



**Distance learning
In the field of
Human and Social Sciences**

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**Abstract:**

This paper explores the necessity and the relevance of distance learning in the field of Human and Social Sciences. The work is a presentation of our book *Interculturality and Interdisciplinarity in Education*, published in partnership with five universities from Russia, Serbia, U K, Japon and Romania. We present the project coordination Romanian-Japanese Interculturality, written in Japan Danube Friendship, approved by Japanese Embassy, in the field of Distance learning. We identified the challenges facing the application of Distance learning in education, studied the inter-relationship of social networks and we have coordinated some educational books. For example, *Haiku Solidarity Book*, Constanta, 2012, was inspired by the earthquake in the 11th March and its effect. We decided to published students works and their mentors as a sign of solidarity. These (inter)national experiences are examples of good distance learning, offering creative prospective visions to develop the system of international project. We plead for passing from the mono culture to the inter one (M. Rey). European values will lose their special situation of universal norms accepted officially; they will enter the local spiritual creations regim. The Occidental value, if it doesn't want to provincialize, will be obliged to establish the dialogue with the other ex-centric cultures, for instance the Oriental ones

Descriptors: *interculturality, poetic interference, the human values, international cultural experience, distance learning*

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POETIC INTERFERENCE .1 THE EDUCATIONAL PROJECT WITH ARTISTIC-CULTURAL IMPACT: ROMANIA-JAPAN INTERCULTURALITY

Romania-Japan Interculturality Project was initiated and coordinated by *The Haiku Society* in Constantza, (represented by Prof. Aurica Vaceanu, Ph. D. Anastasia Dumitru, Alexandra Flora Munteanu), in partnership with the School District Inspectorship Constantza, Romania, indirect with the Education Ministry, educational institutions registered with activities (Kindergardens, Gymnasiums, Lycees, Colleges, Art and Crafts Schools, School Groups, School Libraries, Universities), Cultural Centers, Public Libraries and Museums.

The first step in project formation was the information and its dissemination towards cultural and educational local and national institutions, representatives of the local community, media, including The Japan Embassy in Bucharest, about the aim and development modality of this ample procedure. In this respect I came into direct touch with **Seiko Takesono**, cultural representative and the Third Secretary of the Embassy, through Cristina Panaite. Miss Seiko Takesono offered us the promoting materials for the Japan image in Romania, over 300 reviews and pictures, which were distributed to every implied institution in the project. The second step was constituted by the signature and rolling of the partnerships with the institutions which accepted the place on the agenda. Through the E-mail or simply mail data about activities were communicated, participants (pupils, teachers, manager of the institutions, parents, persons of the local community, coordinators), modalities, work techniques and methods, finalities, which we ordered in the project calendar, for the correct monitorizing of the events and proposed activities.

The beneficiaries of this project are: small children, pupils, students, teachers`staff, parents, educators, men of culture, editors of reviews and books, Japanese art, culture and traditions admirers. Informing the Embassy about the initiation of this project, in Constantza, we received a letter (20th January 2009) signed by Mr. **Yoshinobu Higashi**, Extraordinary and Plenipotential Ambassador of Japan in Romania, through which we were communicated it would be included in the series of manifestations organized under the egida „Japan-Danube-Friendship Year 2009”, offering us the possibility to use the official logos of the events. The project has as an aim the Japanese art, culture and traditions promoting together with the Romanian ones, especially the Japanese lyrics and the visual arts (haiku-haiga). The educational and cultural-artistic activities developed consisting in readings, origami workshops, haiku-haiga and renku ones, demonstrations of ikebana, tea ceremony, exhibitions, shows (Japanese songs and dances, Japanese and European lyrical recitals, Japanese costume parade, Romanian traditional dances and costumes, exercises of Martial Art - the group Aikido, Constantza); haiku-haiga contest, demonstrative lessons, in the haiku optional/ methodic- interdisciplinarity activity (recital haiku-dance-music-graphics), with 15 music teachers, from Constantza District (30th October 2009); ginko trips; **Haiku Festival**, with international participation, on 22th-27th May, and the **National Colloquium**, on 4th-5th September 2009.

