



INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIC INSTITUTE

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

International Virtual Academic Conference

**Education and Social Sciences
Business and Economics**

16 June 2021

IAI Book of Abstracts

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Skopje, Republic of N. Macedonia

ISBN 978-608-4881-23-0

Social Democracy and the COVID Pandemic. The Solutions of the Left for the Sanitary and Economic Crisis (Spain and Romania)

Eugen Gabor¹

¹*Faculty of Political Science, National University of Political Studies and Public Administration, Bucharest, Romania*

**Corresponding Author: e-mail: eugen.gabor24@gmail.com*

Proposal

The current pandemic's impact on the European political and economic landscape is a topic that generates heated debates in the field of political science. Several voices state that the sanitary crisis forces governments to favor a Keynesian approach; thus, we are witnessing the dawn of a new era of Big Government. Others argue that the economic and social effects of the restrictions will strengthen right-wing populism. Last but not least, some political scientists imply that the neoliberal order will survive the turmoil caused by SARS-CoV-2. Our paper aims to contribute to these discussions by focusing on the policies implemented/proposed by two Social democratic parties after February 2020: PSOE (the Spanish Socialist Party) and PSD (the Romanian Social Democratic Party). We selected these cases because we analyzed their particularities in previous research and because they are different on several levels. Firstly, geographically and culturally we are focusing on different areas. Secondly, PSOE is the main party of a governmental coalition that includes a radical left-wing party (Podemos). Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez advocates for a progressive agenda meant to reshape Spanish society after almost a decade of right-wing cabinets. On the other hand, PSD is one of the most conservative members of the Party of European Socialists, and is currently in opposition, after dominating Romanian politics almost without interruption between 2012 and 2019. Thirdly, Spain was more heavily affected by the COVID pandemic than Romania (this aspect is highlighted by the number of cases per million people). Our analysis reviews policies, policy proposals, political and electoral programs, political speeches, and debates. The conclusions reject or remodel some arguments used in the debates mentioned at the beginning of this brief proposal.

Keywords: Social democracy, COVID pandemic, economic crisis, Keynesianism, Spain, Romania

Estimating Tourism Students' Creativity Based on Character Traits

Norbert Beták, Zuzana Sándorová

¹Department of Tourism, Faculty of Central European Studies, Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, Slovakia

**Corresponding Author: e-mail: nbetak@ukf.sk*

Abstract

As it is well known, tertiary education primarily expects students to develop and practice their intellectual abilities. It does not mean, though, that practical expertise is not essential - especially in the case of practice-oriented study programmes. They should be designed in accordance with current demand in the given field, as well as with the expectations of the labour market so that graduates can tackle possible professional challenges adequately. Unfolding and developing the creative potential of a personality can certainly be an important asset in the practice of many professions since creativity is an important driver of innovation. To resurrect tourism, the industry worst hit by the restriction measures of the Covid-19 pandemic, introducing innovative and creative solutions even seems to be crucial and can be triggered by highly creative professionals. Hence, revealing and fostering tourism undergraduates' creativity should be addressed by the education system. The present paper deals with the findings of the research aimed to estimate the creativity of tourism undergraduates studying at Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, Slovakia, based on their personality traits. The results revealed that the Slovakian first-year students' overall creativity score is higher in comparison to the Hungarian reference values.

Keywords: Creativity, estimate, tourism students, personality traits.

Media Literacy in the Context of Other Literacies

Petra Polievkova, Pavel Izrael

Department of Journalism, Faculty of Arts and Letters, Catholic University in Ruzomberok Slovakia

**Corresponding Author: e-mail: petra.polievkova@ku.sk; pavel.izrael@ku.sk*

Abstract

In the introduction of the paper authors accentuates a need of conceptional preparation of educationists which is apprehended as a presumption of professional and didactic-methodologically mastered implementation of media education as a cross-section topic across all spheres of education. In the further part, authors outlines a relation between media literacy and other (relevant) Types of literacies. Authors of the paper draws their attention to an opportunity to perceive media education as an effective tool of gaining reader's literacy (primarily within lower secondary education). The paper emphasizes the need to perceive media literacy as part of functional literacy.

Keywords: Cross-section topic. Functional literacy. Media education. Media literacy. Reader's literacy.

