anglophonia

VOICES AND PERSPECTIVES

book of abstracts

anglophonia

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International Student Conference in English Studies

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
University of Zagreb
May 3 – 5, 2018

ANGLOPHONIA

International Student Conference in English Studies
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Foreword

As indicated by the conference name, each of the works to be presented at this year's *Anglophonia: Voices and Perspectives* was chosen precisely because it represents a unique voice, while offering a new and original perspective on an issue from a broad range of topics covered within the area of English Studies, from anglophone literatures and cultures, to linguistics, translation studies and TEFL. Over the course of three days, 30 student presenters from 16 European universities will have the opportunity to share insights from their research and studies with colleagues, professors and the public. We hope this will not only help spread innovative ideas and knowledge, but also inspire others to pursue academic work.

As with the previous conferences, it is our goal provide a platform where young minds can present their work and, in this way, encourage student engagement in academic study and research on all university levels. The conference is moreover meant to serve as a forum for dialogue, discussion and critical analysis, thus promoting an exchange of ideas and academic and research excellence.

On behalf of the Organizing Committee
Anamarija Tkalec

Keynote Speakers

Dr. Ellen Elias-Bursać

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Vice-President of the American Literary Translators Association

University of Zagreb Fulbright Guest Professor

The Translator/Interpreter as a Negotiator of Meaning

The work of the three ICTY courtrooms was an ongoing exercise in translation and interpreting. In the courtroom witnesses testified—through an interpreter—about translations of documentary evidence, attorneys argued—through an interpreter—about these translations and the words of the interpreters in the booth, and the judges adjudicated on interpreted testimony and translated evidence. And in every day of trial, out of the 10,800 trial days during the Tribunal's 24 years, translation-related issues were discussed.

Translated evidence and interpreted testimony have a provisionality that seems to invite challenge and dispute. In these adversarial trials, the defence and prosecution queried words, phrases, titles, terms as they pursued their cases. The parties, bench, and witnesses negotiated meaning through daily discussions on language issues, and the translators and interpreters responded to their queries by clarifying language use, defending their choices of terms or phrases, and resisting or complying with the pressures exerted on the Tribunal language services to adapt their language to the requests of the parties and the bench.

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Speculative Labor: Nnedi Okorafor's *Binti* Trilogy

Nnedi Okorafor's *Binti* books (*Binti*, 2015, *Binti: Home*, 2017, *Binti: The Night Masquerade*, 2018) travel up and down a set of spatial scales ranging from a hermetic village to planets which have never heard of Earth. Binti is the first person from her people, the Himba, to leave the planet. In her travels she gets involved in a war between the alien Meduse and another human group, the Khoush. Binti is given some of the physical characteristics of the enemy and then begins to negotiate peace between them and humanity. There are two related strategies which are used in the books to engage in the labor of mediating human and non-human experience: symbiosis and separation. Both of these are mirrored in key aspects of the philosophy of speculative realism (Graham Harman, Timothy Morton, Jane Bennett). Binti is a figure of symbiosis because she takes on some of the characteristics of the Meduse and other alien races and technologies, while the Meduse are figures of separation in their continual hostility and alienness to humanity. Similar to other of Okorafor's novels, such as *Who Fears Death* (2010), the *Binti* series takes on a number of themes important to Afrofuturism (Mark Dery, Ytasha Womack, Steven Shaviro) and reimagines them in the form of a continual tension between similarity and difference. The concept of labor is read as the mediation of this tension.

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Violation of Grice's Maxims of Cooperative Principle as the Basis of Humor: The Case of Chandler Bing and Phoebe Buffay in the American Sitcom Friends

From political satire to joking as a way of establishing friendships, humour has proven to be not only a form of entertainment, but also a carrier of important forms and functions reflected in our culture, social attitudes, trends, and language use. The study of humour has been attracting the attention of scholars for many years, with humour found in sitcoms garnering special interest in the field of linguistics. As one of the highest rated sitcoms which ran over a span of ten years, the American sitcom *Friends* provides priceless linguistic data on the topic.

By employing Grice's Cooperative Principle and conversational maxims, which are used not only to understand how people communicate, or rather cooperate, but also why and when people are uncooperative, as the theoretical framework for this research, we argue that characters in Friends do not disobey the conversational rules, but, on the contrary, their linguistics choices serve a specific purpose – creating a humorous effect. The dialogues of characters of Chandler Bing and Phoebe Buffay were used as the source data in the analysis of humour in Friends. The data was collected by watching the sitcom, reading and checking the script, and was analysed using the descriptive qualitative method of discourse analysis. The findings show that if humour is regarded as a condition that can cause people to laugh in everyday life, the violation of the Cooperative Principle and conversational maxims is not only intent to terminate the conversation, but it can also be used for creation of humorous effect.

