

**REPRESENTATIONS OF CULTURE IN THE ECoC
A CORPUS-BASED APPROACH**

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***Abstract:** This paper aims to analyse the different representations of culture emerging from the European Capitals of Culture (ECoC) corpus. A second aim is to see the multiple ways in which culture is represented by the Romanian proponents of the ECoC bids. The theory we resorted to is cognitive linguistics as fostered by Lakoff and Johnson, and the method we applied is corpus-based. Our analysis relies on the ECoC corpus; more specifically, we quantitatively and qualitatively analysed the collocations pertaining to culture and the conceptual metaphors retrieved from the corpus. In our analysis, the metaphorical and non-metaphorical representations of culture emerging from the ECoC corpus reveal how the proponents of the bids perceive culture.*

***Keywords:** culture, corpus linguistics, conceptual metaphor theory, cognitive linguistics.*