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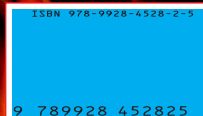
# The "CROSS-INTER-MULTI-TRANS-" disciplinarit(ies) of English Studies

5th ASSE International Conference on British and American Studies

Organized in collaboration with the University of Vlorë "Ismail Qemali", Vlorë,  
Albania

6-8 June 2019, Vlorë, Albania

## BOOK OF ABSTRACTS



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## KEYNOTE SPEECHES

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### **Practising the Humanities at Times of Crisis**

The 21st century has presented the world with a whole set of new challenges that are already rapidly transforming our societies. The global security crisis, which started with the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the global economic crisis of 2007-2008, or the 2015 migration crisis, the Brexit vote and Trump's election in 2016 all belong to this new chapter in human history. Significantly for the humanities, or academia in general, these events have also undermined our late 20th century narratives about the end of history, the global victory of democracy and neoliberal capitalism, or our faith in progress. The rapid discrediting of our 20th century theories and narratives created a political vacuum (with a set of populists ready to take advantage of it), but it has also produced an intellectual vacuum, a crisis of knowledge. When one regards the worrying events and prospects of the new century, one realises the new urgency and responsibility that intellectuals have to stand up for at such a time of crisis. The world's leading intellectuals seem to agree that political science, economy and sociology must all come up with new models for these new times, which are bound to break with some of their 20th century axioms.

What is the role of the humanities in this quickly transforming socio-cultural landscape? What are the specifically 21st century challenges and responsibilities facing us? Will these events further contribute to the gradual shrinking of the humanities? While exploring such questions, in my lecture I will argue that the humanities have a very special part to play today as well as in the forthcoming decades. There are several signs that the humanities, against all previous expectations, may have a crucial role in the 21st century reshaping of our societies. However, to achieve that, the ways we practise the humanities must also change.

*Keywords: humanities, 21st century, societies*

**Cristina Dimulescu,**  
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### **The Mechanism of Implicature and Inference as Influenced by Primary Stimuli**

This paper attempts at explaining language as a process of meaning creation by a speaker (implicature) and meaning disambiguation by a hearer (inference) at the basis of which there is a complex mechanism of reality perception, internalization and verbalization. This mechanism of implicature/inference is studied from two interconnecting perspectives: Conversation Analysis and Neuro Linguistic Programming. While the former investigates the function of the utterance in context, the latter explores the way speakers and hearers internalize

reality depending on how they see, hear and feel the world around them.

*Keywords: implicature, inference, Conversation Analysis, Neuro Linguistic Programming*



## PARALLEL SESSIONS

### AMERICAN LITERATURE

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#### ***The Fugitive Kind* (1959): A Film Portrayal of Tennessee Williams's South**

The paper examines the transformation of Tennessee Williams's play *Orpheus Descending* (1957), into a film medium. *The Fugitive Kind* (1959), a film adaptation by Sidney Lumet, is analysed in light of recent theory on adaptation as *intertextual dialogism* and film as a collaborative process by which the literary original is filtered through the vision of the film director and other filmmakers who, each in their own way, adapt literary work. The paper shows how the profitable material of the most popular American playwright of the fifties (a realistic portrayal of the victory of brutality in the South) was transformed into a demystified reading of the myth of Orpheus in which we find the "echo" of the themes typical of the director's opus dominated by male protagonists. The collaborative work on the script, the distinctive dark tone of the film created by the director of photography Boris Kaufman, as well as the actors' personae (Marlon Brando and Anna Magnani), which form an integral part of the film's intertextuality, further

complicate the question of authorship, which all points to the conclusion that the film should be interpreted and evaluated as an autonomous work of art and not just as a replica of the literary source.

*Keywords: play, film, adaptation, authorship, intertext*

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**The Phenomenology of “Ugliness”: Facial Disfigurement and Female Embodiment in *Autobiography of a Face* by Lucy Grealy**

Lucy Grealy’s lyrical memoir (1994) narrates the author’s struggle with childhood disease and a lifetime of disability: at the age of nine, she was diagnosed with Ewing’s sarcoma, a rare form of bone cancer, as a result of which she lost half her jaw and had to undergo chemotherapy and radiation. Over the next twenty years, Grealy had a series of plastic surgeries to (re)construct her face. Her life-writing is not only her own pathography, though: *Autobiography of a Face* also offers a scathing social diagnosis of the beauty regimes women have to cope with on an everyday basis. The autobiography captures the joint experience of how the creative mind of a budding poet and the sexualized body of a shy young woman are viewed through the medical gaze of her various doctors, on the one hand, and the male gaze of her school environment, on the other. Grealy’s harrowing representation of what the narrator identifies as “deep

bottomless grief...called ugliness” makes the volume a unique study of disability and gender studies, the double foci of the present paper. By a joint focus on disability and gender studies, the paper relies on Rosemarie Garland Thomson’s insights in concerning the dodgy boundary between ‘disabled’ and ‘nondisabled’ women and the difference between the gaze and the stare. The paper aims to examine the narrator’s experience of her own embodiment through the discourses of medicine and sexuality, primarily the representation of her own and others’ views of her face.