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Does *Number* Agree?
Structure of *Number of* NPL Phrases
with Respect to Agreement

English nominal phrases *a number of* NPL and *the number of* NPL show unusual subject-verb agreement patterns when in subject position. If the *number* (N1) is indefinite, there is an agreement in plural (i.e. with the number features of N2 which is the complement of *of*). On the other hand, with the definite N1, the verb is in singular; in such cases the N1 refers to a specific number of N2. There seems to be a correlation between (in)definiteness of N1 and the agreement in number. The categorial identity of the constituents which plays a role in triggering the two distinct agreement patterns is investigated in the paper.

As there are apparently two nouns and thus two potential lexical heads contained in the phrases, the agreement seems to be triggered by the singular phi-features of N1 (number), as opposed to the plural phi-features of the of-complement. This paper tests the lexical vs. functional identity of the number N1, comparing some existing analyses, e.g. the indefinite number as a functional head or a semi-lexical head in a pseudo-partitive construction (van Riemsdijk 1998, Löbel 2001). I argue that the two agreement patterns relate to the categorial identity of the number N1 which in the case of the indefinite phrase is transparent for agreement, unlike the lexical number in the definite number of phrase.

Keywords:
noun phrase, functional and lexical category, agreement

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The Realm of Reason Recovered: Translating Mental Concepts in the Treatises of British Empiricists

To advocate the untranslatability of philosophical texts can be safely regarded as trivial. And yet, the unique nature of this genre may yield an entirely opposite view on the role of its translation. Following the theory of Polish scholar and translator Hanna Rosnerowa, I will argue that it is precisely the process of translating and overcoming problems it involves that may open the door to deeper understanding of the original. Firstly then, drawing on the interpretations of Bennet and Yolton, I will highlight the importance of rationalism in Locke's *Essay Concerning Human Understanding* and in Berkeley's *Treatise Concerning the Principles of Human Knowledge*. Subsequently, I will contrast selected passages from both works with their Polish translations – this will demonstrate how, by dealing with certain difficulties in the translated text, one may rediscover the path to the original, carefully constructed framework of mental concepts such as 'reason', 'understanding', 'intellect', and 'mind', where each term has its precise function within a given epistemological system. Becoming aware of subtle layers of signification which they impart to the source texts, the translator may see Locke's and Berkeley's empiricism in a new light – and that, surprisingly, may be the light of Reason.

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Anglicisms and Vocabulary Dynamics in Romanian Online Communication

The development of technological devices and the expansion of electronic communication and social media channels in the last few years have had a significant impact on how people communicate, especially in online written communication, particularly among young people, regardless of their nationality. Moreover, we can currently refer to our society as to a *global society* in which English prevails as a *tool* for communication and interaction between speakers of different languages particularly in the cyber space.

Since English is the language of global communication, English loanwords constitute a linguistic and socio-cultural phenomenon. The creation and the development of this phenomenon is mainly owed to advances in electronic communication and technology since the usage of English is widely spread from IT to economic and sociocultural fields.

The influence of English on the Romanian language has been the object of numerous studies. In order to fill in the gap in the analysis of anglicisms in Romanian, the objective of this paper is to analyse the influence of English in online communication between young people in Romania. We will particularly focus on a number of aspects of the vocabulary dynamics of Romanian: the position, the form and the functions of anglicisms from a lexical and semantic perspective. We will illustrate and discuss examples from the following sources: fashion articles from youth online publications, recordings of video blogs and podcasts, as well as YouTube videos.

Keywords:
anglicisms, globalisation, teenspeak, online communication

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Exploring the Communist Past of Albania through American Drama on Stage

The aim of this paper is to analyse how *The Little Foxes* written by Lillian Hellman, *The Crucible* written by Arthur Miller and *Orpheus Descending* written by Tennessee Williams, were received on the Albanian stage from the 1960s to the 1980s. These performances were little traces of American presence in Communist Albania. Trying to establish a strong critical eye to the Albanian audience regarding the American way of life, capitalism, the American family and lifestyle, these plays were performed to protect the Communist propaganda through theatre. The paper will explore the ways in which these dramas were twisted and transformed in order to achieve the main goal, that of raising proper citizens with communist principles. Another part of the paper will emphasize the reasons why a play like *Orpheus Descending* written by Tennessee Williams was banned after being staged only once, why *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller was staged in 1988 (one year before the fall of Communism), or why *The Little Foxes* by Lillian Hellman was staged even though it was not a social play. For this analysis, I will rely on theatre programme reviews, articles and early performance interviews. More precisely, I will make use of Patrice Pavis's theory of translation of dramatic works and Gerard Genette's theory of the significance of paratext.

