volume by the comparative method applied to literary, linguistic and cultural level, we discover how identity games function in fiction (in Part I, chapter 7) or how a specific cultural identity is negotiated in another cultural space (Part I chapter 3). The authors included in *Reprezentări ale identității în spațiul literar, lingvistic și cultural* approach the concept of “identity” in the analyses of literary and linguistic texts, which tackle not only the topics of tensions in the relationship between self and otherness, but also the question of European identity, the traits of young people’s discursive identity through modern technology and the relationships between ethnicity and race.

The volume illustrates the generous thematic spectrum of the conference divided into three sections, such as follows:

1. *Identity and comparatism* (Part I): reception, intertextuality, comparative discourse, comparisons between literary texts, identity discourse, strategies of negotiating identity, otherness and the issue of discursive identity and communication through modern technology.
2. *Literary construction of identity* (Part II): representations of the individual in contemporary literature, instances of the private space in fiction, mechanisms of metaphoric mapping, the wars’ reality turned fictional and so on.
3. *Communication and discursive variation* (Part III): linguistic and rhetorical aspects of discourse/communication, discursive typologies, linguistic/semantic context, semantic aspect and ambiguity in terminology, figures of speech/thought, juridical, journalistic and advertising discourse, new media/technologies of communication, criticism of virtual communication and communities in the contemporary society.

As far as the covering of thematic areas by the contributors is regarded, we notice that, by comparison with previous editions, *Communication and discursive variation* (Part III) bears a heavier weight with 20 articles out of 51, even though this part is less focalized and it is mainly circumscribed to discourse typology.

The volume is trilingual with 18 articles in English, 14 articles in French and 19 articles in Romanian and it is structured in three inter-communicating parts: the first focuses on identity, containing 17 study cases that can be subsumed to compared imagology, the second highlights the mechanisms of literary construction of identity and the third emphasizes the relationship between communication and other types of discourse.

In spite of the diversity of methods of analysis and of the wide range of approached topics, the volume successfully manages to reveal and interpret the basic concepts which insure the support necessary for the understanding of mechanisms involved in the construction of identity in three spaces: literary, linguistic and cultural.