*Key words: autobiography, Lucy Grealy, male gaze*

## APPLIED LINGUISTICS

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### Group Names in Ethnic Slurs

The slang of ethnic abuse is a rich source of information about the collective self and cultural differences of human communities. Often derogatory, it displays the past and present of social relations of a country and sometimes its terms go to everyday speech and gain a place in the wider linguistic use. Reflecting the prejudice in cultural history, the purpose of an ethnic epithet is to insult and to control the behaviour of the minority group

to gain social status or to influence the values of society. Manifested in hate speech, neutral mentioning, humorous and unaware uses, ethnic slurs have become a main object of applied linguistics or interdisciplinary research.

Ethnic slurs are based on race, nationality, gender, cultural and social differences and occur in language in a variety of forms such as derisive nicknames for groups, metaphors or ethnicons and ethnic jokes. English-speaking nations created names and nicknames for all the groups they had contact or economic and cultural conflict and even created ethnic slurs about themselves. British English slurs are aimed most frequently at European nations or Chinese, African and Asian people of the former British Empire. American English slurs reflect the multicultural structure of American society; almost every group invented and used slurs for others although they are mainly aimed at blacks, Jews, the Irish, Italians, Mexicans, Chinese and some white Protestant groups. Among these, proper names of groups are often used in a variety of forms to express cultural, social and economic conflict among ethnic groups.

*Keywords: ethnic slur, derogatory, ethnic conflict, proper name*

## BRITISH AND COMMONWEALTH LITERATURE

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**“The secrets of my prison house” (*Hamlet*, I, 5):  
Refashioning Prisons and Imprisonment in  
Shakespeare’s *Hamlet* – Manga-Style**

Manga – one of the Japanese cultural products – has undergone, over the past 20 years or so, a process of domestication, particularly in the Anglo-American context (cf. Brienza 2016). As a result of this sociological and cultural phenomenon, manga has been used to address issues of almost all areas of public life, including the reinterpretation of highbrow literature like William Shakespeare’s plays. For instance, the British Manga Shakespeare series (published by SelfMadeHero) has enjoyed tremendous success among youngsters and teachers alike, allowing for a ‘friendlier’ introduction to Shakespeare’s multilayered, very dense texts.

Of the Shakespearean canon, *Hamlet* has long been appreciated by scholars as fundamentally philosophical, touching on issues like identity, agency, and responsibility. Closely related to these is the imagery of prison and imprisonment, mentioned or instantiated by several characters throughout the play. This paper aims to discuss such references to prisons and imprisonment in the manga transmediation of Shakespeare’s *Hamlet*. Set in a futuristic world of cyborgs, *Manga Hamlet* exploits the modern world’s (over)reliance on technology not only for instant communication but also for the constant surveillance of others.

Focusing on the complementarity between text and image and revisiting the theories postulated by Donna

Harraway and Michel Foucault, I will discuss the transmediation's visual and metaphorical imprisonments, contending that the intersemiotic translation re-encodes differently the play's somber atmosphere in lighter or even darker frames, yet always under someone's watchful eyes.

*Keywords: identit(ies) in the making, spiritual quest, 1970s*

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### **Frankenstein's Intellectual Labyrinth: Folds in the House of Knowledge**

Before embarking on telling the story of his life, Victor Frankenstein formulates the moral that his listener – Robert Walton – and, by implication, the readers might derive from it: “You seek for knowledge and wisdom, as I once did; and I ardently hope that the gratification of your wishes may not be a serpent to sting you, as mine has been.” This cautionary statement, which foregrounds hubristic intellectual aspiration as toxic evil (“a serpent to sting you”) has been deposited in the public consciousness as the kernel of Mary Shelley's narrative. In my talk, I will focus on what I find a more intriguing angle: the labyrinthine intellectual etiology of Frankenstein's act of hubris. His decision to make/create a human being out of inorganic matter is preceded by consecutive affiliations with and resistances to different

epistemological attitudes. To explore this economy, I will use Deleuze's concept of the fold.

*Keywords: act of hubris, Deleuze, Frankenstein*

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**Mocking Depiction of Corrupt Politicians: Magical Realism  
as a Means of Political Satire in Ngugi Wa Thiango's  
*Wizard of the Crow***

Although initially the freedom from colonisers was a matter of joy for the Africans, it soon gave place to despair. The change in the power did not bring the change the Africans had long been longing for. Corruption, snobbery and other evil practices of the postcolonial government, which equated them with the colonisers, left the people more and more frustrated. Understanding this, writers like Ngugi Wa Thiango soon turned towards a mode of writing, which I propose to be magical realism, by which they could satirize the political condition and thus could express their annoyance and dissatisfaction.

