EDITORIAL

STÉPHANIE CASSILDE[1] & DARRICK SMITH[2]

[1] Ronin Institute for Independent Scholarship, Charleroi, Belgium. ORCID: 0000-0002-4546-2140, Email: stephanie.cassilde@ronininstitute.org

[2] University of San Francisco, Leadership Studies, School of Education, 2130 Fulton Street, San Francisco, CA 94117-1080, USA. ORCID: 0000-0002-8106-5273, Email: dsmith13@usfca.edu

ABSTRACT: This is an introductory piece that sets up the scene for a special issue of Society Register dedicated to Language, Discourse and Society. It aims to briefly discuss the context, the aims of the issue and the content of accepted articles. The articles included in this issue were first presented at the ISA RC 25 Mid-term Conference in Warsaw. The conference took place at the Maria Grzegorzewska University in September 2019 with the support of Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education, the Polish Commission for UNESCO, ISA RC 25, ISA RC 32 and the UNESCO Janusz Korczak Chair in Social Pedagogy.
KEYWORDS: CDA, Discourse, Language, power, exclusion/inclusion

Living in a complex world that beckons researchers, activists, service professionals, and many others to confront routine manifestations of injustice can be trying on the body and mind. As academics and practitioners we find ourselves in a constant pursuit of identifying social dynamics and problems for which we can extract and formulate theoretical and practical responses. To some, the notion of language or the study of linguistics is relegated to one of basic conversational interaction on one hand, and scientific analysis and the important, yet routine exercise of epistemological back and forth on the other. For our purposes here the aim is to look at language: the investigation of language, discourse and dialogue themselves as research object play a very

practical and reflective role in how educators and social service practitioners alike imagine and work in partnership with the people and communities of their world. As Chomsky (2006:58) noted:

> I think that the long-range significance of the study of language lies in the fact that in this study it is possible to give a relatively sharp and clear formulation of some of the central questions of psychology and to bring a mass of evidence to bear on them. What is more, the study of language is, for the moment, unique in the combination it affords of richness of data and susceptibility to sharp formulation of basic issues.

This edition of *Society Register* aims to provide readers with an opportunity to contemplate how meaning is constructed and sense-making occurs in dialogues of community, contemplation and conflict within the context of both professional and personal experience. Additionally, whether it be South Africa, Brazil, Europe, or the United States, each article is delving into the question of experience and the relationship between how one understands and makes sense of their reality within the context of a broader discourse that may extend far outside their own experience and into frameworks of communal discourses that extend online to other regions of the globe. Furthermore, as social beings, this edition also examines how such sense-making informs and is shaped by how we see ourselves within the complex arrangements of our social identities with in politicized environments and larger structures that perpetuate marginalization.

The introductory article from Darrick Smith, "Getting Cursed Out for Social Justice: Notes on Handling Verbal Assaults with Humanity", gives insight about ongoing challenges for educators toward student transgressions, and lines of thought to engage with those with respect, and reflection.

In "When University Becomes the Enemy: Hate Speech Attacks on Facebook" Viviane de Melo Resende, Yara Martinelli and Ernani Viana Saraiva analyse the extreme right hate speech in Brazil in its way to target the academia in Brazil. They focus on online discourse, as social networks are a key channel for ironies, negative associations, and simplification of debate.

In the article "Pure politicking! Racialised blame games and moral panic in the case of a South African high school", Marthinus Conradie uses Toulmin's theoretical framework applied to the case of Overvaal incident to examine how blame attribution, moral panic and racialization processes are interconnected in online journalistic communications. The results underline that the organization of the blame games around moral panic supports racialized conflictive dynamics.

Alexandra Filipova and Krystyna Heland-Kurzak focus on online discourse of children's in "Social and Legal Discourse of Children's Participation in Decision-Making in Poland and Russia: Comparative Analysis". While children's participation is a core right, but the practice may vary. The focus here is on the similarities and differences between Poland and Russia.

Cleide Emília Faye Pedrosa applies a usual framework to a new material in "Self-Nar-

ratives of the Brazilian Deaf People: Application of the Hypotheses of Socio-analyses", which enables to shed light on which are the similarities and differences toward deaf people's narratives. Indeed, their narratives were not previously examined from this perspective, which is important toward their social relations, their identities and their citizenship.

The article "Own experiences of abortion in descriptions of people associated in pro-choice groups on Facebook in Poland", written by Klementyna Kuleta examines the central role of language toward a marginalized position in that country, i.e. being not against abortion. A usually invisible or unheard discourse appears, and thus its contrast toward the official and most visible discourse on this topic in Poland.

Finally, an extended review article dedicated to 'The Dialectics of English Dominance' by Lila Monzo, discusses the latest book by Odrowaz-Coates (2019) on soft power of English in European context.

The purpose of this issue is to shed light on how discourses inform about the preferences, the behaviours, and the representations. This scope is based on RC25 Language and Society Research Committee of ISA's core approach to look at language rather than solely through it.

REFERENCES

Chomsky, Noam. 2006. *Language and Mind*. Third Edition. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Stéphanie Cassilde is president of the Research Committee 25 "Language and Society" of the International Sociological Association. She is a research scholar at the Ronin Institute for Independent Scholarship, researcher at ASBL Comme Chez Nous, and invited professor at SMAG/CRiDIS UCLouvain in Belgium.

Darrick Smith is associate professor of Leadership Studies at University of San Francisco, USA.