As finalities of this project: portfolios, exhibitions, CD-es, the editing of numbers 12/13 Albatross Magazine, 2009; The Calendar with haiku by dr. Ion Codrescu`s pupils awarded in Japan 2008; the publication of the Anthology Budding (haiku – pupils, into Romanian, English, French), of the literary circle Buds - The Theoretic Lycee „Lucian Blaga”, in Constantza; „The Song of the Lyre” (aphorismes, haiku, haibun, in Romanian, English) and *Critical Essayes*, A



Pleading for values, Returning to the nature, author prof. drd. Anastasia Dumitru.

In the project over 166 activities were developed, were implied over 5712 pupils and over 474 teachers, parents 289, 14 local community and 13 educational inspectors every unit having one or more ones, but everyone being unique through intention and achievement. So pupils, managers, teachers, local community, and parents were open to development of this project with self-daniel, they understood that project like an educational alternative, on cultural interknowledge with interdisciplines character (music, literature, painting, graphic, dance), because it was an opportunity to use the computer, to exercise foreign languages and discover and promote new yang talents, too.

For these special events *The Haiku Society* awarded with diplomas offered as sponsoring on the part of the schooling review „Cutezătorii” and „Spiru Haret” University-Constantza Center, teachers, project coordinators of the pupils implied in the project. Didactic portfolios were offered by Constantza Haiku Society with info materials of 100 pages. The project promoting was made through the local, national and international TV, Radio Romania Cultural, literary reviews, through www.romanian.kukai (Bucharest) and WWW.forumprofesori.ro teachers (Constantza), by *The Association for Promotion and Development of Littoral-Turism* (Constantza) wich offered us informative materials (mapes, prospectus about Constantza district, Danube Delta and of all Romania, too. Last: *The First Symposion of the Philology Sciences Society* of the „Ovidius” University (Constantza, 5th December 2009), theme: The text-organization, argument, interpretation teachers: Aurica Văceanu, Drd. Anastasia Dumitru, Drd. Alexandra Flora Munteanu: *Haiku – Haiga, an interdisciplinary domain*.



For 2010, we have included: The *Albatross Magazine* Nr.14 editing, the realization of a book comprising the *Romania-Japan Interculturality* project; the *Optional haiku class*, the pupils' haiku anthology and the foundation of *The International Association of the Teachers teaching haiku-haiga*, in Constantza.

2. „LUCIAN BLAGA” HIGHSCHOOL MEMBER IN INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL PARTENERSHIP INTERCULTURALITY ROMANIA-JAPAN

The activities within the project - *Romanian-Japanese Intercultural Relationship* had their debut at our highschool, in November 2008, under the main title *Initiation into Haiku*. Twenty-five students from 5th to 12th grades, members of the literary circle *Muguri (The Buds)*, all were fascinated by the lyricism of the Japanese poetry and the interdisciplinary connection Haiku-Haiga. The students had the opportunity to see some Power Point presentations and learnt about the writing techniques of this unique genre; they recited and discussed with the writers. At the end, being prompted with a starting line, they succeeded in creating their own poems, praised by the two guests.

Another interesting activity took place on May 27th 2009, when the members of the circle *Muguri*, enjoyed the presence of two guests: teacher Aurica Văceanu and the professor Irina Kogan, from Samara, Russia. For two hours, students and guests had been discussed about the importance of extensive reading, about speaking an international language, about haiku, in general, and its writing techniques, in particular. The students recited poems, they translated the Russian students' haikus into Romanian via English, and proved themselves creative as they produced some haikus of their own starting from a given line. Their literary productions were highly appraised by the two guests.



The students were delighted with this unique experience: „It’s the first time we have spoken English with a foreigner at a round table,” said Miruna Bancu, a 12 years old student. „It’s wonderful for us to express our thoughts by reading our own haikus,” said another student, Francisca Iancu, the winner of the 3rd place in the National Contest of Haiku, Slobozia, 2009.