The presentation deals with Ngugi Wa Thiango's *Wizard of the Crow* and show how the author blends the realistic and the supernatural to satirize the absurdities of characters holding political ambitions. It is through introducing the supernatural in a realistic setting that he is able to depict his character buffoonish and ridiculous

who are behaving in a weird manner. The novel is set in a fictional country which is ruled by corrupt and morally sick politicians, and thus creates a sort of dystopia. Much like many of the nations of the time of its publication, the corrupt politicians in the novel are shown to make state policies and invite foreign delegates only to amass wealth. In order to highlight mental evil and the lust for power of the ministers, the author portrays the characters with physical deformity and thus produces an image of the grotesque. Last but not least, the author also uses scatological words and olfactory imagery which are associated with corruption and moral degeneration.

*Keywords: scatological words, olfactory images, grotesque, magical realism, corruption*

## CULTURAL STUDIES

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### **Metaphorizing the EU Membership: A Study on the Romanian Young People's Perceptions of the European Identity**

The starting point of the present study is represented by the information offered by 50 students in English at the West University of Timisoara, Romania, in the context of a



small-scale survey meant to identify their preliminary knowledge and their expectations at the beginning of a course on EU Institutions. More specifically, the focus will be on the metaphors used by Romanian young people when expressing their perceptions of the European identity and when explaining the manner in which Romania's European membership affects their everyday life. In accordance with the principles of cognitive linguistics, which argue that metaphorical language use is a reflection of the way people think, the author considers that the metaphors thus identified are not only relevant for the Romanian young people's attitudes towards the present social and political realities, but they can also guide teachers in their role as shapers of their students' European identity.

*Keywords: European identity, European membership, Romania*

## DISCOURSE ANALYSIS/PRAGMATICS

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**Social Advertising as a Mechanism for Managing Public  
Opinion**

The paper is meant to explore the phenomenon of non-commercial advertising communication as a tool for constructing a certain social reality and broadcasting cultural-specific values.

Advertising discourse as an institutional formation contains the characteristics of the culture in which it is created and functions. In fact, every advertising message broadcasts information about the axiological significance of certain objects, phenomena and situations of reality, and also demonstrates the relevant moral, ethical and ideological guidelines of society.

A special role in the production and dissemination of spiritual, aesthetic, moral, civil and other values shared by various social groups belongs to the social advertising discourse. Social advertising communication in the widest sense is communication, focused on drawing attention to topical issues of society and socially significant values. The presence of such a specific pragmatic task allows us to consider social advertising as a means of reflecting value priorities and a system of value relations in society.

The subject of this study is the identification of American and Belarusian value orientations, i.e. specific phenomena of both material and spiritual nature that have a positive significance for the individual or society as a whole. Particular attention is paid to the type specificity, repertoire and intensity of actualization of concrete values, as well as the linguistic means of their implementation. As a result, the social role of advertising communication is determined and the dominant and peripheral values of each of the linguistic communities are identified.

**Keywords:** *social advertising discourse, axiological focus, cultural-specific values and orientations, pragmatics*

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### **Joke Patterns and Structures**

Studies on humour and what makes people laugh are countless. The aim of the present study is to reveal some linguistic structures of jokes in a sociocultural context.

There is an obvious analogy which exists between language and laughter, i.e. the fact that both are human universals.

The socio-cultural context in which jokes are produced and received is essential in understanding the source of humour. The joke is an element that disrupts systemic organization, be it rational, logical, moral or linguistic. Correct transmission of the humorous message through the joke depends on the psychical and social experience and the linguistic competence of those involved in making and accepting it. The most common structures are exemplified by representative jokes, examining the universal and the specific elements of a particular culture. Understanding jokes has social value because laughing with someone is a sign of acceptance.

**Keywords:** *humour, joke structure, reception*

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## **Hedging Political Stance in Presidential Debates**

This paper discusses the use of interactional resources hedges in Romney's discourse in 2012 presidential debates. These linguistic devices are arguably employed extensively not only to project oneself into discourse but also to involve the audience in the dialogic and interactional process of persuasion. This appears to be particularly the case in political argumentation, which was my initial hypothesis and which was also confirmed in the empirical analysis of the candidate's discourse. The article begins with a short theoretical discussion of interactional resources and their features in (political) argumentation, continues with the analysis of numerous examples and with some general remarks on the presence of these interactional resources as well as their effects in/from Romney's discourse. It ends with some tentative conclusions and observations about potential future research.

*Keywords:* *interactional resources, dialogic interaction, persuasion, argumentation*

## **FILM STUDIES**

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### **“Beavis and Butt-head”: Comic and Derogatory Portrayal of Arabs in *True Lies***

The film *True Lies*, directed by James Cameron, is a slick film perpetuating sick images of the Arabs as dirty, demonic, and despicable people. Stalking America, the Arabs plant nuclear bombs, detonating an atomic bomb in the Florida Keys. Cameron labels his terrorist group, ‘Crimson Jihad’. Crimson, meaning red, implies blood and Cameron misuses the word, Jihad, wrongly implying that jihad means violence. Arabs in the film are shown not only as dangerous but also as clumsy and funny in their activities.