Balancing against China's assertive behavior in its adjacent waters. A force build-up in the South China Sea

Voicu Alexandru Laurențiu

Department of International Relations and European Integration, National School of Political and Administrative Studies, Bucharest
**Corresponding Author:: e-mail: voicualexandru.laurentiu@gmail.com*

Abstract

The Chinese state has been engaged in assertive actions in the South China Sea and the East China Sea, using law enforcement as a new tool to expand upon its territorial claims in its adjacent waters. Using these territorial claims, such as the nine-dash line, China has been challenging the sovereignty and maritime rights of other states in the region, such as Vietnam or Japan. This has provided its neighbors in the region with a new type of gray zone threat, where the Chinese state has been using low intensity and ambiguous measures that do not require a military action in response, making the political and legal framework much more complex to address. These actions have had the purpose of contesting international norms and normalizing China's control over these waters. In this paper, we looked at how this has led to a balancing move in the region, inciting an arms race in the field of maritime law enforcement. In the face of this attempt by China to change the status quo, Japan, as an Asian state in a territorial dispute with China and therefore directly affected by the threat it poses to Japan's sovereignty over the islands southwest of its territory, has engaged in a balancing act, becoming a security provider to South-East Asian countries which are also claimants in the territorial disputes in the South China Sea.

Keywords: maritime law enforcement, gray zone, balancing, territorial disputes, South China Sea, maritime rights.

Study of Stress and Stress Factors of Mathayom Suksa 6 Students During the Covid-19 pandemic situation

Apasiri Chumtrenok, Pacharapornphan Posaart

*School: Samsenwittayalai
Teacher: Ms.Inla-Ong-Orn Jarujit*

Abstract

The purpose of this study was to examine stress levels and factors that affect the levels of stress in 12th grade students in Thailand during the COVID-19 pandemic. This study was a survey research. The sample, from the whole population of 12th grade students in Thailand was chosen by random selection, consisting of 155 students. The instruments used were questionnaires from using online surveys. It contained a two-part inquiry: 1.) Personal data obtained by gender and study. 2.) The "ST-5" test from the research results. Data was collected and analyzed using percentage statistics. It was found that students within the category of "highest" levels of stress were 10.3% of the group, those with "high" stress levels were 21.9%, those with a "moderate" level were 26.5%, and those with a "low" stress level were 41.3%. As for the main contributing factors of stress, 80.4% of the students responded that it was from too much homework, 77.8% responded that it was from high levels of competition, 67.3% responded that it was from being unable to catch up with their work, and 64.1% responded that it was from a lack of concentration from an environment that was unsuitable for learning. This research could be used as a helpful guide in avoiding the situations and habits that lead to higher levels of pressure that tend to create and / or exacerbate stress, especially in a competitive academic environment.

Keywords: COVID-19, stress levels, ST-5, online learning, students

An overview of developed automatic grading teaching tools for learning different programming languages

Nikola Dimitrijević^{1*}, Nemanja Zdravković¹, Dejan Cvijanović²

¹*Faculty of Information Technologies, Belgrade Metropolitan University, Serbia*

²*OTT Solutions, Austria*

**Corresponding Author: e-mail: nikola.dimitrijevic@metropolitan.ac.rs*

Abstract

In modern educational systems, especially in the areas of Computer Science (CS) and Information Technology (IT), a need for automatically graded student assignments has risen. Moreover, as the recent pandemic showed us, online and blended learning required a shift from traditional towards web-based learning. This was especially the case for CS and IT students, which could not use a computer at a University's facilities to do assignments, but rather needed to rely on a home computer. In this paper, we analyzed our own developed test-based automatic grading solution for learning programming fundamentals, meant mostly for beginners, such as students at the first year of academic studies. Our solution was developed as a web application, not needing a separate compiler, libraries or an integrated development environment. In addition, we have compared our solution with commercially available ones, as well as with solutions offered by Massive Open Online Courses, with the goal to point out the advantages and disadvantages of each. As all solutions were based on an automatic grading system, i.e. the systems can automatically check students' input, the comparison metrics were availability, pricing, programming languages support, user interface and documentation, and different programming paradigm support as well. Our analysis showed that even expensive solutions with a premium subscription pricing plan can have significant disadvantages when it comes to paradigm support, such as objective-oriented programming, as with different test cases, while free solutions often lack a user-friendly interface and have little or no documentation.

Keywords: automatic grading, engineering education, online education, programming education, programming fundamentals.

Development of quantitative models for detecting fraudulent accounting: how far has it reached?

