

Preface

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To top off the year 2021, this second issue of Volume XXX contains six articles by authors from mainland China, Hong Kong, Macao and the United States. The articles are organized into four sections: Education, Immigration, Poetics, and Translation.

In the section on Education, Yanshu SUN explores the relation between Confucian values and students' intention to study abroad, with particular focus on the value of filial piety and its influence on the decision-making of students and their parents. The study extends the model of the theory of planned behavior by linking it with traditional Chinese culture. In the second article, Elza TSANG provides a rich description, using qualitative methodology, of a distance-learning course, combined with optional weekly tutorials, and aimed at improving L2 English students' writing skills. The course encouraged both the teacher's and the students' self-reflexivity through journal writing, applying the theory of reflective practice developed by researchers such as Jürgen Habermas and Donald Schön.

The second section, on Immigration, contains a paper by Julianne YEE reporting on a questionnaire survey of American-born Chinese families and their use of English vs. Chinese for interpersonal communication between generations within the family. The methodology is precise in also obtaining data on the use of different Chinese dialects among immigrant families. The author found that, while the choice of language used, whether English or Chinese, did not substantially affect the relationship between the American-born Chinese and their parents, the communication gap was much wider between the youngest generation and their grandparents. However, maintaining family relationships was one of the strongest motivational factors for the youngest generation to maintain or learn the Chinese language (if in a formal setting, usually Mandarin) or Chinese dialect of their heritage.

The third section in this issue includes two articles on Poetics. In a line-by-line analysis of Robert Frost's poem *The Road Not Taken*, Joanna RADWAŃSKA-WILLIAMS uncovers the hidden iconic pattern of the poem. She argues that iconicity — the opposite of Ferdinand de Saussure's 'arbitrariness of the linguistic sign' — underpins the esthetic value of a poem, creating its own unique, non-arbitrary world, where every word and sound matters and functions to convey the meaning and symbolism of the poem, thus making the translation of poetry into another language very difficult. In the second article, Chunshen ZHU explores the roles of semantic and metaphorical coherence and imagery focalization in creating the profiling of a poetic world. The author offers a line-by-line analysis of a classical Chinese poem, *Ye Yu Ji Bei* by Li Shangyin, followed by a mapping of the text's metaphorical coherence in terms of ontological metaphors. The author suggests that in translating the poem, the translator should seek to re-profile the poetic world of the source text.

The final section, on Translation, continues the theme of the difficulty of translation. Zi-yu LIN conducts a semantic study of the ancient Chinese resultative aspect marker *Ji* from the perspectives of grammaticalization and translation. The author examines different theories as to the meaning of *Ji* and suggests that the resultative meaning is the

most appropriate for translation, as evidenced by a close analysis of quotations from *The Book of Poetry* (11th century – 5th century B.C.).