My interest lies on how Arabs are portrayed in *True Lies*. In my presentation, I will show that in this film the Arab terrorists are constructed as emblems of a threatening and ethnicised east, contrasted with a law-abiding western protagonist — Harry. In the film, the Arabs are depicted in a humiliating manner; they are shown as mad, murdering machines, and blundering dullards. The depiction arises from America’s desire of social, cultural, and political domination over the east. I will show that the differences between Harry and the whole terrorist group actually refer to America’s desire to dominate the east and that this desire is deep rooted in American mentality. The media portrays the Arabs negatively and shapes people’s perception of them.

***Keywords:*** othering, orientalism, stereotyping, ethnicity

# INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION

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## Intercultural Linguistic Competence for Intercultural Intelligence

Nowadays global interconnectivity has made people of different ethnic backgrounds travel and work around the world.

A crucial step towards intercultural competence is cultural intelligence. It is very important that people acquire knowledge on how to become effective communicators and better global minds. The rising awareness of each-other's cultural influences eliminates intercultural communication stereotyping.

Because of these reasons, intercultural communication has become a must for any institutions and everyone equipped with intercultural communication skills enjoys immense personal and professional benefits.

Students, colleagues, employees of different ethnicity communicate effectively with one another if institutions have incorporated policies about intercultural communication. It also promotes diversity in the team, and it eliminates misunderstanding and dissatisfaction that may arise from cultural differences.

**Keywords:** *language, intercultural communication, cultural intelligence*

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## **Tackling Violence against Children in a Cross-cultural Setting**

Violence against children in Albania is widespread. Some forms of violence against children are justified by parents, teachers and children themselves as part of educating children & expression of parental responsibility. Violence is rooted in the role of fear in disciplining children, patriarchal & authoritative traditions and comes along the increasing domestic violence.

Save the Children's interventions (2009 – 2013, 2014-2015)) aimed at significantly reducing physical and psychological violence against children (age 3-15) at school/kindergarten as means of disciplining them. Though schools play an important role in protecting children from violence and abuse, the teachers quite often use violence in order to discipline children and/or improve their performance.

Factors that contributed to initiate such interventions were: 1. UN Report on violence against children (2006) & 2. Global trend to de-legitimizing the physical punishment (Durrant J – 2006)

Physical punishment is viewed as a risk to children's mental & physical health. While physical punishment can induce some short term compliance, this immediate gain

can come to at high long term cost. Physical punishment has been consistently associated with poorer mental health including depression (Csorba et al. 2001), unhappiness & anxiety (Eamon 2001) and feeling of hopelessness (Durant et al. 1994). Physical punishment consistently predicts increased levels of aggression & antisocial behaviour in children (Ulman & Straus 2003) Interventions took place in pilot schools and kindergartens located in unregulated settlements inhabited by recently internal migrant communities and ethnic/linguistic minorities (highly diversified in terms of culture).

The findings highlight the need to have a long term holistic approach in tackling violence against children through child rights lenses.

***Keywords:** violence against children, educational and cultural setting, holistic approach*

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### **Globalization and Culture: An Overview of Specific Aspects of This Interaction**

Globalization is a phenomenon which encompasses a range of trends and patterns in the social, economic and cultural life of the societies. It has affected all civilizations, all cultures and societies.

There have always been and will be concrete examples of the negative and positive effects of the impact of



globalization in the interconnection of the cultures among countries. Therefore, it is evident the fact that the cultural identity in a way or another is shifting its way from the territorial one due to the fact that the process of globalization itself is inevitable along with its bad and good sides.

This paper explores and brings into focus a range of social and life patterns already adopted by countries in this globalized world be that part of culinary, media, sport, film industry or even art. These fields have had a vast impact on shaping some kind of lifestyle and consequently making the people themselves recognizable or contributing to unification. However, globalization has also triggered the diminishing of local values and cultures which is quite evident among youngsters.

Through the qualitative and descriptive methodology in the paper, the concrete hints of this interaction bring a clearer view of the so called “unified world” demonstrated by the various life fields taken into consideration in this paper.

***Keywords:** globalization, cultural and social manners, global interactions*

## LINGUISTICS

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## On the plupluperfect

The paper investigates a little-known nonstandard verbal structure in English which has an additional *have* between the auxiliary *had* and the past participle main verb in the past perfect tense. Several grammarians, usage guide writers, and linguists have noted the construction's presence over the centuries, but very few in-depth studies have been written on the subject. The plupluperfect has generally been viewed as an error, and it has been called 'vulgar', 'informal', and 'nonstandard' among other blackening appellations. Its behaviour in context is observed through the use of several corpora, including the BNC and COCA, , COHA, the TV Corpus, the Movie Corpus, the Corpus of American Soap Operas, GloWbe, and CORE. The plupluperfect appears mainly in counterfactual contexts, especially after *if* and *wish*. It undergoes negation and inversion so that *had* behaves like a modal. Studies from very different branches of linguistics, namely from historical linguistics, corpus linguistics, sociolinguistics, and dialectology are brought together to explicate the plupluperfect's existence.