Keywords:

psychological, social drama, American family, capitalism, propaganda tool, communism

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Racism in the American Education System

The difference between educational attainment among races has been a much-debated issue in America for centuries. Between the Civil War and the middle of the 20th century, public education, like many other aspects of everyday life, treated different races in the US as "separate but equal." In 1954, when Brown v. Board of Education was settled, racial segregation in public schools was deemed unconstitutional. However, despite the nominal desegregation of public schools in the US, the transition to equality is not complete to this day. This presentation examines recent data gathered on the education of different racial and ethnic groups in the US, including rates of college enrolment and completion among them. The aim of the study is to show that racism is still an issue in American public schools because minority students are taught by inexperienced teachers, they have less access to higher-level science subjects, and the punishment and dropout rate of racial and ethnic minorities is considerably higher compared to their white peers. These disadvantages are significant, as their impact extends to the post-secondary education of racial minorities, thus creating a deficit on the job market as well. Considering that the share of racial and ethnic minorities in the American education system has risen above 50% and is growing steadily, the nation and the government must take steps to avoid creating a system which only serves a minority of students and finally solve the problem of racism in US schools.

Keywords:
racism, education, United States, segregation, discrimination

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Syntax of Complex Nominal Phrases in English and Slavic Languages

The objective of this paper is the syntactic description of complex nominal expressions in English and two Slavic languages: Czech and Polish. The nominal phrases which are being analysed are those with a head noun and multiple levels of pre-modification expressed by means of determiners, adjectives, numerals and so-called quantifiers, i.e. elements that indicate quantity, such as *many/much*, *plenty*, *little/few*, *all*, etc. In Czech and Polish, quantifiers can be classified into different groups according to the agreement patterns they exhibit when entering a relationship with a verb. The aim here is to compare the properties of those nominal expressions between Slavic languages and English by showing the structural similarities and differences within the universal DP/QP analysis. The paper consists of data from English and two Slavic languages to show the differences between analytic and synthetic languages, what might be important and useful for interpreters, translators and students of English, Polish, Czech and other Slavic languages.

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Black Panther as Afrofuturism's Status Quo

Black Panther, who first emerged as a character in Marvel's comics in the 1960s, is an icon of Afrofuturism, a movement which seeks to envision a future for the African diaspora unburdened by the traumas of the past, the place they find liberation in the space of being. However, this paper will argue that Afrofuturism itself is a concept devoid of potential for true liberation and attempt to corroborate it with examples from the movie. For instance, Killmonger, a radical black-ops soldier who wants to use Wakanda's technology to help Africans overthrow their oppressors, when defeated by T'Challa in a duel for the throne refuses mercy and wishes to be buried in the ocean, with those who lost their lives during the Middle Passage. By virtue of that, Killmonger proves not to be an Afrofuturist character since the idea of Afrofuturism is to envision a future unburdened by slavery and colonialism. However, at the same time, Afrofuturism in this way reveals itself as an escapist notion, as a fantasy of freedom which offers a politically sterile sanctuary for the privileged. Consequentially, T'Challa's isolationist rule proves to be much more akin to the spirit of the fantasy world Afrofuturism creates. Moreover, when T'Challa's isolationism turns into globalism, what is presented is a clear example of capitalism's co-optation of all liberatory potential. Similarly, today it is evident that capitalism permeates even space, which curbs African diaspora's possibilities of re-envisioning their future, thus annulling the very premise of Afrofuturism.

Keywords:
Afrofuturism, capitalism, science fiction, colonialism, liberation

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J. M. Coetzee's *Disgrace*, Philip Roth's *The Dying Animal* and the Use of Campus Novel

