

INTRODUCTION

The third time out, the Belgrade English Language and Literature Studies in its new volume brings a variety of articles that span and connect research interests in language and literature. The verbs 'span' and 'connect' are not here by chance, but rather reflect the nature of the majority of the articles in this issue – most of them exploring phenomena on the interface of the linguistic, literary and cultural. Like the two previous volumes, this one consists of three sections: Theoretical and Applied Linguistics, Literary and Cultural Studies and a Belgrade BELLS Interview.

Both the Theoretical and Applied Linguistics and the Literary and Cultural Studies sections present work by authors from a number of European countries. In our linguistics section, **Junichi Toyota** (Lund University, Sweden) adopts a new and politics-free perspective on the socio-pragmatic and linguistic practices of modern English, as he examines and follows the changes that were initiated in the language during the reign of Richard II but have been long overlooked. **Hortensia Pârlog** (University of Timisoara, Romania) sets out to redefine the semantic division between dynamic and stative verbs, motivated by the real linguistic practices researched in three different age groups of educated native speakers. **Mirjana Mišković-Luković** (University of Kragujevac, Serbia) performs a thorough analysis of the pragmatic marker *you see* against the theoretical framework of relevance theory, speculates on the origin of the marker and views it in relation to epistemic hedges. **Lech Zabor** (University of Wrocław, Poland) relies on current theories of English article meaning to demonstrate that the acquisition of the English article system depends on learners' perception of noun phrase uniqueness. The research presented in the article by **Anžela Nikolovska** (Ss. Cyril and Methodius University, Macedonia) shows the similarities and differences in the vocabulary learning strategies employed by male and female EFL learners. **Renáta Gregová** (Šafárik University, Slovakia) challenges the universal nature of the CVX theory of syllable, showing that in Slovak word-final consonant clusters rarely form complex sounds, but rather that the vowel length expands the number of timing slots in the rhyme pattern. **Marija Milojković** (University of Belgrade, Serbia) uses a computational collocation-based analysis to examine Philip Larkin's

reputation as a depressive atheist; she combs the entire corpus of Larkin's poetry looking for key symbols to depict his persona.

The Literary and Cultural Studies section consists of seven articles which explore the negotiations, tension and irony that occur in literary and cultural borderlands. **Adrian Frazier** (National University of Ireland, Galway, Ireland) presents Pat Sheeran, the Irish novelist, filmmaker, and scholar searching for answers on the important issues of modern writing and living in Sheeran's unusual character and career. **Biljana Dojčinović** (University of Belgrade, Serbia) offers a female reading of Joyce's *Ulysses* and *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*, arguing that significant motifs of femaleness in both texts have usually been neglected in favour of a more traditional quest inspired interpretation. **Elżbieta Klimek-Dominiak** (University of Wrocław, Poland) deals with the hybrid identities of American immigrants of Jewish/Polish descent. She analyzes the complex textual fabric of immigrant texts seeing a new language as a space where identities are negotiated within the new culture. **Mirjana Knežević** (University of Belgrade, Serbia) looks for the manifestations of irony as endorsed by a wide range of artistic expressions in literature, music and visual arts. **Rumena Bužarovska** (Ss. Cyril and Methodius University, Macedonia) explores humor in Bernard Malamud's story "The Jewbird" from two perspectives, universal and socio-cultural. **Teresa Bruś** (University of Wrocław, Poland) deals with the public vs. private space of a character in Louis MacNiece's *Zoo*. Bruś explores the metaphorical possibilities of the concept of the zoo, pointing to its ethical connotations. **Ulla Kriebernegg** (Karl-Franzens University, Austria) deals with the life experience of an Arab-Irish-American citizen living in the post-9/11 world, who is a character in Updike's novel *Terrorist*. The paper describes the character's efforts to come to terms with his hybrid identity in a world where it "fits a profile of white anxiety". Kriebernegg tackles Updike's fictional representations of the life of Arab-American citizens and exposes the stereotypical and hollow depictions of Islamist terrorism.

In this Volume, **Jelisaveta Milojević** (University of Belgrade, Serbia) interviews renowned British linguist and Baines Professor of English, **Michael Hoey**.

Once again, we warmly thank our contributors and all our collaborators for helping us make this Volume what we hope it has grown into – a versatile, interesting and insightful contribution to contemporary linguistic, literary and cultural thought.

Editors