Snežana Knežević¹, Jovan Travica², Stefan Milojević³, Jelena Stojanović Alcaraz⁴

¹* *Department for Financial Management and Accounting, Faculty of Organisational Sciences of the University in Belgrade, Republic of Serbia*

² *Singidunum University, Belgrade, Republic of Serbia, jovan.s.travica@gmail.com*

³ *Faculty of Finances, Banking and Audit of Alfa BK University, Belgrade, Republic of Serbia, aviation.adviser@gmail.com*

⁴ *San Diego, The USA, thinkforwardconsultinggroup@gmail.com*

*Corresponding Author: snezana.knezevics@fon.bg.ac.rs

Abstract

Identifying reliable indicators of fraud and developing fraud prediction models is an evolutionary process. From an economic perspective, the detection of accounting fraud is becoming increasingly important because accounting information is crucial for the business and financial decision-making of various stakeholders. Corporate fraud has recently received significant attention from the accounting profession and regulators. This is a matter of growing economic and social concern about the negative consequences they may cause so that it further stimulates interest in detecting fraud as fast as possible.

Today, a large number of models are used to identify fraudulent accounting, but they are of limited scope when looking at their successfulness. There is a growing debate in the academic community, but also among practitioners, that quantitative models can be improved by applying certain techniques developed by linguists and psychologists. These techniques should identify deceptive language and behaviour, and rely on the analysis of language patterns and nonverbal cues of individuals. The purpose of this paper is to provide an insight into the current situation when it comes to existing quantitative models for detecting fraudulent accounting (reporting), especially in the segment of their improvement by applying linguistic and other techniques. Early detection of accounting fraud can be of great benefit to managers, investors, creditors and other recipients in avoiding negative consequences, i.e., preventing damages that may occur due to fraudulent financial reporting (fraudulent accounting). This paper contributes to a clearer insight into the understanding of the possibilities and limitations in detecting fraudulent accounting using quantitative models. Further, the question of the possibility of their further improvement is being considered.

Keywords: quantitative models, detection, fraudulent accounting, company, linguistic techniques, nonverbal communication.

Internal audit efficiency in profit-oriented organizations and its organizational positioning

Srebro Bosiljka

*The Faculty of Organisational Sciences of the University in Belgrade, Republic of Serbia
Corresponding author: srebro.b.spasic@yahoo.com*

Abstract

Efficient corporate governance in circumstances characterized by dynamism, uncertainty and fierce competitiveness, is gaining importance when looking at the business viability of companies. The internal audit initially appeared as an internal business function of management whose focus was on undertaking activities for prevention and detection when it comes to fraud and verification of financial transactions that are realized in the company. Today, in the modern environment, the internal audit function is becoming increasingly important for the efficient management of a company's business because it helps management to improve the internal control of operations, reporting and compliance. The purpose of this paper is to provide a synopsis of what the academic literature speaks of when it comes to the efficiency of internal audit and its positioning in the company's organizational system. This paper contributes to the academic discussion of the role that efficient internal audit plays in generating added value to corporate governance. A new set of research questions is proposed that can help identify best practices in this area.

Keywords: Efficiency, Internal audit, For-profit organization, Organizational positioning, New research opportunities.

Risk Factors Associated with Gastrointestinal Complication Caused by Nonsteroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs

Viola Cala¹, Floreta Kurti², Elizana Petrela³, Elona Mollsi⁴

¹*PhD student, Faculty of Medical Technical Sciences, University of Medicine Tirana, Albania*

²*Service of Gastrohepatology, UHC "Nënë Tereza" Tirana, Albania.*

³*Service of Statistics, UHC "Nënë Tereza" Tirana, Albania.*

⁴*Faculty of Medical Technical Sciences, University "Aleksander Xhuvani", Elbasan, Albania*

Corresponding author e-mail: violacala08@gmail.com

Abstract

NSAID are the most commonly used drugs worldwide, and their advantageous therapeutic properties are accepted. It is well-known that NSAIDs are associated with unfavorable gastrointestinal events. The determination to apply a protective strategy decreasing NSAID-associated GI clinical events is based on risk stratification. There are significant risk factors for upper GI clinical events that involve older age, history of upper GI events, use of corticosteroids or anticoagulants, and high-dose or multiple NSAIDs. Lower GI clinical events such as bleeding may also occur with NSAIDs, but they are less studied than upper GI events. Patients developing upper and lower GI complications are a significant cause of emergency hospitalization and a risk of causing death. Our study aims to identify the most common risk factors associated with complicated gastrointestinal bleeding and/or gastroduodenal ulcers caused by NSAID application. Factors such as elder people (over 65 years), cardiovascular and cerebrovascular diseases, diabetes mellitus, history of peptic ulcer, corticosteroid use, cigarette smoking, and high dose or multiple NSAID therapy can increase the risk of GI complications in chronic NSAID user.