Over the last three decades, both J. M. Coetzee's and Philip Roth's works have received enormous critical attention and generated a variety of scholarly and literary responses. Yet the numerous and complex links that can be detected between these two authors still remain an understudied phenomenon. This paper offers a comparative analysis of J. M. Coetzee's *Disgrace* (1999) and Philip Roth's *The Dying Animal* (2001), which both make use of the convention of campus novel. In particular, it seeks to explore the transgressive potential of the genre by demonstrating the novels' treatment of the theme of desire and the abuse of power. Both texts depict an ethically questionable affair between an elderly man and a young woman that affects the entire lives of both protagonists. The essay argues that this kind of dynamic between genders is recurrent in Coetzee's and Roth's fiction alike, while the professor-student romance can be placed among the most recognisable tropes of the campus genre. Parallels between Coetzee's and Roth's oeuvres, exemplified by the novels in question, include their major thematic concerns as well as the construction of the protagonist, the incorporation of explicit eroticism, especially in the context of power dynamics, and the extensive use of intertextuality encompassing not only the classics of Anglophone literature but also a number of Central and Eastern European writers such as Franz Kafka or Fyodor Dostoyevsky. The paper also suggests some possibilities for further comparative studies of the two authors by locating the analysis in the context of their other works, especially Roth's *The Human Stain* (2000). For example, it briefly points out that the latter novel engages with themes and motifs common to both *Disgrace* and *The Dying Animal* as well as problematizes the issue of racial discrimination, which is one of the central concerns in Coetzee's fiction.

Keywords:
campus novel, intertextuality, eroticism, power abuse, ethics

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Literary Intertextuality in Rap Lyrics

The article offers a historical overview of intertextuality of literature in rap lyrics. It is important to analyse rap lyrics because rap is a text-driven music genre, yet one that remains on the margins of literary analysis. To this day, there are only several existing books and one anthology that seriously tackles rap as part of a broader notion of African-American literature. It is important to note that, despite rap being present in every aspect of mainstream society from advertisement to political campaigns, it still has very little presence in academia, which is strange considering that other music genres such as rock have been integrated into to it. Because of the sheer amount of rap music that exists, the analysis will focus only on those records that are generally considered important for the development of the genre as such. The exception to this rule will be the records that have been made in the last 6 years. It cannot be determined if these will influence the genre, but their use of intertextuality differs from that of existing recorded lyrics. The article is divided into theoretical and empirical sections. In the theoretical part, intertextuality and sampling are defined and the history of rap music is concisely described. In the empirical part the records will be analysed.

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Linguistic Landscape in Tvrđa, Osijek

Linguistic landscape represents a relatively recently developed branch of sociolinguistics which deals with "the language of public road signs, advertising billboards, street names, place names, commercial shop signs, and public signs on government buildings" (Landry & Bourhis 1997). My paper and the presentation will be confined to the town area of Osijek known as Tvrđa – the historical, cultural and entertainment center of the city. Tvrđa is a fortified and therefore relatively isolated part of the town that possesses a specific sociolinguistic identity which makes it an ideal enclosed territory for research. The methodology consists of taking pictures of linguistic signs in Tvrđa, and quantitative and qualitative analysis of the same. The special emphasis will be on the use of English in Tvrđa which could be explained as the result of certain sociological phenomena, e.g. fashion. Possible grammatical and orthographical mistakes found in the linguistic landscape of Tvrđa will be exemplified and additionally examined. Linguistic sings, i.e. "any piece of written text within a spatially definable frame" (Backhaus 2007), can be divided into two distinct groups, the top-down signs and the bottom-up signs. The former refer to "signs posted by government offices and other central authorities", whereas the latter refer to "signs posted by individual actors such as shopkeepers or organizers of local events" (Shohamy 2012). In Tvrđa, both types of linguistic signs can be found and this will provide an excellent basis for the analysis of the differences and similarities between them.

Keywords:
linguistic landscape, Tvrđa, linguistic signs, field research

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Subversive Femininity and Misandry in David Fincher's Films

This paper aims to investigate the power struggle between misogyny and misandry as portrayed in the films directed by David Fincher, and how this discourse relates to the perception of male and female politicians being aggressed by the opposite sex.

Through gender essentialism as portrayed in popular culture films, viewers have a tendency to empathize with women more than with men. We hear of the term 'misogynist' (booed) more often than 'misandrist' (celebrated), because misogyny is well identified by the media when a woman is being mistreated by their male counterparts. However, when a man is being abused by his female counterparts, it is not readily identified as misandry. Women are traditionally perceived as the fairer sex – more vulnerable and susceptible to subversion of rights and power. Hence when they are intimidated by men, they are more prone to sympathy. On the other hand, when men are bullied by women, they are expected to 'deal with it', because they are deemed by society as the 'stronger sex'. In David Fincher's *Gone Girl* and *The Girl with a Dragon Tattoo*, we will explore this power discrepancy whether the protagonists are heroines or misandrists when they 'conquered' their male counterparts.

Applying these discourses to politics, this paper will investigate the disparities between the Abbott-Gillard discourse (2013) in Australia, and politicians from New Zealand and Japan who have faced misogyny and misandry in the course of their career, and how the media negotiates these discourses.