**Keywords:** *plupluperfect, nonstandard, historical linguistics, corpus linguistics, sociolinguistics*

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**Passives in English Legal Documents**

The aim of my paper is to analyse linguistically some documents belonging to the English legal genre, taking into consideration the view expressed by Hiltunen (1990:80) that the passive is the predominant voice in legal English.

The use of passive constructions is preferred to active voice in legal English, because the former are considered suitable for the objective, generic and impersonal character of this type of discourse. The analysis will unfold along two lines – quantitative and qualitative.

*Keywords: passivity, legal English, quantitative and qualitative analysis*

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### **Lexical blending as a result of English influence on word-formational processes in Slovene**

The paper discusses the emergence of lexical blends in modern Slovene, and compares this to the situation in modern English. From the word-formational point of view, blends are a recent phenomenon in Slovene as the language system has traditionally preferred other word-formational processes, particularly affixation. The general characteristics of blends in English and in Slovene are outlined and a classification of blends is proposed. The influence of the English language on the formation of such coinages in Slovene is discussed and the types of

texts in which blends tend to appear most frequently presented, i.e. marketing texts, children's literature, blogs and forums. A distinction is made between blends imported into Slovene from English and Slovene-made blends, with the latter type based on the already established word-formational process of juxtaposition. While noun blends prevail both in English and Slovene, the word-formational properties of the Slovene language system allow for further formation of corresponding verbal, adjectival, and adverbial blends by means of suffixation.

*Keywords:* Lexical blending, English, Slovene

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### **Metaphorical Expressions in Albanian and Serbian Ancient Law Collections**

Based on cognitive linguistics, the authors decided to investigate a particular sort of literature, two Balkan collections of laws: the Albanian *Kanuni i Skënderbeut* and the Serbian *Zakonik Cara Stefana Dušana*. In these texts metaphors and metonymies are reflected in some expressions containing the body-part terms for 'face', 'hand', and 'blood', Alb. *faqe*, Se. *lice*, Alb. *dorë*, Se. *ruka*,

and Alb. *gjak*, Se. *krv*. Comparison of the Serb and Albanian texts and the occurrences of the cognates *gjak* and *krv* ('blood'), *faqe* and *lice* ('face') and *dorë* and *ruka* ('hand') shows that, although differences occur, there are similarities.

*Keywords: metaphors, Cognitive Linguistics, Balkan languages*

## LITERARY STUDIES

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### The Talk of the Cities: The Children of Pallas Athena

The paper offers an analysis of the relationship between the "city" and the "flâneur". It is based on a comparison between different stories, beliefs and myths that attribute a specific charisma to cities, such as New York, Paris, Istanbul, etc. Reference to relevant literary works by J.D. Salinger, Henry James, Orhan Pamuk, and other writers is taken into consideration to introduce the working thesis that cities can be compared to texts as regards their semiotic value. Scholarly work in the domain of social semiotics and anthropology is consulted to support the conclusion that the "flâneur" plays the role of the "reader" of the "text of the city" in the evaluation of its individual character.

*Keywords: flâneur, urbanity, text, social semiotics, paradigmatic city*

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### **Two-Way Street: Writers from Ex-Yugoslavia in the Context of Literature and Culture of the English Language**

The disintegration of Yugoslavia during 1990s coincided with the rise of English as hegemonic world language. As many refugees from the war-torn country and especially Bosnia and Herzegovina fled to Western countries, some of them tried to write the literature in English. Some of them – like Aleksandar Hemon – reached the world fame, but others also made respectable careers. Parallely, some writers who fled to other countries as well as the writers who stayed in Bosnia, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia, despite still writing in some form of Serbo-Croatian, were more than ever influenced by global popular culture and English language in general.

In this paper I will try to illustrate how the rise of importance of English changed the literature written by the writers from ex-Yugoslavia in two ways. Although only minority of them started writing in English, it became almost inevitable to be heavily integrated into the culture of English language.

In addition, somewhat surprisingly, the importance of disintegration of Yugoslavia in the global context

influenced the frequency of some Serbo-Croatian terms in English itself.

*Keywords: literature, war, English language, Yugoslavia*

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### **The Politics of Fictional Literature: A Cross-Disciplinary Approach**

Language could be said to condition, limit and predetermine our understanding of the universe. It does not record but rather constructs all reality. Characteristically it could be considered as the required mean when it comes to intellectual inquiry issues such as politics and literature. Politics can be defined as an interactive social activity through which individuals, according to the cluster of their perceptions and sensory data, set structure, purpose and ideals in their lives and shape this common world. On the other hand, the purpose of good literature is essentially the enhancement of life and the propagation of humane values not in a programmatic and propagandistic way. It speaks to what is constant in human nature by transcending the limitations of time and space.

Fictional writers, but not only, use words as tools for communicating meaning that results from the relation of signs to signs within a literary work. By doing this they automatically commit to the framing of the common world. This relation of signs is a "silent one" which aims at

showing and demonstrating something rather than at explaining or saying of it. Furthermore, the meanings within a literary work are never fixed and reliable but always shifting and ambiguous and it is characteristic of language to generate infinite webs of meaning. Theoretically, meaning is jointly constructed by reader and writer and in their pursuit for meaning they both must resort to domains outside literature in the form of a quasi-political commitment in order to ground their arguments and understanding of a literary work on some linguistic specificity.