Keywords: risk factors, gastrointestinal bleeding, complicated peptic ulcer, NSAID

Weakening Transatlantic Links? Re-Assessing Turkey-NATO Relations in The Context of the Covid-19 Pandemic

Aurel Lazăr¹

^{1} Department of International Relations and European Integration, National University of Political Studies and Public Administration, Romania
Corresponding Author: e-mail: lazar.a.aurel@gmail.com

Abstract

The aim of this paper is an in-depth contextualization, focusing on the evolutions that marked the relationship between Turkey and NATO after the Cold War, prior to investigating the new coordinates of the relationship between Ankara and NATO that followed the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. The analysis will focus on the very recent developments that took place between March 2020 and March 2021, with the intention to identify the new objectives and ambitions of the Turkish foreign policy and their impact on the ties with the transatlantic Alliance. The study will tackle the following topics: the attempts of the Turkish Government to exploit the COVID-19 crisis to shore up its weakened domestic position and achieve its regional expansion and hegemonic agendas; the decisions of the Turkish state to purchase and use a large number of COVID-19 vaccines produced in the Russian Federation and China, countries that are known for their interests diverging from those of NATO; the decision made by the Turkish Government to buy the Russian-made S-400 Triumph missiles defense system and the controversies regarding the activation of the system. In the theoretical section will be presented the implications of the implementation by the political establishment in Ankara of the so-called “Neo-Ottoman” ideology. The study will rely mainly on qualitative data including document analysis and official statements issued by the Turkish Government and NATO member states officials during the COVID pandemic analyzed period.

Keywords: COVID-19, crisis, foreign policy, NATO, tensions, Turkey.

The COVID-19 infodemic: Disinformation patterns in the Romanian digital ecosystem

Cătălina Nastasiu¹

¹ PhD student at the Doctoral School in Communication, Faculty of Communication and Public Relations, the National University of Political Studies and Public Administration, Bucharest, Romania

Abstract

In Romania, as nearly everywhere else in the world, the COVID-19 pandemic has been accompanied by a massive wave of information, including enormous amounts of false claims, misleading and dangerous content for the public health. False statements and conspiracy theories about the COVID-19's origins, unproven remedies and cures, on top of the numerous myths and misinformation about vaccines, widely proliferated on social media groups and pages, on platforms like Facebook. This paper will focus on the analysis of the themes, narratives, and disinformation mechanisms specific to the information ecosystem in Romania. For the purpose of this research, 20 Facebook groups and pages that created, promoted, and distributed false or misleading information and toxic narratives about the pandemic, were selected. The methodology was mainly qualitative, based on the textual analysis of the posts or articles and on the visual analysis of the selected images. The study revealed several common themes and topics, such as "the planned pandemic", "high-level conspiracy" (Bill Gates, WHO, Big Pharma), "medical tyranny", even the narrative about "a genocide against the Romanian people". This research emphasized that the Romanian online ecosystem largely followed the global patterns of disinformation. Consequently, these disinformation narratives were enriched with local particularities, and adapted to the local context. In addition, this research highlighted that the adaptation of the major global themes to the local contexts occurred in several stages, while connecting key-narratives with the pre-existing political and social issues in Romania.

Keywords: disinformation, COVID-19, infodemic, social media, Romania.

¹ This paper was financially supported by the Human Capital Operational Program 2014-2020, co-financed by the European Social Fund, under the project POCU/380/6/13/124708 no. 37141/23.05.2019, with the title "Researcher-Entrepreneur on Labour Market in the Fields of Intelligent Specialization (CERT-ANTREP)", coordinated by the National University of Political Studies and Public Administration.

The use of media that maintain academic interest in online study during Covid 19.

Hedviga Tkáčová^{1, *}

^{1*} Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, Faculty of Humanities, Slovakia

*Corresponding Author: e-mail: hedviga.tkacova@gmail.com

Abstract

There are many reasons why high school students are active students, learning without any problems. In the present study, the authors focus on the use of media that maintain high school students' academic interest in online study during the Covid 19 pandemic. To this end, the authors administered a questionnaire that measured the views of high school students. It consisted of 6 items of importance in various areas, from the satisfaction of students with online learning or the use of online media during education, to the time that students want to devote to online study. The questionnaire was administered online to 87 students at public secondary schools in Slovakia. In addition, the authors divided the research group into two groups based on academic results in high school in order to compare the mix of opinions of two different groups. Research findings have suggested that two groups divided on the basis of their high or low secondary school performance are differently satisfied with the use of online media during online learning and attach different importance to the use of media during online learning in Covid 19.

Keywords: online education, preferences, satisfaction, high school students, media.