Keywords:

misogyny, misandry, David Fincher, political discourse, femininity

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The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe and The Book of Lost Things: Escape into Fantasy as a Way of Dealing with War

Many children's fantasy novels include scenes in which the protagonists leave the safety of their homes and cross over into unknown fantasy worlds. It could be argued that the whole premise is based on the phenomenon of escapism. In particular, this paper will explore the way in which the war circumstances of the real-world fuel the need of the child protagonists to seek out a new and better world. This will be done through a comparative analysis of two novels which take place in England during the Second World War, and whose protagonists temporarily leave their homes in favour of the novels' respective fantasy worlds: *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* by C. S. Lewis and *The Book of Lost Things* by John Connolly. The comparison will be explicated by following the proposed stages of the plots' development: the introduction and contextualisation of the war circumstances; going over into the fantasy world; the adventure in the fantasy world and how it mirrors the real situation – examples include how the White Witch in Narnia may represent Hitler, or how the treatment of fantasy food reflects the evacuee mentality concerning rations. The final stage encompasses the return to the ordinary world and the exploration of how the protagonists' world-view has changed.

Relevant literary sources will be consulted to support the arguments, and historical sources will be utilised for the contextualisation of the plot and an interdisciplinary overview of the topic.

Keywords:
fantasy, war, escapism, Lewis, Narnia, Connolly

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Nah, there was definitely an ostrich involved, sir: Bridging the No-Man's Land Between Histories of the Great War

Traumatic and climactic events that changed the face of the world are some of the most controversial and discussed topics in the field of historiography. This is particularly visible in discussions on the Great War, which have been once again put in the forefront due to the centenary of this terrible conflict. The aim of this paper will be to analyse the myths and stereotypes perpetuated in popular history of the Great War, which portray it as an insane and needless bloodbath, against the works of academic history which attempt to rationalise and explain the events of 1914-1918. The paper will also discuss how the portrayals of the Great War changed as time went on, and how the war is portrayed today in mass media such as films, series and video games. Through this, the paper will show how these stereotypes developed and why they developed in such a manner, showing that the real truth lies somewhere in between simplified popular history and its (seemingly) isolated academic counterpart.

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A Man's no Horse: Reason, Language, and the *Thing Which Is Not* in Jonathan Swift's Gulliver's Travels

The eighteenth century is known for the emergence of free thought, rationalism and critical thinking, and for the liberation of the arts and sciences from superstition. Jonathan Swift, being a devoted Anglican, was also a formidable critic of the Enlightenment thought, making his scepticism of modern learning a major theme in his writing.

In *Gulliver's Travels,* Swift challenges the idea that truth can be empirically defined by a simple collection of facts, while he argues that humans are not rational animals. In a letter to Pope, Swift wrote: "I have got material towards a treatise proving the falsity of that definition *animal rationale* and to show it would be only *rationis capax*", i.e. capable of reason. This is especially evident in Book IV, in the land of the Houyhnhnms. I will focus on this last part of the *Travels* and will consider it alongside the empirical philosophy of John Locke's *Essay Concerning Human Understanding* (1690). My aim is to discuss Gulliver's shift to madness, following his inability to internalize the perceptions of the societies in which he happens to find himself and his irrational aspiration to become one of the "horses".

The paper will concentrate on the interplay of truth and lies, central to Swift's writing and language, as the tool for achieving the subtle irony, enhanced by Gulliver's obsession with truth, his self-deception, and constant contradictions. Arguably, not lies are the target of Swift's satire, but the denial of lies and the pursuit of reason at all costs.

Keywords:
Gulliver, Enlightenment, empiricism, truth, language, Houyhnhnms

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The Heraclean Detective: Sherlock Holmes and the Changing Anxieties of Society

Cultural icons are lenses that offer a view into the Zeitgeist of the era of their creation. Through investigating the character, certain aspects of culture itself can be revealed. This study attempts to use Sherlock Holmes, the iconic detective to discover the anxieties and fears of both the late Victorian period and the 21st century. The character is highly indicative of the matter, since he has strong connections with the archetypical culture hero, and as such his role is precisely to offer a solution to such issues of the age. In order to achieve a meaningful conclusion, the presentation considers the original stories by Arthur Conan Doyle, focusing on *The Hound of the Baskervilles, A Scandal in Bohemia*, *The Final Problem* and *A Study in Scarlet*, as well as episodes and scenes from the BBC produced series *Sherlock*. To find more precise answers, the connections between the character of Sherlock Holmes and that of Heracles is also investigated; furthermore, the relations of the detective to the vastly differing ideas of Positivist philosophy and New Sincerity are observed. The multiple lenses are used simultaneously to arrive to an image of the icon that shows both its changing and permanent characteristics, an image that can offer a clear view of its creators: the people and popular culture.

