

## BOOK REVIEW

*MUNIZ, Andrea Garcia; LALICATA Maria; da CRUZ, Thyago José, Eds (2023), Paremiologia: Enfoques Interdisciplinares , Universidade Federal de Mato Grosso do Sul, Campo Grande, MS : Ed. UFMS. ISBN 978-85-7613-638-5*

*Tsitsi Roselene Gonzo*

[tsitsibwetenga@gmail.com](mailto:tsitsibwetenga@gmail.com)

**Abstract:** This book review critiques the Book *Paremiologia: enfoques interdisciplinares*, which is a collaborative project organized by Andrea Garcia Muniz, Maria Lalicata and Thyago José da Cruz, housed under the Federal University of Mato Grosso do Sul in Brazil. The importance of understanding designation of linguistic terminology is highly debated, calling readers to the awareness of appropriate language use for effective communication. Historical contexts of proverbs together with their cultural nuances are dissected through the contrastive analyses of proverbs and sayings in Portuguese, Spanish, Italian, French, Ancient Greek and other European languages. The main arguments underscored in this collaborative work divided into ten chapters reveal how paremias are a pertinent resource in the study of languages and the understanding of cultural spaces.

**Keywords:** Paremiology, contrastive analyses, interdisciplinary study

### Introduction

The book is a collection of work elaborated, through ten chapters, in the area of the study of paremias commonly known in speech as proverbs. All the interventions regarding Paremiology and related topics bear very rich, diverse and interdisciplinary approaches that elucidate on themes of profound pertinence to scholarly reading. The extensive nature of the topics discussed contributes immensely to the understanding of the diverse subjects that help the reader appreciate cultural nuances tied to historical aspects of Paremiology of Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, French and other language backgrounds.

## Discussion

The first chapter, presented by Fernando García Romero, adequately draws the reader's attention to the historical trajectory of Spanish and Portuguese proverbs showing close links between Ancient Greek and modern references to Erasmusian proverbs and Aristotle's collections. The discussion of paremias of different languages, such as those of the Spanish, English, Portuguese, Italian, Polish, and French languages among others is indicative of the long attested universality of proverbial expressions across linguistic and cultural divides.

A comparison of the term 'proverb' in Brazilian Portuguese and the Spanish word '*refrán*' in the second chapter is an engaging interaction with terminology. Andrea Garcia Muniz, who plays a dual role together with that of organizer for this collection, propounds the importance of critically assessing the meaning rendered to words. Her discussion elucidates on the word '*refrán*' as having several meanings in different languages and contexts. It is this sublime nature of terminology that renders words such as '*refrán*' and '*provérbio*' quasi-synonymous, yet they can be different in meaning depending on the context of the language in which they are being used.

The third work of the collection discusses an approach to language learning using proverbs. The author in this section advocates for the facilitation of learner's appropriate use of the language in everyday life situations in a thematic manner to achieve a pragmatic approach that gives priority to orality and actualization of the language.

The fourth chapter is an exploration of Spanish Zarzuelas, which are essentially musical theatre of a Spanish lyric genre that is sung or spoken and incorporates proverbs where dramatic effect is intended through speech. Proverbs in Zarzuelas could be used either in their entirety, in part, or as mere allusions. Where there are proverbs quoted incompletely, the interlocutors would verbally or mentally make up for whatever was omitted of the proverb. The discussion presents proverbs as productive resources in the sociocultural and linguistic history of Spain, through their incorporation in theatre.

Maria Lalicata, in chapter 5 explores a contrastive analysis of the sayings in Don Quixote by Miguel de Cervantes in order to find out to what extent the Italian reader is able to engage with the text. The translations span a period over four centuries, from Fanciosini's translation in 1626 right up to the last one analysed in 2015. An analysis of 232 proverbs translated from Spanish to Italian is used as the corpus in the attempt to ascertain whether the meaning and signifier, together with the ironic-jocular function of the proverbs, are preserved along the processes of translation.

The sixth exposition of this resplendent collection engages the reader in the works of Juliana Panizo Rodríguez, a Spanish paremiologist and linguist belonging to the 21<sup>st</sup> century. She works with paremias classifying them in thematic groups of toponyms, religion, human life and work.

In the seventh chapter the authors proffer different ways of circumventing the challenges faced by interpreters in the process of interpreting speech with phraseological units which include, but are not limited to, proverbs, sayings, and aphorisms. Creative methods such as the transfer strategy which creates or uses a new proverbial expression in the target language are proposed. Another proposition suggests paraphrasing the phraseological unit with other words in the target language.

A didactic unit with interdisciplinary focus on Paremiology is presented in the eighth chapter. This is in support of effective use of oral language and development of communicative competences in the teaching of Portuguese as a foreign language. The six content categories presented with their subdivisions for this cause are commendable and highly adaptable. The Interdisciplinary Didactic Unit posited here hinges on the communicative approach and post-method pedagogy allowing for the integration of all four language competences of reading, writing, speaking and listening.

Chapter nine debates whether Paremiology and phraseology are inseparable as concepts. The author, Thyago José da Cruz, presents considerations including the theories of trans-disciplinarity and complementarity of opposites. It is concluded, through a vivid analogy, that linguistics is the whole and complete set that has many parts (Paremiology, Phraseology, Terminology, Toponyms, Phonology, Morphology, Syntax, etc.). The author further elucidates that all these components are in the whole (linguistics), just as the whole is in the parts.

The height of this work closes in chapter ten where Hugo Bizzarri discusses the use, or not, of proverbs in oratory and epistolary practice. From past centuries, letters were a special communicative tool among the nobles and the aristocracy. With examples, the author argues how proverbs served as a tool for ornamenting written language for nobles, who obviously cared to express themselves richly, even on paper, depicting their social and linguistic flair.

## **Conclusion**

In conclusion, the interculturalism of phraseological units, proverbs, sayings, aphorisms and related elements is reiterated through the discussions in this collection, showing how they are a profound representation of the oral tradition of a people through their proverbs. We are made to abundantly explore the natural, historical and cultural environments of the people who use such proverbs.

## **Short Biography**

Tsitsi Roselene Gonzo (née Bwetenga) is a Zimbabwean practicing as a Portuguese language and culture lecturer at the University of Zimbabwe, she is also a language consultant specializing in Portuguese-English-Shona translation, editing, training, and language research and development. She is a PhD in Language Sciences candidate at University of Minho, Portugal, researching the interculturality of Portuguese proverbs from Portugal and Shona proverbs from Zimbabwe.