Advantages and disadvantages of distance learning from the point of view of bachelor students and graduates

Liga Paula ¹

¹*Institute of Social Science and Humanities, Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies, Latvia*

**Corresponding Author: e-mail: Liga.Paula@llu.lv*

Abstract

In the 21st century, higher education and universities experience constant and rapid changes. It is expected that study programmes and undergraduate curriculums particularly will equip students with the skills such as creative and critical thinking, collaboration and communication skills, social and cultural competencies, ICT literacy, and problem-solving skills. Universities transform towards more student-centred teaching and learning practices, and this leads towards gradual changes in learning environments: traditional university lecture halls and facilities become replaced by innovative and diverse learning settings requiring effective use of modern ICT and learning technologies. Distance learning is one of the examples, however, facing a number of advantages and disadvantages. In January 2021, short survey and semi-structured interviews with sociology undergraduate students and graduates were conducted aiming to identify their motives to choose distance learning, advantages and disadvantages of this study form, and suggestions for improvements. Among advantages, the respondents mentioned opportunity to reconcile work life, personal life and studies, flexibility in terms of control over the study process, innovative and non-traditional learning solutions, self-paced learning, cost and time saving, and interesting subject courses. Difficulties for distance learning occurred due to lack of self-organization skills and self-discipline, lack of timely feedback from the teaching staff and some technical problems. As the main disadvantages the respondents mentioned limited communication with group members, feeling of alienation because of lack of face-to-face contacts with professors and course mates, uneven volume of tasks in different subject courses and general feeling that technologies take too much time of life.

Keywords: Distance learning, Blended learning, Undergraduate studies, Sociology, Latvia.

Digital Democracy in the EU: The Case Study of Latvia

Martins Vargulis

*Lecturer at Rīga Stradiņš University, OCID number: 0000-0002-3969-0331.
E-mail address: martins.vargulis@rsu.lv*

Abstract

The decline of civic engagement has been an issue for several EU member states. To promote civic engagement, digital tools have been perceived as one of the possible solutions both at the EU and national level. Within the context of COVID-19 pandemic that has intensified the digitalization in many forms and sectors, the issue of digital solutions for civic engagement has regained its relevance and topicality. In the last decade, Latvia has been among other EU members states in which civic engagement has become a concerning and long-term challenge. For instance, opposite to Estonia the turnout in the last national and European parliamentary elections has gradually declined in Latvia. There are also limited digital possibilities for the Latvian society to participate and influence the political agenda daily. Therefore, this article provides an overview of the provisions and guidelines at the EU level to address the issue of civic engagement by promoting digital democracy tools. Secondly, it analyses what online tools exist in Latvia to promote civic engagement. Third, comparing the digital democracy solutions implemented in Estonia and Latvia lessons learned are drawn. Finally, using data from quantitative (polls) studies (before and in the COVID-19 pandemic), the article provides recommendations for Latvia in the context of I-voting.

Keywords: civic participation, Latvia, I-voting, digital democracy.

Factors that Affecting the Decision of COVID-19 Vaccine Brand

Panutsakoon Naprakprakorn¹, Acharanan Phoothornsri², Darakorn Sornchai³,
Saratuck Sanguanchairoj⁴

¹.Kanchanapisek Wittayalai Nakhonpathom(Pratamnak Suankulab Matthayom)School,Thailand

².Udonpittayanukoon School,Thailand

³.Loeipittayakom School,Thailand

⁴.Sarasas Witaed Suvarnabhumi,Thailand

Corresponding Author: e-mail: panutsakoonjazzy@gmail.com

Abstract

Currently, the situation of the COVID-19 pandemic continues to spread throughout many countries around the world. The solution to stop this outbreak is vaccination. During the past year, vaccines have been developed by many companies. The brand selection of the vaccine and the information obtained from this research will be further developed for organizations wishing to develop a vaccine against COVID-19. The results were collected from a group of 356 participants. The general analysis of the respondents showed that the majority of respondents were females (73.7%), aged 15 to 20 years (73.66%), and were students (68.54%). Results of the study found that 67.1% of respondents wish to receive the Pfizer brand of the novel coronavirus vaccine. As the novel coronavirus vaccination is available, those selecting to receive the COVID-19 vaccine would choose the one that is the most effective because they wish to avoid any possible side effects. In addition, other factors can influence the vaccination selection: news received from social media, people, and published research. The research encompasses the following: 1) The technology used in the production and tested by the WHO, 2) Anticipated side effects, 3) Age restrictions, and 4) Restrictions on congenital diseases. Out of all the factors, the researchers analyzed the results from this questionnaire. It can be concluded that the main factor in the vaccination selection is the choice of the effectiveness and the reliability of the vaccine manufacturer. Other factors are the secondary reasons mentioned above, all of which affect the reliability of the vaccine.

