EDITORIAL PREFACE

The sixteenth issue of *Belgrade BELLS* offers a selection of articles presented at the Seventh International Conference entitled *English Language and Literature Studies: Modern Perspectives and Beyond*, organized by and held at the English Department of the University of Belgrade on 21st and 22nd October 2023. The conference participants addressed diverse issues within the broad theme of modern perspectives and beyond, including both traditional and modern methodological approaches to English studies, as well as comparative research paradigms. The contributions in the present volume of *Belgrade BELLS* are divided into two principal sections, Theoretical and Applied Linguistics, and Literary Studies.

The first part of the volume, *Theoretical and Applied Linguistics*, comprises eight articles spanning cognitive linguistics, discourse analysis, EFL methodology, and communication strategies in professional and educational contexts. The collection reflects a range of linguistic perspectives, from conceptual theories of language to studies on language use in specific sociocultural settings.

Danijela Đorđević and **Tijana Vesić Pavlović** in their "Stances on the *Xylella Fastidiosa Bacterium* and the Coronavirus in the Public Discourse" examine linguistic stance markers, such as hedges, boosters, attitude markers and self-mentions, used in public discussions of two major health issues. By analyzing articles on these topics, the study demonstrates how language impacts public attitudes toward different crises. In "Dimensions of (Non)-Antonymy in English Phrasal Verbs *Put On* and *Take Off* Through the Lens of Cognitive Semantics," **Ivan Milošević** explores the nuanced meanings of these phrasal verbs, traditionally viewed as opposites. Using cognitive semantics, the study shows that, although many meanings demonstrate clear antonymy, a significant number do not exhibit mutual oppositeness when the full radial networks of the phrasal verbs' meanings are mapped and compared. "The Omnipresent Author: Distribution of Markers of Authorial Presence in Scientific Articles in Linguistics, Economics, and Technology Written in English, Serbian, and

German," by **Milica Rodić**, investigates how academic voice is expressed differently across cultures and disciplines. By analyzing authorial presence – the quantitative and qualitative uses of authorial presence markers – in three languages (English, Serbian and German), the study reveals how linguistic strategies vary by both language and field.

In "Speech Act of Criticism in Peer Feedback on Argumentative Essays of University Students of English in Computer-Mediated Communication," **Ivana Čorbić** applies speech act theory and politeness theory to analyze the language of peer feedback in an online educational setting. The study examines the specific strategies students use to give constructive criticism in a virtual environment. **Andrijana Aničić** in her paper titled "Promoting Critical Thinking in a University EFL Context – English Majors as Critical Thinkers," emphasizes the importance of fostering critical thinking in university-level EFL education. She presents the design of the course taught to English majors at the English Department of the Faculty of Philology in Belgrade, which is aimed at enhancing speaking and writing skills while encouraging students to critically reflect on course topics, their use of English as a global language, and their roles as English majors. The paper proposes *critical perspectivization* as a method to develop critical thinking in the EFL classroom. "EFL Textbooks and Gender Representation: A Mixed-Method Case Study," by **Tamara Tošić**, combines quantitative and qualitative methods to examine gender portrayal in Serbian high school EFL textbooks. This study highlights both stereotypical representations and instances of stereotype-challenging, with implications for educators and students.

Irena Aleksić-Hajduković, **Gordana Vekarić** and **Danka Sinadinović** in their paper "Patient-Centredness in Dental Students' Explanations: An Analysis of Modal Hedges in ELAN-Annotated Role Plays," analyze 10 dentist-patient role plays to examine the use of modal hedges based on Trbojević-Milošević's (2004) taxonomy. The analysis, using ELAN software, investigates epistemic modals and related expressions. The study assesses how well dental students apply patient-centered strategies, offering insights for ESP (English for Specific Purposes) curriculum development. Finally, **Ana Đorđević's** paper titled "Career Paths of English Graduates in Serbia: The Curious Case of EFL Teaching," examines the employment prospects of English graduates in Serbia, based on a survey of 207 alumni from the University of Belgrade. It explores their career paths, challenges in the job market, the relevance of their academic skills, and their engagement

in English language teaching, including motivations, job satisfaction, and ways to improve the profession's standing.

