

**LANGUE(S) MATERNELLE(S) ET IDENTITE(S) (DE)COMPOSEE(S) –
DEPUIS OVIDE JUSQU'A NOS JOURS**

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***Abstract:** This article begins by examining Ovid's experience in exile at the Pontus Euxinus – the experience of giving up his mother tongue, Latin, in favour of learning the Getic and the Sarmatian languages – in order to discuss the way in which modern-day students who migrate for educational purposes perceive their native language. Based on extracts from interviews with foreign students enrolled in the preparatory language year course at Ovidius University of Constanța, this paper will scrutinize the different ways of defining the first language (the language spoken by one's mother, the language of first socialization, the language of family, the language of religion, the language spoken in the country of origin etc.) as well as its relations to various foreign languages used by students. Romanian as the language of the host country and English as an international language represent the main elements of the linguistic repertoire of the students which are taken into consideration. The analysis of the way in which the students perceive their native language and foreign languages facilitates their process of integration into a foreign and often hostile cultural, social and linguistic environment, assimilable to exile.*