Keywords: COVID-19 vaccine; Pfizer; COVID-19; World Health Organization(WHO); COVID-19 prevention efficacy.

Epitome of the concept of “personal data” relating to opinions and assessments and the right of access to personal data

Juanita Goicovici¹,

¹*Department of Private Law, Faculty of Law, University Babeş-Bolyai of Cluj-Napoca, Romania*

Corresponding Author: e-mail: juanita.goicovici@law.ubbcluj.ro

Abstract

The study approaches the conceptual implications of the Court of Appeal of Ireland’s judgement adopted on 1 July 2020, in a dispute between Peter Nowak and the Irish Data Protection Commissioner, as respondent, which offers insight into two decisive questions on the epitome of the concept of „personal data” relating to opinions and assessments and the right of access to personal data, namely: (1) are written opinions and assessments made by an individual and written opinions and assessment made about that individual, which are made in the context of an academic examination or an employment performances assessment, considered personal data?; (2) does the right of access to personal data imply an obligation of a data controller to provide a data subject with its personal data in the original version of the document or does the data controller also meet its obligation by delivering to the individual the personal data in a different format, such as a copy of that document? As a recurrent question, this interrogation was not primarily in the focus of the Irish Court of Appeals, since the CJEU had responded to it in Case-434/16, Nowak vs. The Data Protection Commissioner, in the judgment of 20 December 2017, by which the CJEU determined that the written answers submitted by a candidate at a professional examination, as well as the comments made by an examiner with respect to those answers, constitute personal data. The paper focuses on the impact of the mentioned reasoning of the CJEU stating that the syntagm “[...] any information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person [...]”, used in Art. 2(a) of the precedent Directive for defining personal data, implies a wide scope which is not restricted to information that is sensitive or private, therefore potentially encompassing several kinds of information, not only objective but also subjective, in form of opinions and assessments, provided that they relate to the data subject.

Keywords: personal data, GDPR, right of access, opinions as personal data, assessments

Sociolinguistics and Written Journalistic Translation: the interdisciplinary approach

Dorjana Klosi, Ph.D.

Department of Foreign Languages, Faculty of Humanities, Albania
dorianaklosi@gmail.com

Abstract:

In recent years, interest in Translation Studies has grown exponentially, and language translators, linguists, scholars, educators, and different institutes are paying attention to various discourses, particularly in the contexts of Journalistic Translation Studies. Numerous researches have been conducted, some of have examined objectivity and devotion of translation and the relation between Journalistic Translation Studies and Sociolinguistics. Despite the immense contribution of the actors as mentioned earlier, there is much to be done concerning the contribution of context and culture transmission of Journalistic Translation Studies from the source language into the target language.

Journalistic and translation studies assume an essential place in the era of technology and information. The Media and Journalistic Translation, A Sociolinguistic Approach study emphasises greatly journalistic translation and linguistic dimensions, including Sociolinguistics, Communication Studies and culture as well. Translation Studies perspective employs language use in interpersonal relations and the engagement of social variables with personal usage of linguistic elements. Sociolinguistics reveals the relationship between language and society independently of translation. It provides scientifically based descriptions of the relationship between the source language and the source language society, and the target language and the target language society, and thus contributes to exploring the objective rules behind translators' decisions.

Keywords: media and journalistic translation, print news, Sociolinguistics, cultural transfer.

Management of e-marketing strategies

Nermin Xhemili

University of Prishtina "Hasan Prishtina", Faculty of Economics, Republic of Kosovo
Corresponding author: e-mail: xh_nermin@hotmail.com

Abstract

In recent years marketing activities are being transferred very quickly as a result of the use of information technology and networking technology, and as a result of this marketing is gaining a much broader meaning than in the past. Nowadays it is important to understand that internet marketing is considered as one of the newest areas of research which is of strategic importance for businesses, where businesses themselves are increasingly directing their activities online. Meeting the needs, desires and demands of consumers effectively and efficiently, is another reason that has pushed companies to focus more on online marketing..

While the Covid-19 Pandemic has impacted the role of e-marketing to grow even more, as it created the need for companies to connect with customers digitally more than ever before.

The purpose of this paper is to research the field of online marketing, as well as the strategies that this field uses to influence the successful business of companies.