*Keywords: cross-disciplinary, fictional literature, meaning*

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### **Bodies on Death Row Perform their Way from the American to the European Stage**

Executions have been part of the machinery of the American and European judicial system for many centuries, with the US being among the few countries in the western world that continue this practice up to the present day as an institutionalized form of punishment fully sanctioned by law—and, in many cases, common sentiment. In recent years, as the spectre of terrorism impinges upon Europe in a most disruptive way and enormous numbers of refugees arrive from the Middle East on European soil, European governments close their borders and even discuss the possibility of introducing



harsher punishments for the elimination of terrorism. European playwrights seem to respond to this climate of uncertainty which has gripped Europe dealing with a theme of transtemporal relevance which was submerged from the European stage. Interestingly, their theatrical re/actions seem to engage with sentenced bodies in a way that is strongly evocative, both in aesthetic and in political terms, of the theme's analogous treatments in US media culture, more generally, and on the US stage, more particularly. So much so one gets the sense that representations of the world reality of the death penalty in US culture in fact (trans)mediate contemporary representations of the same reality on the European stage. The present paper will address the transatlantic trajectory of the literally and figuratively condemned bodies focusing on different aspects of its cultural and theatrical migration from the America to Europe. Caroline Bird's futuristic fantasy *Chamber Piece* (2013) will be discussed as an exemplum of the said migratory process; as a text that features a number of elements speaking to the migration of cultures and peoples from stage to stage, especially when this migration involves such a thorny issue as the death penalty. The play will be also examined for what it reveals about the socio-political and cross-cultural debate over the death penalty and the re/actions it could trigger in different contemporary social contexts with an emphasis on what it projects of the future of all those related issues and reflect back on what one obtains from this issue.

***Keywords:*** death penalty, US stage and European stage, transatlantic trajectory, migration of cultures

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**A Narrative of Cosmopolitanism:  
An Analysis of Ismail Kadare's *A Girl in Exile* in the Light of  
Kwame A. Appiah's Theory of Rooted Cosmopolitanism**

In his *Ethics of Identity and Cosmopolitanism: Ethics in a World of Strangers*, philosopher Kwame Anthony Appiah coins 'rooted cosmopolitanism' as an inclusive and diversity-oriented political philosophy that would enable the reconsideration of the previously-established world equilibriums to meet the needs of the contemporary individual. In contrary to other contemporary theories that are either constructed exclusively on the ethnic and cultural belonging of a community or totally ignore them, rooted cosmopolitanism considers ethnicity and culture to be integral parts of human identity, although not its sole defining factors. Indeed to Appiah, our cultural backgrounds serve primarily to lay the foundations of inter and intra-cultural dialogue, while multicultural co-existence and mutual understanding to be achieved through the emphasizing of universal and shared values. Taking these as a starting point, this paper will attempt to analyze one of Ismail Kadare's most recent novels, *A Girl in Exile*. It will be maintained that the Albanian writer, in this novel with autobiographical elements, incorporates the characteristics of rooted cosmopolitanism to both shed light on the experience of Albanians under the communist dictatorship as well as to represent, revitalize

and promote a culture and ethnic group still victim of marginalization and exclusion.

*Keywords: rooted cosmopolitanism, intra-cultural dialogue, Ismail Kadare, A Girl in Exile*

## TEACHING METHODS/ELT

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## The Post-Method Condition

First, the paper looks at how method was defined in the 20th century, the various taxonomies that included it (Antony's, Mackey's, Richards and Rodger's, Stern's) and their 21st century re-evaluation by Kumaravadivelu. Then, it considers the theoretical and practical utility of this concept. Finally, it examines the options of the post-method condition, including the use of an eclectic approach, its merits and demerits.

*Keywords: post-method condition, eclectic approach, method*

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## English as a Lingua Franca: The case of William Shakespeare?

Sceptics of the utility of studies into ELF (English as Lingua Franca) typically dismiss it as a kind of “Broken English”: a “degrammaticalised” code akin to a so-called pidgin. The implication is that ELF variations are only explicable in terms of interlanguages (see Selinker 1972). In essence, ELF users’ major failing is their inability to replicate Standard English sufficiently well.

By contrast, scholars specialising in ELF emphasise how the notion of the existence of a single, immutable Standard English is highly questionable (see Seidlhofer 2011). A key feature of any linguistic system is its power to generate new structures and forms and generally to be creative, which is a central factor in linguistic change and the evolution of languages in general (see Seidlhofer and Widdowson 2009). Indeed, according to Widdowson (2015), the emphasis of ELF is not on the variety of a homogenous speech community but of the variations that spontaneously emerge when speakers of different L1s communicate with each other.