Keywords:
Sherlock Holmes, Heracles, Positivism, New Sincerity, social anxiety, cultural

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Can Zadie Smith's *White Teeth* be Read as a Multicultural Feminist Manifesto?

Zadie Smith's literary debut *White Teeth* (2000) has become canonical as a novel celebrating heterogeneity of urban society of the new millennium. The work features a plethora of characters that come from diverse social classes, cultures, races and religions. However, what is especially interesting about it is the sincerity of the female characters and their short but significant 'feminist epiphanies' or 'feminist manifestos'. I argue that in her novel, Smith emphasises that despite potentially being in the shadow of their husbands and fathers, the female characters have their own projects and missions.

In my paper I employ the tools of multicultural feminism which emerges as a movement featuring women in the central place of its agenda as well as fully acknowledges the differences in race, ethnicity and culture. A multicultural feminist reading of Zadie Smith's *White Teeth* would not only seek to emphasise the role of the female characters, but it would also take into account their origins, religion and cultural background in order to comprehend the complexity of these literary creations. In my analysis, I will attempt to answer the question whether it is possible to read Zadie Smith's *White Teeth* as a 'multicultural' feminist narrative and its possible implications.

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Magnanimality: Aristocratic Animals and the Great Chain of Being from Naturalism to Postmodernism

Even though the lives of nonhuman animals and humans have always been linked, the study of these interactions has only received critical attention in the field of Animal Studies in recent decades. This seems surprising, considering "the *magnitude* of animal representations, symbols, stories, and their actual physical presence in human societies and culture" (DeMello, my emphasis). The present paper takes the above statement and its stress on "magnitude" literally to mean, not only the sheer wealth of animal representations in literary and cultural texts, but the scale of these portrayals, presenting an analysis of what I call 'magnanimality', i.e. majestic animal metaphors.

In a New Historicist approach, I trace the philosophical theory of the Great Chain of Being, a concept universally accepted from the Middle Ages to the 18th century, in American texts from the late 19th up to the early 21st century. Examining animal metaphors linked to aristocracy and nobility, I strive to answer the questions why and to what end a religious, pre-Enlightenment concept that seems at odds with American national narratives is repeatedly employed in contemporary literary and cultural texts. I use texts from different time periods and genres, e.g.

E. T. Seton's short story *Lobo, the King of Currumpaw*, Jack London's novella *The Call of the Wild* as well as the *King Kong* movies. I argue that the Great Chain of Being, applied to modern American texts, functions to bridge the human-animal divide by elevating the individual non-rational being and forming a continuity between various species.

Keywords:

Animal Studies, Great Chain of Being, anthropomorphism, aristocracy

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Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep: The Philosophy of Being Human

In this day and age, the dream of advancing AI is no longer as unattainable as it might have been before; instead, it is a possible thing being realized continuously by the scientific community. What once seemed like fiction is now reality, and with that come problems. Philip K. Dick is one of the first writers to raise questions about the morality and ethics of artificial intelligence – specifically, in the novel *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep*. This paper will try to explore the questions raised and the thematic of being human. Using various philosophical books and articles, the theme will be explored and then applied to the book. Some of the main questions are: Can machines have emotions? Can machines become self-aware? Can a machine have a soul? Should we show empathy to machines? Is it ethical to kill the machines simply because they are supposedly not human? The method used will be simple exploration through quotes and works and comparison of viewpoints and different philosophical theories in regard to being human.

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Creating Heterotopia out of Place: 18ᵗʰ and 19ᵗʰ Century Australia

This paper focuses on Michel Foucault's essay *Of Other Spaces: Utopias and Heterotopias*, and applies the concept of heterotopias, introduced in his essay, to early Australian society. By doing so, the paper aims to prove the existence of heterotopic sites in early Australian society. Since heterotopic sites are essentially cultural constructs ("counter-sites"), the paper also examines the prerequisites that enabled the creation of heterotopias. That is, the paper examines the conceptual transition that Australia underwent – from a conceptual space to a place, and from a place to a heterotopic site. By using various sources of information and taking into consideration both colonial and post-colonial perception of early Australian society, the paper also shows how and why Australian heterotopias were constructed. More precisely, the paper shows that Australia embodied virtually every aspect of Foucault's philosophy, which means that it represented a whole range of heterotopias: a heterotopia of both deviation and crisis, a heterotopic site that juxtaposed incompatible sites that also changed their functions, a heterotopia of indefinitely accumulating time, a heterotopia of temporariness, a system of opening and closing, and, finally, a heterotopia of both illusion and compensation. Furthermore, these heterotopic sites are divided into those noticeable on a micro-level (e.g. Parramatta Female Factory), and those noticeable on a macro-level (the whole continent).