Two other major cultural events took place, as well, within the same project: The International Festival of Haiku in May 2009 and the National Colloquium in September 2009, which our students attended. The Festival started at *Andrei Saguna University*, in Constantza, and then, during the same day, a special performance took place at *Regina Maria Art College*, a genuine syncretism of arts and Romanian-Japanese lyrical touches, where many young artists had been performing for three hours. The festival continued next day at the *Art Museum of Constantza* and later in the afternoon at *Spiru Haret University*, where were held conferences, debates, book presentations. The guests were writers not only from Romania, but also from Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Germany, France, India, Ireland, Italy, Scotland, Serbia, SUA(Zinovy Vayman), Sweden, Hungary, Russia (Irina Kogan from The University of Samara).

The project- *Romanian-Japanese Intercultural Relationship* - will end up at our school with a demonstrative lesson of the optional course of Haiku, a good opportunity to assess the activities of the project. Named after one of the most valuable Romanian poets, it has been a tradition for *Lucian Blaga Highschool* to house cultural events. Many personalities were invited to celebrate the book and the author. The beginning was the Educational Project „Following Eminescu’s Steps”, in 2000, when it was 150 years since the poet’s birth. On that occasion were organised contests of literary creation and painting and demonstrative lessons.



In 2001 the project „Following L. Blaga’s Steps” had its debut when students from *L. Blaga Highschool of Sebes* came here to discuss with our students about the poet’s work. In our turn, we visited the picturesque places of Lancram, the memorial house, our study trip ending up with a session of scientific communications during the Highschool’s Days, 5-9th of May. Then came next the Educational Project „Literature and other Arts” when a partnership with *I. N Roman Local Library* was initiated. It was a good opportunity to combine arts: literature, drawing, music, photography and film. The artistic outcome of this project were two children’s books, made in colaboration with our students under the coordonation of the teacher Anastasia Dumitru: *Be smart: Read , Count and Colour*, „Neliniști metafizice”, Constanța, 2006 and *Let’s go with Santa*, ed. Europolis, Constanța, 2006, the latter won the 3rd prize at the international contest „Winter Night’s Dream”, 2008, Bistrita-Nasaud.

Between 23th and 28th of March the members of the literary circle *Muguri* were invited at the Festival „Poets’ Spring”, a cultural event organised by The Writers’ Union of Romania (Branch of Dobrogea) with which L. Blaga Highschool has a partnership. Student Alina Iuliana Georgescu confessed: „We enjoyed being present at this celebration of poetry. It was an unforgettable experience and we were honoured to be in the proximity of writers of Dobrogea. Thus the meaning of poetry was revealed to us.”

We also had a demonstrative lesson in April 2009, on The World’s Day of Poetry, coordinator teacher Anastasia Dumitru, when our guest was Mrs Guner Akmolla, the director of the magazine *Emel*. Here are a few opinions of the 8th grade students: „It’s been a day when we learnt many things, especially about haiku, from the best haiku makers. We felt joy and enthusiasm. I’ve become more sensitive and apprehensive of the beautiful”, said Ioana Avarvare, Lois Cristina Bontaș added „I truly felt the poetry, we expressed



ourselves through poetry, art can really turn us into more sensitive and apprehensive people, it can broaden our horizon of knowledge, understanding and imagination. What impressed me most was Mrs Guner's translation of Blaga's poetry into Tartar". By these benchmarks, we believe that our circle goals: fostering creativity and sensitivity to artistic beautiful, nurturing reading, independent thinking, critical reflection and the perception literature are made.

3. INTERNATIONAL HAIKU-HAIGA ANTHOLOGY DEDICATED TO 11TH MARCH 2011 FUKUSHIMA EVENT – JAPAN.

In 2012 we published the anthology *Solidaritate prin haiku/Haiku solidarity*, **INTERNATIONAL HAIKU-HAIGA ANTHOLOGY DEDICATED TO 11TH MARCH 2011 FUKUSHIMA EVENT – JAPAN; 90 YEARS OF DIPLOMATIQUES RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ROMANIA AND JAPAN**, Ex Ponto Publishing House, Constanta Romania, 2012.

