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*Nation, nationality, nationhood:
What's in a name?*

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Introduction

This issue of *in esse: English Studies in Albania* is a collection of selected papers presented at the Second ASSE International Conference, which was held in Tirana, Albania, 2-4 May 2013. The conference topic “Nation, nationality, nationhood: What’s in a name?” was intended as a call to invite scholars to explore the present-day perceptions of concepts like “nation,” “nationality,” and “nationhood” in a globalized context. Although the concepts, usually associated with commonness of culture, language, history, ethnicity, religion and spirit, seem distant in the twenty-first century context marked by multiculturalism, intercultural and cross-cultural communication, it is intriguing to revisit them and look into the sensitivities and perceptions we can get of them given this context. The conference aimed to explore these concepts in literature, language and culture. The call proved provoking to the point of producing a good number of interesting papers, which dealt with “nation,” “nationality,” and “nationhood” from challenging perspectives and various areas of study.

Given the variety of ideas and perspectives, we decided to produce two volumes with selected papers and group them around common thematic concerns. The first volume contains papers on literature and literary studies, whereas the second, papers on cultural studies and language. The papers making part of the current issue of *in esse* are divided into four sections: *Cultural Studies*, *Discourse Analysis*, *Applied Linguistics/Psychoanalysis* and *Biography*.

The first section contains two contributions from the field of cultural studies. The first one written by José Igor Prieto-Arranz is a comprehensive comparative study of national identities in Britain and Spain. In this contribution, the author revisits his “Projections onto a greater self” thesis (Prieto-Arranz 2009) by drawing on language issues. The author resorts to the past of both Britain and Spain as a backdrop to point out running parallels in their national identity discourses and possibly point to a possible better future in terms of identity diversity with language as a referent. More precisely, the author refers to language policy and second language learning issues with the idea that bilingualism is helpful in understanding and accepting diversity.

The second paper written by Liljana Siljanovska and Vlera Ejupi discusses the issue of ethnocentrism in the context of intercultural communication. The authors acknowledge that despite the growing links among diverse cultures in the modern society, which have promoted cross-cultural communication and given way to what is known as cultural relativism, ethnocentrism is still present among individuals, nations, and religious groups, most notable in the superior attitude towards one's own culture and stereotypes and prejudices about cultures other than one's own. To illustrate their points, the authors bring examples from the Republic of Macedonia, a multicultural country.

The second section contains two contributions from the field of discourse analysis. The first one written by Nahla Nadeem refers to the period before the Tunisian Revolution as a context to discuss the use of identity markers, face attacks and acts of solidarity in news commentaries posted by Arabs on Al-Jazeera website. The author resorts to theories of im/politeness, pragmatics and identity theory for the study and analysis of the language used in these commentaries with the final aim to reveal the interrelation between the collective identity of the interactants, face management and politeness.

In her paper, Ljerka Jeftić uses the idea of news reports as a form of discourse as a departure point for her analysis of an op-ed article, "A War of Words," published in *The Washington Post* for the fifth anniversary of the 11 September 2001 attacks. For this study, the author draws on a two-level analysis of discourse, the semantic macrostructure level, namely the global meaning of discourse and the microstructure level, that is, the linguistic devices which make discourse coherent.

The next section entitled *Applied Linguistics/Psycholinguistics* contains two contributions, one from each of these fields of study. In her paper, Diana Yankova touches upon a very sensitive issue in foreign language learning, that is, error making. In the context when the native speaker still determines the norm for most English language courses, Yankova, in her paper, adopts an unusual perspective to discuss errors students make in English. While teachers and researchers alike focus a lot on the errors students make, it has rarely occurred to them to study the errors native speakers themselves make. By bringing several examples of

native speakers' errors in spoken English, drawn from a corpus built with several entertainment programmes shown on BBC TV in the period 2012-2013, the author aims to point out the pedagogic benefits that can be derived from this: it can make students of English more confident in their own production of English and it may also lead to reconsidering the discrepancy between the contents of an EFL textbook and the language spoken in real-life situations.

In his paper, Edmond Cane suggests the idea that linguistics and psycholinguistics, besides other areas of study whose findings have already proven useful, can benefit the study of particular national profiles. The author draws on the Schema Theory to suggest how it can establish national profiles through the use of language matter.

The last section in this volume is entitled *Biography*, because the paper written by Hyreme Gurra introduces to the readers a well-known British-Albanian academic and writer, Gëzim Alpion. This contribution, which draws on the author's PhD dissertation on the life and work of Gëzim Alpion, is an outline of the main contributions of Gëzim Alpion in literature and social studies.

Finally, we would like to thank all our contributors for sharing their views and ideas in this volume. Special thanks also go to our reviewers for their tireless work in selecting and reviewing the contributions for this volume.