Keywords:
heterotopia, worlding, Australia, Britain, colonialism, national identity

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Language and Visuality in
Henry James's *The Turn of the Screw*

The purpose of the presentation is to analyse language and visuality in Henry James's novel *The Turn of the Screw* according to the theoretical framework developed by Tzvetan Todorov and Rosemary Jackson. The novel is examined in relation to "themes of vision" and "themes of discourse" in order to discuss "the problem of making visible the un-seen, of articulating the un-said" (Jackson 48). *The Turn of the Screw* may be considered as thematically belonging to both categories, which is why the argumentation of the presentation will be conducted in two steps. The first step examines the visual representation of the ghosts and the applicability of Derrida's definition of aporia, whereas the other investigates the impossibility of telling in order to explain it as pushing "towards the area of non-signification" (Jackson 41).

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A Country with an Attitude:
English in Switzerland

Due to their constructed nature, it can be very difficult to access attitudes towards languages. One methodological approach to do so is a societal treatment study. While societal treatment studies are often criticized because of their informal nature, they are nevertheless considered to be a significant approach as they render it possible to obtain insights into the social meanings and stereotypical associations of language varieties as they examine how languages are treated in society. In order to do so, contents of sources in the public domain are analysed, for example advertisements. Advertisers aim to exploit cultural resonances by using specific languages in order to imbue their products with the stereotypical qualities and values which are commonly associated with a given language group or language. This appropriation of language by advertisers enables researchers to infer people's attitudes towards certain languages by examining their usage in advertisements of a particular country. As a multilingual country where English has gradually become a second language since it is often used as a lingua franca, Switzerland is remarkably qualified for studying attitudes towards the English language. Hence, this is a diachronic analysis of the changing and differing attitudes towards the English language of people from the three main linguistic regions of Switzerland done by examining the usage of English in advertisements in Swiss newspapers. In order to do so, the analysis pairs a societal treatment study with a questionnaire as another direct approach in order to reassess claims found by the societal treatment study.

Keywords:

newspaper, advertisements, Switzerland, anglophonia, attitudes, multilingual

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Master Has Given a Sock: The Construction of Society and Marginalized Groups in J. K. Rowling's *Harry Potter* Series

In most parts of the world there is hardly a child who has not heard of J. K. Rowling's acclaimed fantasy series *Harry Potter*, featuring seven volumes about a young wizard who encounters different challenges during his education at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. The series discusses different problems that are, however, hidden beneath the surface, consequently causing a significant number of people to deem it unworthy of attention or research simply because they never take the time to consider the series in a more serious manner. To provide depth to the story Rowling used history as a source for creating her magical society. In this paper the emphasis will be placed on different races of magical creatures fighting for their rights and place in a society that elevates wizards onto a pedestal. Focusing on the social injustice towards three specific magical races – goblins, house-elves, and centaurs – it will be shown which marginalized groups Rowling used as inspiration for the construction of her characters. This will be done by analysing the entire *Harry Potter* series and comparing the results with historical data. Lastly, the evolution of the perception and the prejudice towards marginalized groups in the series and in the contemporary anglophone society will be presented.

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The Concept of Time in Don DeLillo's *Point Omega*

Temporality is one of the key aspects which contribute to the reshaping of the narrative tendencies of literary modernism, thus leading to the emergence of the new narrative strategies associated with postmodern literature. The aim of this paper is to scrutinize its representation in postmodern literature and theory, focusing on one of the notable works which illustrates this phenomenon. Influenced by Pierre Teilhard de Chardin's theory of the final aim of evolution defined as "the omega point", Don DeLillo's novel of the same name explores, in Peter Boxall's words, "the formal balance between cinematic time, urban time, and desert time". In that sense, the paper is particularly concerned with the plurality of time, prevalent in literary postmodernism. In order to provide insight into this matter, it is also essential to shed light on the manner it is represented in the works of Jorge Luis Borges, who exerted significant influence on DeLillo's depiction of the concept of time in the contemporary world.