This anthology was born at prof. dr. docent **Irina I.Kogan** proposal. She is from the University of „Nayanova Samara Rusia, at the end of the haiku festival”Haiku in Education,” developed in Constanța, Romania, between 27th-31st May, 2011 The preliminary talks referred to haiku, haiga or photo-haiku publications inspired by the earthquake in 11th March and its effects. We decided to publish kindergarden children, pupils, their mentors and well known authors as well.

Because such work implies a special effort especially a voluntarian one, we got a reply as a result of our announcement on line and on mail who wants to be our partner in the project: educators, teachers, pupils, and writers in the country and abroad. We decided the anthology will be bilingual: native language, English and Romanian.



The book comprises creations of the authors from 13 countries: Canada, Croatia, France, Germany, UK, Japan, Philippines, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovene, USA, Hungary. We retain only three haiku for each author and a CV of 5-6 lines. We tried to offer a page for every author or 2-3 texts where it is the case. We thank everybody who understood our intention as a sign of solidarity. with pupils, teachers, and Japanese writers.

This is a cultural-educational project and was coordinated by: Irina I.Kogan (Samara, Russia), Dejan Bogojević (Valjevo - Serbia), Jože Stučin and Daša Furlan (Tolmin, Slovenia), Pearl Elisabeth May (Bursledon, UK), Anastasia Dumitru, Mirela Savin, Nastasia Savin, Alexandra Flora Munteanu, Florea Mirela, Mariana Sârbu, Georgeta Zaifu, Fănica Cornăţeanu, Marilena Toxin, Virginia Baltag, Ioana Ghiban, Viorica Marin, Aurica Văceanu (Constanța România).

For example, a 9 years old pupil, Andrei Dumitru, from *Lucian Blaga* High School, Constantza, member of literary circle Buds wrote his Haiku solidarity like that: „the planet sighs -/ God is the only liberation/ open its way!”; „In Japan/ one wave -/ so much suffering”; „Life lightning/ over the Japonisse/ let us help them”; „Dog in pain - / waiting his master -/ only groans”; „Great deluge -/life is lost/ where's light?”; „In Japan/ sobbing people/ seek rescue.”

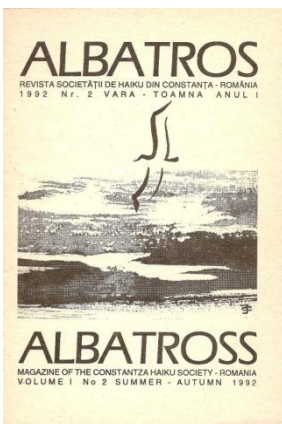
Maragarita Antonova, aged 13, from Russia, wrote: „Tiny people/ trying to escape/ among the wreckage”. Elena Vlasova aged 14, from Russia, *Dreams about Japan*: „In my childhood I have been involved in the literary game "Dreams about Japan". We competed in teams showing our knowledge of the culture of this country, its customs, and most importantly – we competed in the ability to write haiku. We represented ourselves as Japanese: we struck the arrows on the eyes, attached two sticks - antennas into the hair - in order to



understand better, we took out from mother's cabinets silk robes, kimono-like, stretched the shale over the white socks and powdered our faces in such a way that resembled the patients with a single sign of the disease - the love of this mysterious country. Its image is drawn to me in gentle pastel colors. Here the features of the smallest cozy cottages appear, lovingly surrounded by stone gardens. On the bench a little grandson is sitting and reading slowly a haiku by Bashô to his grandmother. "<...> A splash in silence ..." - A frog jumped into the water. The wind carries the spring sakura blossom scent, picked up on the way the dying song gakubivy. At that time in the fourth grade, I was surprised by the ratio of Japanese to the nature, I was fascinated by their sense of responsibility to all living. Now it is understanding, more awareness of things around you and thanks for that piece of the world, which was formed inside each of us, when we became acquainted with the culture of the country of Rising Sun. I never dreamed of Japan.”