The second part of the volume, *Literary Studies*, comprises eighteen articles. The first two were presented as plenary lectures − **Radojka Vukčević's** "William Faulkner's 'Making It New' and Beyond" and **Michael McAteer's** "Bursting the Trinity Bubble: Douglas Hyde's Irish Avant-Garde Farce". Radojka Vukčević explores the contribution of William Faulkner to Modernism − his response to Ezra Pound's imperative „Make it New". She summarizes Faulkner's most distinguished „modern innovations" in his mythological kingdom of Yoknapatawpha and looks into different critical perspectives of reading Faulkner and the notion of Modernism. Michael McAteer discusses *Pleusgadh na Bulgóide/The Bursting of the Bubble*, a neglected bilingual farce by Douglas Hyde, one of the founders of the Irish language Revival movement in the late nineteenth century and the author of a number of Irish-language and bilingual plays in the early twentieth. McAteer turns to Peter Sloterdijk's theory of bubbles as a means of understanding the linguistic and cultural issues that the play addresses and contends that *Pleusgadh na Bulgóide* is unfairly overlooked in the history of Irish modernism.

The papers presented in parallel sessions and selected for publication in this volume reflect a multitude of ways in which their authors think about and deal with the conference topic. **Milica Spremić Končar** in"'Me lyste nat thereof make no mencion:' Malory and the Pleasure of Reading" makes use of Wolfgang Iser's 'Reading Process: A Phenomenological Approach' in order to focus on the 'unwritten parts' of Malory's *Morte Darthur*, parts which generate the frustration of the reader's expectations and make him / her 'fill in the gaps left by the text itself.' In her paper "Exploring Paskvalić's Impact: A Study of His Poetry and Its Influence on Two English Poets", **Ane Ferri** discusses the influence that Ludovik Paskvalić undoubtedly had on the Elizabethan author Tomas Lodge and speculates on his possibile influence on William Shakespeare, while **Katarina Lazić** in "The Treatment of Social Satire – A Comparative Analysis of Radoje Domanović's *Land of Tribulation* and Jonathan Swift's *Gulliver's Travels*" compares two prominent satirists − Serbian and British − and their views on the societies they live in.

In "*Little Women* and Feminism: Book and Movie Narrative", **Maja Brkljač** writes about the ways Louisa May Alcott examines the March sisters' conformity to societal norms, and explores Greta Gerwig's 2019

film adaptation of the novel with an emphasis on narrative theory and contemporary relevance. The article "Statues Speak – Politics and Spirituality in Shelley and Tolkien", by **Danko Kamčevski**, explores Shelley's and Tolkien's differing political views and distinct spiritualities in order to show how they influence their opinions and principal literary works. "Stream of Consciousness in Joyce's *Ulysses*: Literary and Non-Literary Influences", a co-authored essay by **Anja Petrović** and **Nataša Tučev**, examines both literary and non-literary influences on James Joyce's use of the stream-of-consciousness technique – Dorothy Richardson's novel *Pilgrimage* and Joyce's wife's Nora Barnacle's unpunctuated letters to her husband.

In her essay "Beyond the Wall of an Ambiguous Utopia – the Language of Ursula Le Guin's *The Dispossessed*" **Mirjana Vučković** discusses Pravic, an artificial language developed in Le Guin's Hainish Universe, on the planet Anarres − an anarchistic-socialist society strongly opposed to a capitalist society on the planet Urras − in order to find out how this invented language forms the characters and the way they perceive the world around them. **Marija Gagić's** article entitled "Postmodern Reimagining of the Oedipus Myth in Sam Shepard's *Buried Child* and *A Particle of Dread*" is a discussion of Sam Shepard's plays as the postmodern reworkings of myths from the standpoint of theorists such as Linda Hutcheon and Roland Barthes; the two plays are compared to Sophocles' *Oedipus Rex* regarding the inexorability of fate, the "curse on the house" motif, rituals of pollution and purification, and cultural and familial collapse.