Keywords: online marketing (e-marketing), internet, e-marketing strategies, consumers, companies

Epimedium alpinum subsp albanicum new species for the flora of Kosovo

Zeqir Hashani¹, Qenan Maxhuni², Lulzim Zeneli¹, Xhavit Mala³

¹ University of Gjakova “Fehmi Agani” Str. Ismail Qemali, 50 000 Gjakove, Kosovo

² Kosovo Institute for Nature Protection, Str. L. Haradinaj, ex-Rilindja, 10000 Prishtine, Kosovo

³ Directorate of National Park “Sharri”, Str. Flamuri n.n., 20000 Prizren, Kosovo

*Corresponding author e-mail: xhavitmala@hotmail.com

Abstract

This article provides data on the subspecies *Epimedium alpinum subsp. albanicum*, which is registered for the first time in Kosovo. This subspecies was found in Qafa e Morines in Deve, Municipality of Gjakova in serpentine substrates which has limited range in the studied area. The presence, description, distribution and mapping of this endemic species is examined and discussed in this paper.

Keywords: Epimedium alpinum subsp. albanicum, new subspecies, Kosovo, flora, endemic.

The evaluation of flexural strength between two different restorative materials

Dr. Armand Alushi, Dr. Neada Hysenaj, Dr. Luella Mamaj, Prof. Assoc. Edit Xhajanka

*Aldent University, Albania
Dental University Clinic, Tirana,
Prosthodontic Department, Faculty of Dental Medicine, Tirana, Albania*

Abstract

Introduction. One of the mechanical properties of the materials is flexural strength. It is important to determine the strength of the material in order to avoid dislodgement or fracture of the prosthetic restoration, especially in the clinical cases where the provisional restoration is necessary to use for a long time. **The aim:** the purpose of the study was to evaluate and compare one of the mechanical properties such as flexural strength between two different provisional restorative materials: polymethyl methacrylate and urethane dimethacrylate. **Methods:** 20 specimens were produced, they were divided into two groups: Group 1 included 10 specimens polymethyl methacrylate, Group 2 included 10 specimens Urethane dimethacrylate. Each component of the two groups was kept in artificial saliva for one week. Flexural strength was found by using the three point test in Zwick Roell Universal machine. **Results.** By the statistical evaluation was found that the mean value of PMMA specimens was 134,4 MPa. This value was higher, compared to the mean value of flexural strength of UDMA specimens which was 107,5 MPa. **Conclusions.** Based on the results of this study we can conclude that the flexural strength of PMMA is higher compared to the flexural strength of UDMA specimens. PMMA is suggested to be used as a better material for long time restorations, for fixed restorations with a large number of elements or in patients with parafunctional habits.

Keywords: Flexural strength, specimens, PMMA, UDMA.

SR-IVOCAP toward traditional resin polymerization technique

Dr. Armand Alushi, Dr. Luella Mamaj, Dr. Neada Hysenaj, Prof. Assoc. Edit Xhajanka

*Aldent University, Albania
Dental University Clinic, Tirana,
Prosthodontic Department, Faculty of Dental Medicine, Tirana, Albania*

Abstract

The **purpose** of the study was the comparison between dentures constructed with the traditional polymerization technique and dentures constructed with the SR IVOCAP technique. **Materials and Methods.** The two groups of dentures were compared with each other for the following parameters: stability, function, balanced occlusion, decubitis, interferences, prosthetic stomatitis, esthetics etc. 120 patients were included in our study. 65 dentures were constructed with the SR-IVOCAP technique, 55 dentures with the traditional method. **Results.** Based on the clinical evaluation, the following results were collected: 38,4% of the patients had a very good stability with the SR-IVOCAP technique compared to 18,1% with the traditional technique. In none of the dentures there was an increase of the vertical dimension compared to 45,4% in traditional dentures. Decubitis were found on 23% of the patients made with SR-IVOCAP method compared to 45,4% of the patients with traditional technique. In 7,6% of the dentures constructed with SR-IVOCAP had denture fractures, while 18,1% in the traditional dentures. Denture interferences were found in 10,7 % of the dentures constructed with the SR-IVOCAP technique compared to 20% compared to the traditional dentures.

Conclusions. Based on our study we can conclude that the SR-IVOCAP system has advantages on all the parameters we evaluated compared to the traditional resin polymerization.