4. ABOUT CONSTANTZA HAIKU SOCIETY AND ALBATROSS HAIKU MAGAZINE

In a city by the sea, on 18th January, 1992, a nonprofit Cultural Association The Constantza Haiku Society was founded by Ion Codrescu, doctor in Fine Arts, the President together some enthusiastic literature and culture, some occasional poets together with members of the Romanian Writers` Association. In the mean time Albatross, the cultural review, in which the haiku literary phenomenon is illustrated: creations, critical, theoretical, and aesthetic essays, Romanian and authors from all over the world. The review does not address only the interested





Romanian readers, but those from abroad also, having two series in publication: the first between 1992-2001, and the second one from 2003-up to now. Having as chief editor, teacher dr. in Fine Arts Ion Codrescu, in the first series and being a bilingual review, (Romanian-English), the numbers until 1999, had the English translation by Mihaela Codrescu. Consultants and advisers of English, native speakers, ensured the quality of translation: Antony Jones, Margaret Simmons M.A. Fulbright Lecturer and Tricia Walter (USA). The issues published after 2003 had the translation ensured by Alexandra Flora Munteanu, and as an adviser Angelee Deodhar of India and Onorina Grecu of Constantza. From the beginning we established the direct contact with the necessary pieces of information about the Japanese aesthetic values, through English and other foreign languages.

A permanent correspondence with Romanian and authors from abroad ensured the review with valuable articles, by Mr. Radu Patrichi, vice president of Constantza Haiku Society. They organized the lyrical texts by seasons in accordance with the Japanese tradition, but also 4 numbers per year, then two for financial reasons. If the numbers from the first series had sponsors through Ion Codrescu`s efforts. In the second series the review had as sponsors the members of the Constantza Haiku Society, in their country and from abroad, through the annual contribution. They appeared at the Publishing Houses: Muntenia, Europolis, Leda, and Ex Ponto (Constanța).

In the pages of the review the dictionaries of specific lyrical terms of haiku were published. Then other species were approached : tanka, tanrenga, renku, haibun or even hybrid species: haiga (imagine and haiku text), hashin (photo imagine and haiku), rengay. Together with the creations of the Japanese classics: Matsuo Bashō, Issa, Buson, Shiki and modern theorists: Ban`ya Natuishi, Susumu Takiguchi, Tadashi Kondo (Japan) near R.H.Blyth, William J.Higginson,



Earl Miner (USA) David Cobb (UK). As practitioners, experimenting with the introduction in the educational system the haiku teaching of some art elements, culture and Japanese civilization I want to name: Angelee Deodhar (India), Suncica Samec, Visjna McMaster, Zrinka Simunovic (Croatia), Richard Schnell Seattle, s' University and Zinovy Vayman (USA, Dejan Bogojević (Serbia), Șerban Codrin, Ion Roșioru, Ioan and Doina Găbudean, Gabriela Gențiana Groza, Olga Duțu, Alexandra Flora Munteanu, Anastasia Dumitru, Gina Barbu, Doina Misian, Loretta Băluță Lorintz, Ina Burduță, Felicia Jipescu, Anișoara Iordache, Victoria Fătu Nalațiu, Georgeta Zaifu, Mariana Sîrbu, Fănica Cornățeanu, Anca Cristina Popescu. Some of the foreign ones participated in the festivals organized by the Haiku Society, in Constanța.