Tijana Parezanović's essay "Liminally Anglophone Wor(l)ds: M.G. Sanchez's Gibraltarian Stories" analyzes the 2006 collection of stories by acclaimed Gibraltarian author M.G. Sanchez, titled *Rock Black: Ten Gibraltarian Stories*. The paper approaches the stories as an example of Deleuze and Guattari's minor literature, and claims that characters who occupy Sanchez's Gibraltarian world live in a state of permanent liminality, which contributes to the elusiveness of their identity and makes it unalignable with any fixed category in the Anglophone literary sphere. In her essay "Mapping London in Peter Ackroyd's Prose", **Aleksandra Jovanović** considers how London is fantasized and mapped in Ackroyd's fiction. Drawing on Robert Tally's studies in literary cartography and Bertrand Westphal's book on real and fictional spaces, this paper demonstrates how fiction contributes to mapping spaces and creating portraits of places. In her paper entitled "Georgian Perception of Margaret

Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale*: Challenges of the Literary translation", **Tamara Kobeshavidze** analyzes Ani Kopaliani's Georgian translation of Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale*. She points out the ways in which the translator has successfully overcome challenges such as context accuracy, interesting alternatives of the title, and specific female names, but also draws attention to certain flaws in Georgian translation concerning its tone, several scenes of the novel and important allusions from intertexts.

Marija Đorđević in her paper entitled "Autobiography or Fiction? – Raymond Federman's *Shhh: The Story of a Childhood*" discusses Federman's notion of "surfiction" which does not differentiate between reality and fiction since they are interchangeable. Đorđević claims that Federman's novel *Shhh: The Story of a Childhood* is truly representative of his surfiction, since it offers an account of his early childhood written in such a way that the reader is left constantly questioning the veracity of the text. As such, *Shhh: The Story of a Childhood* fully demonstrates all the elements of Federman's writing style and literary theory. In "Spires and Shadows: Depictions of Oxford in Lucy Atkins's *Magpie Lane*", **Antony Hoyte-West** explores the use of the Oxonian location, characteristics, and traditions in order to show how these features and the unique atmosphere and setting of Oxford add up to the complexities of this psychological novel. **Danica Stojanović** in "*The Ocean at the End of the Lane* – Fantasy Theatre in Transmedia Dialogue(s)" considers newer developments in fantasy theatre regarding theatrical actualisation, i.e., the creation and convincing realisation of a fantasy storyworld on stage, and the emerging matrix of exchange between fantasy theatre and global popular culture. The paper outlines the creation and recreation of crucial fantasy intertexts and their impact on this developing genre, focusing on the stage adaptation of Neil Gaiman's *The Ocean at the End of the Lane*. **Ewelina Bator's** essay "The Memory of a Literary text – Intertextual Elements in the Novel *Memory of Water* by Emmi Itäranta" discusses Emmi Itäranta's novel *Memory of Water* written simultaneously in both Finnish and English, in order to find out what impact such mixing of corpora of literature – in reference to Julia Kristeva's theory of intertextuality – has on the shape of a literary work. She particularly focuses on intertextual elements, typical of Finnish literature, literary history and cultural nuances which are contained in the English version of the novel by Emmi Itäranta. In her essay entitled "About the possibilities of Future Representation of Charles Simić As a Poet, Essayist and Translator in Languages and Literature Curricula", **Gordana**

Janjušević Leković explores the main motifs, symbols and layers of ideas in Charles Simic's literary work. Simić's poetry, essays and translations are analyzed in the first part of the paper, while the second part discusses the possibilities of representing his work in languages and literature curricula, both through regular and additional classes and extracurricular activities.

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Milica Spremić Končar
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