



Mario Brdar  
University of Osijek

**Đergović-Joksimović, Zorica & Halupka-Rešetar, Sabina (eds.). 2014. *English studies today: Prospects and perspectives. Selected papers from the second international conference "English language and anglophone literatures today" (ELALT 2)*. Novi Sad: University of Novi Sad, Faculty of Philosophy, 324 pp.**

The volume under review is a selection of revised papers originally delivered at the second conference *English Language and Anglophone Literatures Today* (ELALT2), which was held at the University of Novi Sad on March 16th 2013. The book contains 25 chapters divided into two thematic parts preceded by an introduction by the editors, which sets the stage for the presentation of the contributions by scholars from Serbia, the USA, Hungary, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Slovenia by providing a brief overview of individual essays and explaining the thematic structure of the book.

Part 1, entitled *Topics in English Linguistics*, carries two groups of papers. The first nine papers deal with various linguistic topics, while the remaining six chapters address more practical issues related to language teaching methodology. This part opens with the keynote address by Zoltán Kövecses. It is an attempt to draw attention to a particular aspect of online construction of meaning in the sense of immediate contextual factors. This is not to deny the importance of universal embodiment in our conceptual system and that of the universal availability of cognitive operations, but they are always engaged in an interaction with the context. Kövecses suggests that the context in a way brings about large-scale priming effects, effectively activating certain areas of entrenched experiences, while suppressing some others. This chapter is followed two articles cast in the spirit of the Theory of Conceptual Metaphor and Metonymy. Silaški and Radić-Bojanić perform a cross-conceptual, cross-cultural, and cross-linguistic analysis of metonymies in expressions pertaining to *hand/ruka* in English and Serbian, while Pejčić uses a corpus of animal idioms aiming to establish the extent to which the universal conceptual basis of English and Serbian is reflected in the choice of animals. Another group of chapters in this part are concerned with discourse-pragmatic phenomena. Panić-Kavgić studies patterns of agreement with the interlocutor as an example of dispreferred verbal behaviour in dialogues in American and Serbian films, while Jojić focuses on humorous misunderstandings in sitcom discourse which results in unintentional humor. Kedveš explores gender based linguistic differences in head-

lines in “male” and “female” online magazines. Combining corpus linguistic methods with discourse studies, Kavgić studies the changes in the frequency of slang from 1989 to 2012 with the aim of gaining insight into the number of slang lexemes from the last five decades of the 20th century that have survived in modern informal speech and determining the overall currency of slang from different decades as well as the most frequent lexical fields of the surviving slang. In an attempt to account for the representation of the “managerial” subgroup of dispositive processes in the legal genre, Janićijević presents an exhaustive framework for a quantitative analysis of processes in legal texts in Serbian and English. This section is concluded by a contrastive study of the influence of prefixes on aspect and telicity in English, Romanian and Serbian by Lazović.

In the first of the six language teaching methodology papers, Radosavljević studies the relationship between motivation type and English language achievement of Serbian secondary school students. Bojović is concerned with the highly fashionable topic of foreign language anxiety (FLA), exemplified on 60 university students of biotechnology learning English as a foreign language. Pilipović seeks to determine whether significant differences in the use of language learning strategies can be found between the learners of different age groups. Topalov investigates the use of ineffective EFL reading strategies among university students with the aim of identifying individual learner characteristics that might account for the variation in the frequency of strategic use. Đorđević explores the awareness of the scope and benefits of computer-assisted language learning among English language teachers in Serbia. Part I closes with Bikicki’s paper on the need to teach classical mythology to Business English students, thus striking a sort of a bridge with the part of the volume devoted to literary topics.

Part II, *Topics in Anglophone Literatures*, comprises ten articles dealing with a broad range of complex and challenging cultural and literary phenomena. This part opens with another keynote chapter: Suvin provides an insightful analysis of the current state of affairs in English Studies, pleading for English Studies as an independent and international academic discipline. This is followed by Grgas’ views on American Studies, in which he explores capitalism as the fundamental aspect of the United States. Gordić Petković is a metatheoretical overview of the long and puzzling history of critical attempts at defining the genre of Hemingway’s series of stories about Nick Adams. Aćamović analyses narrative devices in a selection of novels, probing the (un)reliability of the narrator. Interdisciplinary approach to the study of literature is adopted by Marković, Parezanović, and Macura. The contribution by Marković is concerned with DuPlessis not only as an experimental poet, but also as a feminist scholar, while Parezanović examines the presence of jazz mu-



sic elements in Ondaatje's first novel, while Macura's paper focuses on some problematic hypotheses in Pynchon's "Entropy", eventually providing a mathematical proof for his reasoning. The complexity of gender issues is examined in chapters by Đurić and Matović. The remaining two articles in this batch, by Igrutinović and Kostić, respectively, provide what a volume like this could not be conceived without – the study of the Shakesperean world.

The present collection offers a truly panoramic view of the current state of research in English studies, representing major trends, world-wide and locally. As a balanced collection of insightfully written papers on a number of topical issues, the volume is bound to stimulate further inquiry and research, thus further strengthening the position of the Department of English at the Faculty of Philosophy in Novi Sad in the region and Europe-wide. The book will be of interest not only for those interested in English studies but also for general linguists and literary scholars. Despite its blending of linguistics with research on literature, this collection nevertheless makes a very coherent and rewarding reading.