

## EDITORIAL PREFACE

We are pleased to announce our efforts to improve this journal have been successful and Belgrade English Language and Literature Studies is now officially a top-level national journal in Serbia (category M51). Although this is visible primarily at the national level, one of our major goals is to become more prominent internationally, and we are already working on it.

The first part of this Volume, *Theoretical and Applied Linguistics*, contains four articles. *Mahdi Duris* provides a phonetic account on the intelligibility of Saudi Spoken English consonants. This paper informs us on how intelligible these consonants are by General American English listeners and is focused on highly proficient EFL teachers, whose impact on Saudi non-native speakers of English is significant. *Elisa Ghia*, *Emilia Petrocelli* and *Sergio Pizziconi* explore the use of hedges in academic thesis abstracts among L1-Italian advanced university EFL learners drawing on a corpus of 217 abstracts written in English. Their results show that Italian EFL students use fewer hedges than native speakers of the same age and conclude that hedging deserves greater attention in courses focused on academic writing and in English textbooks. *Congchao Hua*'s study compares the prosody of pronouns in English and Mandarin in broad focus, narrow focus, and given information, and examines Mandarin-speaking EFL learners' acquisition of pronoun prosody. Hua provides clear evidence of L1 prosody transfer, especially in phonetic realization of pronouns and concludes it is necessary to raise L2 English learners' awareness of pronoun prosody. *Aleksandar Pejčić* analyses the use of conjunctive adverbs as discourse markers (DMs) in oral argumentative presentations by two groups of Serbian EFL students with the intention of comparing the distribution of DMs and the strength of their prosodic boundaries. The results reveal that the third-year students possess a broader range of appropriate vocabulary, especially adverbial and use lengthier pauses, but do not differ much in their choice of tone or key from their first-year peers.

The second part of this Volume, *Literary and Cultural Studies*, contains six articles. *Mara Ruža Blažević* analyses the ways in which the New Woman Movement of the 1890s is reflected in Bram Stoker's construction

of his female characters in *Dracula*. Her analysis shows that the image of the New Woman is modified and redefined through already existing female tropes, including the Angel in the House, the Fallen Woman and the *femme fatale*. *Stefan Č. Čizmar* examines how Angela Carter enters a dialogue with the Victorian past through the lens of neo-Victorian theory to see if and to what extent her works can be seen as neo-Victorian. His paper is focused on three novels, *Shadow Dance*, *Nights in the Circus*, and *Wise Children*, as they feature neo-Victorian concerns most prominently, and provides a close reading of certain passages, comparing them to the typical traits of neo-Victorian novels. *Nataša V. Damljanović* is interested in the impact of popular culture on Hanif Kureishi with a special focus on the impact of music and the musicians of the time Kureishi features in his writings: their texts, clothes, and style. *Anđelka Gemović's* paper elaborates on the notion of hyperreality and its prevalent features that reflect the absurdity of the modern world in Don DeLillo's latest work, *The Silence*, arguing that the five main characters, representatives of contemporary humanity, are indulged in hyperreality perpetuated by consumerism and technology addiction which have covertly kindled and sustained absurdity in their lives. The paper also extrapolates on the author's gripping perspectives, and often a prophetic representation of the encumbrances humanity obediently bears and yet fails to recognize. *Ksenija Kondali's* paper discusses the representation of violence in Stephen Crane's short story "One Dash – Horses" as an example of the author's portrayal of the West and his original narrativization of violence in Gilded Age culture, through which he debunks the clichés of the region and its people. *James Plath* writes about Ernest Hemingway and the shaping influence of his Oak Park homes, where he spent his childhood, and which shaped his sense of self in relation to interior space and in relation to family dynamics.

We wish to express gratitude to both our reviewers and authors, who put a lot of hard work and effort into this journal.

The completion of this Volume would not have been possible without Aleksandra Orašanin and Bojana Gledić, who invested a lot of time and energy into shaping it.

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*Nenad Tomović*