Keywords: SR-IVOCAP, traditional, polymerization, technique

The third impression procedure in the construction of complete removable dentures

Prof. Assoc. Edit Xhajanka ¹, Dr. Neada Hysenaj ², Prof. Assoc. Merita Bardhoshi ³, Prof. Assoc. Teuta Pustina ⁴

¹ Department of Prosthodontics, Faculty of Dental Medicine, Tirana, Albania

² University Dental Clinic, Tirana, Albania

³ Department of Oro-Maxillo-Facial Surgery, Faculty of Dental Medicine, Tirana, Albania

⁴ Department of Prosthodontics, University of Prishtina, Kosovo

Corresponding author: e-mail: edit.xhajanka@umed.edu.al, neadah@yahoo.com

Abstract

Introduction. The stability of the removable complete dentures remains a problem, especially in the lower dentures. **The aim** of the study was the use of the third impression technique, especially in small, third grade atrophy of the lower residual ridges. We aimed to determine the neutral space of the prosthetic equilibrium, which is essential in constructing the complete removable dentures. **Materials and Methods.** 36 patients with an age range 60-80, who came in the University Dental Clinic in Tirana, were selected to construct new dentures. The selected patients had severe atrophy of the lower residual ridge and unfavorable anatomical factors. Piezography technique was used to improve the stability of the lower dentures. The third impression procedure determines the shape of the outside surface by applying a soft material which hardens during phonetic exercises and periprosthetic muscular movements. **Results.** A questionnaire was delivered to the patients after one month of delivery of the new dentures. In 80,5 percent of the clinical cases, there was a significant improvement of the stability of the lower dentures. **Conclusions.** The neutral space of the prosthetic equilibrium can be determined by the piezography procedure. The piezography technique is a simple and effective procedure, especially in the cases where the anatomical factors are not favorable. It increases the surface tension forces and the stability of the dentures as well.

Keywords: Complete removable denture, piezography, impression, stability.

Calcium Deficiency in children and the linkage to height: A Review

Pearnan Boonliam

Brighton College International School

Corresponding author: e-mail: pearnanboonliam@gmail.com

Abstract

The height in adolescence has regularly been a widely attentive discussion among Thai parents. This review paper set one's sights on the height in children and how it is linked to calcium intake from various forms. Calcium comes in many forms ranging from milk to tablet supplements. Calcium together with vitamin D, two things that always come in a pair when talking about one or the other. As a matter of fact, calcium and vitamin D work side by side to protect the bone. Dairy products such as cheese and butter do show an effect in increasing children's height. Although, the height of children cannot only rely on calcium, in fact, height in children is a combination of many aspects. Deficiency in calcium, ergocalciferol and cholecalciferol can lead to the development of osteoporosis, osteomalacia, osteopetrosis, osteogenesis imperfecta, Paget disease of bone, fibrous dysplasia and rickets. This review paper aims to discuss the relationship between calcium, with the help of ergocalciferol, cholecalciferol and the height in children. Further research could be made into the impact of calcium supplementation and its association with height in children.

Child marriage at the borderline between gender violence and cultural defense¹

Mariuca Oana Constantin

National University of Political Studies and Public Administration (NUPSPA/SNSPA) Bucharest
Corresponding author: e-mail: mariuca.constantin@politice.ro

Abstract

This paper connects three topics: (1) gender violence, (2) the cultural defense, and (3) child marriage. The study is an interdisciplinary analysis, from the perspective of liberal feminism, of the Romanian legislation and criminal jurisprudence related to early marriage in traditional Roma communities. I start the argument by pointing out that the use of cultural defenses in cases related to gender violence has been explicitly prohibited in Romanian law, in 2018, after the ratification of the *Istanbul Convention*. Before the modification of the *Domestic Violence Law*, the jurisprudence related to child marriage repeatedly showed that cultural arguments influence the verdicts, even if there is no explicit legal framework for the use of the cultural defense mechanism. It is crucial to examine if this approach was persistent after the legislative changes. The purpose of the first section is to compare relevant child marriage case-law before and after 2018. The second section explains the deeper legal and moral meaning of the child marriage practice. The topic is approached as a phenomenon at the borderline between gender violence and cultural identity. First, I focus on the philosophical debate derived from the perspective of liberal feminism. Second, I focus on the “cultural defense tests”, as formulated in American jurisprudence and reformulated by legal literature. Special attention is given to the criterion that “patriarchal traditions must not legitimate cultural exceptions”. The preliminary conclusion of the paper is that, even if the new provisions of the *Domestic Violence Law* are not very “visible” yet, they are applicable and must be applied in cases derived from the custom of child marriage as it ultimately represents form of gender violence.

¹ This paper was financially supported by the Human Capital Operational Program 2014-2020, co-financed by the European Social Fund, under the project POCU/380/6/13/124708 no. 37141/23.05.2019, with the title “Researcher-Entrepreneur on Labour Market in the Fields of Intelligent Specialization (CERT-ANTREP)”, coordinated by the National University of Political Studies and Public Administration.”