About our projects: to found in Constantza a Haiku International Teachers Association (Irina I. Kogan, dr.doc. of Samara „Nayanova” University from Russia- was her proposal at 2009 haiku festival in Constantza), with Education, Cultural and Departements; the continuation to publish of Albatross as book or on line, and to realize a cours Interculturality (in Constantza live Romanian, Turckish, Aromania/Macedonian, Russian, Italian, Magyar and Polish Rroms peoples) for the Romanian teachers (Romanian and mother tongues, moderne languages, fine art, librarians, students too, and many others, by a local foundation „Alumni”. We have a support cours Interculturality and interdisciplinarity in education–methodic guide, by Anastasia Dumitru and Aura Vaceanu, May 2010, University Publish House from Bucharest, Romania; a haiku anthology of Romanian and Russian pupils by Laura Văceanu and Irina I. Kogan.



5. INMUGURIRI (Burgeoning).Antology of micropoems.



The antology of literary texts „Inmuguriri”(Burgeoning) is the result of the project called Romanian-Japanese Intercultural Relationship, an event brought about by the celebration of 50 years from the resumption of the diplomatic relationships between Romania and Japan (September 1959-2009), event included in the cultural programme – Japan Danube Friendship-

2009. L. Blaga Highschool, Constantza, has been a partener in this international project, (see the article Lucian Blaga Highschool , Constantza, Haiku as a bridge between two cultures , issued in Albatros, the magazine of The Haiku Society, Vol VI, nr. 10/11 2-2007/1-2008) , Year VI.

The purpose of this project made in colaboration with 50 schools from Constantza and not only was the promotion of Japanese lyrical species (haiku, haiga, renga/renku), as well as origami, ikebana and an optional course being attended by class 6th B, whose teacher, Anastasia Dumitru, is the author of this anthology. The Haiku Society of Constantza, founded in January 18th 1992, along with its magazine The Albatros, appreciated by both the Romanians and foreigners and the Romanian Haiku Society of Bucharest got involved into international events (such as festivals: 1992, 1994, 2005; the first congress).This cultural enviroment and students' passion for Japanese poetry lead to the idea of an optional course of haiku and of this anthology.



We watered the buds with morning dew, we sprayed them with rainbow light. Now they are in full bloom—Înmuguriri (Burgeoning). We hope their scent will refresh your souls. We hope that all these activities have been and will be useful and that extensive reading will not become an extinct hobby. We will continue our cultural activities at Lucian Blaga Highschool, under the patronage of Blaga, since the man is a being „who apprehends the mysteries and is trying to reveal them”. Culture is not a soliloquy, we must accept to have a dialogue. „The nations’ monologue must be turned into an international dialogue” was the conclusion of the International Writers Festival „Days and Nights of Literature”, 2009 edition, Neptun. To sum up, I consider that, through all these cultural activities, mentioned above, in which we got involved together with our students, we have promoted and encouraged the dialogue among cultures across Europe, a genuine intercultural dialogue. Freshness impressive images, tenderness of feeling and mastery of rules typical for the poems that won the world. Our educational approach completes and continues the local tradition of looking for new challenge under the main titles Imagine. Create. Innovate, enrolling for the calendar of the European Year of Creativity and Innovation, 2009.

We used some methods and teaching strategies in our project, conducted in collaboration with 50 schools in Constanta, across the country to promote lyrical species. We demonstrate that the project represents a teaching alternative education, with a formative and application role. We present our results - editing anthologies of haiku, Budding, (in Romanian, in English and French), including students’ poems. We tried a trans-disciplinary approach to literary texts, we worked with teachers of foreign languages, but also with other teachers to provide graphic arts.



Thus, the application is the text, seen not only as cultural discourse, but also as a picture - Haiga. In conclusion, we believe that all these cultural activities, by conducting educational partnerships through active participation in festivals (inter)national promote intercultural authentic dialogue. We are convinced that the educational projects is a good framework for deepening research and literary texts, approach multicultural education, intercultural and transcultural. We intended to offer practical suggestions, exercises applied, necessary in modernization and upgrading of teaching, useful methods for teachers and students interested in successful exploration and production of literary texts.

European values will lose their special situation of universal norms accepted officially; they will enter the local spiritual creations regim. The Occidental value, if it doesn't want to provincialize, will be obliged to establish the dialogue with the other ex-centric cultures, for instance the Oriental ones.

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