In this article we examine the English of Shakespeare, the “nation’s bard”: a figure often appropriated by prescriptonists as an exemplar of the beauty and power of the English language (in the singular). We analyse Shakespeare’s English as an example of a variation of English to illustrate how processes such as improvisation and translanguaging (García / Wei, 2014), inherent in ELF, are neither new nor foreign and can be found in native speaker variations of English, even those which enjoy the highest artistic prestige.

*Keywords: ELF, linguistic creativity, linguistic variation, Standard English, translanguaging*

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## **Modern Technologies – An Impost or a Challenge for Teachers?**

Development of technology has led to major changes in education, including teaching of foreign languages, which created a new role for teachers. Teachers usually perceive the use of technology in two completely different ways: either they accept it with great enthusiasm and often exaggerated expectations, or decisively refuse it as unnecessary or useless. Strategies for information society development of Montenegro by the Ministry for Information Society and Telecommunications of Montenegro point out that a lot of effort should be put on computer literacy of teachers at all levels of education and they should be fully trained in the use of ICT until the end of 2020. This study aims to determine how well this mission has been accomplished and how the teachers of English at three universities in Montenegro are familiar with the use of technology in the classroom; how often and in which way the teachers use technologies, what type of training they have had for their application, what they see as obstacles in the use of technology, and how they perceive the application of technology in the teaching of foreign languages in Montenegro in the future. In order to obtain relevant

data, we conducted an electronic survey, whose results have been analysed with quantitative methods. We have drawn certain conclusions and offered recommendations to overcome certain difficulties and problems that teachers of English in higher education institutions in Montenegro encounter.

*Keywords: foreign language, teachers, technology*

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### **Extensive Reading and its Importance in Language Classroom**

When we talk about knowing a foreign language, immediately comes the question: How well do we know the language? Foreign language learning is a complex thing, considering the fact that we should learn how to speak fluently and having an established accuracy. There is a shift between studying and acquiring a foreign language. Foreign languages are an important part of the whole system of education in the Albanian context especially in the last years. Communicative Language Teaching in itself fosters learner towards proficiency of skills. One important factor in learning is not just using the materials given, but exploiting ways to study a language. To be fluent, means to know how to read, how

to write, how to speak and how to understand a language. Frequently, discussion in foreign language classes is driven towards reading. Through extensive reading learners practice the language, learn new corpus of words, understand the meaning in the context, broaden views of understanding a language.

We instruct our English learners towards extensive reading to enhance English language properly. What difficulties do our learners encounter while reading a new part? How should extensive reading be used in FL classrooms? What techniques should teachers/learners use? How does extensive reading help learners? How much time should be given to extensive reading teaching? What kind of practical activities should be used in extensive reading classroom? These are some of the research questions that this paper brings in focus. Foreign language teachers need to use effective techniques to teach extensive reading. Some practical activities to enhance effective reading will be suggested at the end of this paper.

***Keywords:** extensive reading, enhancing speaking, effective techniques, meaning in the context*

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## Tips for Using Cooperative Learning Groups Effectively in the EFL Classroom

Cooperative learning (sometimes called collaborative learning) involves students learning from each other in groups. It is the way through which students and teachers work together that makes cooperative learning distinctive. Teachers teach students collaborative or social skills so that they can work together more effectively. We have heard teachers complaining about the limited possibilities of using group work, they tend to avoid it because of concerns that it may result in an uncontrolled process, with little learning going on. In order for group work to go smoothly and be effective as it should, it needs to be carefully designed and planned. Not all tasks are appropriate for group work, so teachers should have a good reason to use group work. This paper aims to suggest some practical tips in creating successful cooperative learning groups in our classrooms.

***Keywords:** cooperative learning, group work, collaborate, pair work, concerns*

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### Towards Innovative Teaching Methods: Promoting Teaching 2030

In the very close future, there will be reinventing of teachers careers – the question of how teachers will



perform in the next decade is actually the topic of this paper. Teaching and learning will undergo significant changes. People born around 2000, will influence organizational structures at the workplace as well as the educational system due to their technical skills, different communication styles and changed values. The objective of the EU-funded Erasmus+/Strategic Partnerships project 'Future-proof your classroom – teaching skills 2030' is to develop an innovative blended learning course that teachers and trainers can access easily and that is free of charge. The course comprises eight modules that cover topics like the future role of teachers (coach, moderator, guide), enhancing communication in online and on-site classes, creating digital tools for teaching, designing holistic learning experiences, combining technology and emotion in class, organizing the course content within blended-learning systems and using social media, including netiquette, in class.

People teaching at tertiary level need to be prepared for the requirements and needs of the 'true digital natives' generation. This means a decisive change in the role teachers and institutions will play in the future.

*Keywords: innovative teaching, promotion, project 2030*

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**The Importance of Idioms Acquisition in English Language Learning and Teaching to Albanian EFL Students - A Guideline of Strategies and Techniques**

Students and learners of English language find it really hard to learn and put idioms into practise as idioms are considered as figurative expressions, which do not mean what they literally state. Providing that idioms are frequently encountered not only in the oral, daily speech, but also in the written discourse, comprehending and producing idioms present language learners with a special vocabulary learning problem. Thus, they represent a real challenge especially to the new teachers of English not only in university, but also in high school.