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Dominant Gender Discourses and Boys' Interest in Foreign Language Learning

Language learning has long been regarded as a female domain in both common sense notions about gender and academic research. In fact, there have been numerous studies on girls' superior performance in language education and its reasons, and more recently, boys have been painted as victims of feminized language learning in education politics. According to poststructuralist research, however, gendered identities are continuously constructed in discourse, which links specific behaviour to images of femininity or masculinity. Based on the assumption that these understandings of gender identities play a role in students' attitudes towards certain practices, this paper will examine the relationship between dominant gender discourses on language learning and boys' interest in Foreign Language Learning (FLL). For this purpose, poststructuralist gender theory will be applied to popular narratives based on dominant gender discourses, namely sex difference research and male underachievement in language education, in order to show that their perpetuation of the idea that language is a female domain is a possible factor in boys' lack of FLL interest. The paper aims to illustrate that dominant gender discourses should be problematized as a hindrance to boys' FLL interest rather than reinforced through educational politics and academic research.

Keywords:
gender discourse, foreign language learning, masculinity

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Violence and Religion in Nick Cave and Flannery O'Connor

The purpose of this research is to identify the role that violence plays in Flannery O'Connor's volume of short stories *A Good Man Is Hard to Find*, and in Nick Cave's album *Murder Ballads* (1996). Although the two writers belong to different eras and express their creativity in different forms (one through writing and the other one through music and song lyrics), they both shared an interest in the topic of violence, and thus, in their writings, they attempt to establish a connection between violence, meaning, and religion. Without emphasizing the theological aspects too much, my paper explores this relation and also looks at how the oral tradition of the murder ballad (for Nick Cave), as well as Flannery O' Connor's Catholic background, contribute to creating and solidifying a sense of meaning in the (fictional) world rooted in sin and violence. In order to express these ideas, I have employed the thematic analysis method, comparing and contrasting the common themes that can be found in the texts of the two authors.

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English Prepositions:
A Non-specific Contrastive Perspective

This paper concerns itself with non-specific contrastive analysis of English prepositions. Despite the fact that phraseological infringement is relatively frequently caused by misattribution of a preposition to a collocate, very little attention has previously been paid to the phenomenon in question. Hence, this paper will explore the developments in English as the Lingua Franca (ELF) based on corpora research. The approach undertaken by ELF researchers, however, is often simply to reduce the number of prepositions in use. Since prepositions are lexicalizations of relations between items, and the study of meanings of prepositions is necessarily a semasiological approach, it comes as no surprise that an onomasiological methodology typical of ELF should lead to several problems. The paper will point out different problems inhibiting native speakers of different (unspecified) languages from mastering the English preposition, including, but not limited to, the semantic differences, the specificities of postpositions, and the difficulties posed by non-analytic languages. To exemplify the findings, different specific languages will be used. The paper seeks to resolve the issue on the theoretical level by rejecting the assumption that language is a product of rational deliberation affecting every lexeme in every sequence. Instead, it promotes the protocological understanding of language in use and hypothesizes that basing the understanding of prepositions as lexicalizations of relations (focussing on the meaning of relations) is more productive in non-specific contrastive analysis than their understanding as polysemous items.

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Bedroom Lights and *Bedroom Slippers:* Does Lexical Relatedness Have a Stronger Influence on Noun-noun Compounds than Underlying Relationships?

The purpose of this research is to observe how different underlying relationships between the constituents and the lexical connection influence the speed of recognition in endocentric noun-noun compounds. The prominent part of the endocentric compound is the head and it functions both as the semantic and the syntactic head. It is also more precisely defined by the first part of the compound, that is, the modifier (Bauer et al. 2015). The retrieval of already familiar compounds and the resolving ambiguous compounds, or compounds whose head noun implies different meanings in different compounds (*olive oil* vs. *baby oil*) (Gagne 2010), can be improved with the recognition of the underlying relationship between a head and a modifier, however one must keep in mind that this is a vague relationship and differs from compound to compound (Jackendoff 2009, Booij 2010, inter alia).

The intention of this research is to answer the question whether a common underlying relationship has a more significant impact on retrieval of compounds than lexical relatedness, i.e. whether the recognition of a compound like garden plant is faster when it is preceded by a compound with the same underlying relationship (e.g. *hotel bed*) or if a compound like *bedroom slippers* is faster recognized if it is preceded by a compound with a common lexeme but a different underlying relationship (e.g. *bedroom lights*). The aim is also to see if the modifier-head relations, such as *noun MADE OF modifier*, have any influence on the reaction time. The experiment is conducted via the IBEX Farm (Drummond 2011) and aims to see the differences between native and non-native speakers of English.

Keywords:
noun-noun compounds, lexical relatedness, underlying relationship

Notes

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