

EDITORIAL PREFACE

Like its predecessor, this Volume of *BELLS* contains papers presented at the *5th International Conference English Language and Literature Studies: Tradition and Transformation*, organised by and held at the English Department of the Faculty of Philology of Belgrade University in October 2015. Together, these two volumes testify to the sheer diversity of the participants' contributions in the fields of theoretical and applied linguistics, translatology, literary and cultural studies.

This Volume opens with **Stevan Mijomanović's** paper, which tries to shed light on the development of conceptual metaphors and basic terminology in the domain of anaesthesiology through the prism of cognitive linguistics. To its credit, it manages not to anaesthetize the reader. **Danijela Đorđević** presents the results of research into the use of epistemic modality markers as hedges in English and Serbian research articles in various scientific disciplines. The results of her comparative analysis contain some interesting implications for the teaching of English for specific purposes and for non-native scholars writing their scientific papers in English. **Jelena Grubor's** paper is dedicated to testing the construct of perceived L2 speaking proficiency and determining its components, with a view to analysing inter-rater reliability and establishing whether the raters use similar criteria while testing speaking proficiency. Her findings indicate that the use of a five-trait-category model in testing speaking proficiency in an L2 in practice seems to produce more objective results than a holistic approach.

Opening the section dedicated to literary studies, **Sergej Macura** analyses a paradigm shift in representing trauma in Modernist fiction, attempting to show what made possible the eventual movie version of Hemingway's *The Sun Also Rises*, decades after it was originally published, despite the fact that the protagonists' character traits were far from suitable for the Hollywood Motion Picture Production Code. In his paper, **Tomislav Pavlović** deals with the dominant motifs in the poetry of Michael Longley, a leading Irish modernist poet, and tries to shed light on their amazing syncretic power, which is instrumental in helping us penetrate the existential *aporias* imposed by a specific *hermeticism* of Ulster, customarily resistant to historical and philosophical explanations.

The paper presented by **Miloš Arsić** analyses the key aspects of Cormac McCarthy's redefinition of both the conventions of reality and genre in his novel *The Road*, focusing on the loss of humanity rather than on the obliteration of a system or a culture, showing that the true demise of the world as we know it lies in the depletion of meaning – its actual destruction being of secondary importance. **Milena Nikolić's** paper investigates how the mirror motif is used in Margaret Atwood's novel *Cat's Eye* to symbolically represent the psychological state of its heroine, initiate changes in her perspective and indicate that reality is only a reflection of what she is able to see at a given moment. The author relies on ontological and psychological theories as a framework for exploring the relation between Elaine's possible liberation from fantasy, which is an indispensable resource for her fictional world, and the potential for identifying the real causes of her traumas.

Andreea Popescu attempts to analyse the changes introduced by Richard Wagner in his musical drama based on Wolfram von Eschenbach's poem *Parzival* in the context of the Arthurian legend and the late Romantic paradigm by presenting the universal meaning of man's journey towards the sacred. **Svetlana Milivojević Petrović** deals with David Lodge's response to the widespread feeling in the 1960s that realism and the novel form were in a crisis, reflected most memorably in John Barth's influential essay "The Literature of Exhaustion". She shows how Lodge, by tackling metafiction on his own terms, moving freely between the realistic and the metafictional mode while keeping his "modest faith in realism", proved that the creative possibilities of literature, despite widespread misgivings, were far from exhausted.

Jelena Pršić's paper deals with the motif of time lapse in Virginia Woolf's *Mrs Dalloway* (1925) and Colum McCann's *Let the Great World Spin* (2009), two novels belonging to different literary and cultural traditions, yet sharing one of their main themes: *the relationship between the hero and the city*. Using Elizabeth Grosz's term *interface* to define the relationship between bodies and cities, she emphasises that both novels are largely based upon the body-city *interface* and attempts to prove that they both have specific instances of *temporal* interruption, which serves as a *spatial* body-city interrelation. Revisiting the (in)famous F. R. Leavis/C. P. Snow controversy, **Lena Petrović** reads the contemporary debate concerning the role of the humanities in university-level education as the

latest version of the paradigm clash dramatically transposed in the stories of two archetypal knowers – Faust and Prospero.

Finally, continuing a tradition of our very own, namely, of presenting an interview with a prominent English studies scholar whenever possible, we are very glad to be able to present Professor **Radojka Vukčević's** interview with Christopher Bigsby, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and the Royal Society of Arts, an award-winning novelist and biographer.

As before, we remain very grateful to the Faculty of Philology, first of all to our former Dean Professor Aleksandra Vraneš and our present Dean Professor Ljiljana Marković, for their unswerving support to the organisation of the *5th International Conference English Language and Literature Studies: Tradition and Transformation* and to the continued publication of this periodical.

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