This study aims at providing effective techniques and helpful teaching strategies of idioms to EFL students by uncovering a number of findings which have pedagogical implications in terms of idioms instruction. Findings are based on a survey conducted in two English classes in the Faculty of Education. The study summarizes different types of idioms and suggests a systematic plan for teaching idioms to students of English by means of alternative and practical techniques.

***Keywords:** idioms, idioms teaching, written discourse, alternative techniques, EFL students*

## TRANSLATION STUDIES

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## That Wasn't What I Meant... (Interpreting Obscured Speech)

Simultaneous Interpreting is a challenging process in all aspects and it requires a lot of cognitive, extra linguistic skills and above all mental alertness in order to perform it well. There are times when "words fail", but an interpreter does not have the luxury to stop, or relax. On the contrary a solution should be given on the spot and instantly, otherwise the whole event will fail.

This paper deals with one of the most demanding challenges in simultaneous interpreting: the case when the speech is obscured and the challenges posed to the interpreter in such a case. The obscured speech can be produced as a result of bad pronunciation, conference-room noise, or poor sound quality.

But quite often, in conferences or workshops, the interpreters have to interpret speakers whose way of speaking is rather obscured, not coherent, or totally unclear. The question is how to face such challenges in real time and what strategies should be employed by conference interpreters in order to provide a fluent and smooth delivery of the speech in the target language and above all to transmit the same message that the speaker wants to transmit.

The paper will be present a case study based on the writer's experience as a conference interpreter and it will analyse specific examples of obscured speaking and the strategies employed in these cases to overcome the challenges.

*Keywords: simultaneous interpreting, obscured, challenges, strategies*

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### **Character (Re)Design From Source to Target Multimodal Text. The Chicano Gangster Stereotype as a Case Study**

This paper aims to expand the scope of research on audiovisual language and translation by taking into consideration the relationship between the audiovisual text and other modes characterising the audiovisual product. In particular, the main focus of this thesis is character design in movies. A character is a recognizable, stereotyped diegetic device, composed of audiovisual as well as textual elements. Movies rely heavily on stereotyped characters to convey messages to the audience and fulfil a specific communicative function based on a set of shared assumptions. The analysis will take as a case study a selection of American movies released between 1988 and 1993 and dubbed into Italian, featuring the stereotypical character of the Chicano gangster.

The methodology is informed by descriptive translation studies and multimodality, as well as corpus-based analysis and translation of fictional nonstandard varieties. The relationship between linguistic elements and non-textual elements will be analysed to understand the way that intermodal relationships are built in both texts. This

will shed light on the communicative meaning conveyed by the character in the multimodal text, and the way it is preserved or transformed through the audiovisual translation process. The analysis will have an initially quantitative approach, so as to outline a general trend in the character design and re-design within the analysed corpus.

The data will then be reviewed and interpreted, in order to understand how specific linguistic choices in a multimodal environment are linked to the linguacultural context that generated them.

***Keywords:** audiovisual translation; multimodality; fictional English varieties*

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### **Rhetorical Criticism as a Method for Analysing Bilingual Local Publications**

Local publications (such town histories or albums) issued by small editorial presses or local institutions in small Mazovian towns are nor rarely bilingual (Polish-English). These towns from Warsaw suburban region are not tourist destinations and are ethnically homogeneous, so apparently there is no reason for including English translation. Moreover, these publications are intended for strictly local circulation (they are not sold in bookshops, but only distributed during local events and/or in places such as book-tables at churches). What is therefore the

reason for making these texts bilingual? I propose to approach this question using the methods of rhetorical criticism, especially those drawing on Kenneth Burke's concepts. The aim of my paper will be to show how bilinguality builds the rhetorical potency of the text and how it influences the construction of the scene. I will tackle the question on the examples from local literature from towns such as Grodzisk Mazowiecki, Pruszków, Podkowa Leśna, Milanówek, Brwinów.

*Keywords: local publications, bilingual, English*

## SEMIOTICS

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### **The Semiotics of Blogging: Branding Albania through Social Media in English**

Tourism has become one of the major economic sectors in Albania in the recent decades, which explains the growing attention given to its promotion at the national and local levels. One of the accessibly quickest ways to reach out potential tourists and visitors is online presence, particularly on social media. Given their user-friendly settings, online social media allow administrators to post information, pictures, videos or any other related promotional material that work towards promoting the

country's identity and uniqueness, thus branding it successfully in the tourist market.

In this paper, I propose a semiotic reading of promotional social media about Albania in English. For the purposes of this analysis, I will draw on semiotics as a comprehensive discipline among the humanities that studies words and images, both very appealing for branding destinations. I will focus on the visual and linguistic contents of these pages (in English) in order to demonstrate how they create Lotman's semiosphere and, hence, work collectively towards creating the place brand.

***Keywords:*** branding, promotional materials, semiotics, semiosphere, semiosis