
EDITORIAL

Tabula is a peer-reviewed open-access journal that includes a range of topics in the humanities, especially in philology, history, archeology, literature and linguistics. Its primary aim is to present new and challenging research to both academic and non-academic audiences in Croatia and beyond. Since its inception in 1999, this journal has been published once a year, occasionally publishing a special issue with in-depth coverage of carefully selected topics of interest to the wider research community. Each peer review is double-blind and submissions in Croatian, English and Italian are usually reviewed by two referees, including by default foreign referees, as well.

The current issue is special, enabling scholars in the field of English and American Studies recent insights into the language, literature and culture of the English-speaking world; thus, it includes six articles supplemented with a substantial review of a very recent publication. Their authors are either members of the English Department, affiliated to the journal publisher, i.e., to the Faculty of Humanities, Juraj Dobrila University of Pula, or their peers from other Croatian universities teaching at the given department. Founded only five years ago, the English Department of Pula is the sixth Croatian department of such kind, providing students with undergraduate and graduate study programmes of the English language and literature, rating in popularity among the top four study programmes in our university.

Renata Šamo's article on the hyper-central status of English is the first in this issue, studiously questioning the classification of its speakers according to the famous Three Concentric Cycles model. Furthermore, she refers to well-known terms such as World English and World Englishes, concluding that English cannot be considered a language-killer despite its global dominance. The following article in Croatian, by Katja Dobrić Basanež, has a corpus of parallel Croatian and English legislative texts of the EU competition law as its basis, and discusses binominal expressions in legal language, examining their wider context with the aim to determine whether they can be seen as extended units of meaning. The author finally suggests moving from traditional research into binary collocations in phraseology of language for general and language for specific purposes, as well as considering adjectival and verbal binominal expressions in future investigations. The third linguistic article, by Marija Brala Vukanović and Antoneta Stojić, analyses the semantic and pragmatic dimensions of the

deictic terms ‘here’ in English, ‘hier’ in German and ‘ovdje’ in Croatian. The authors begin with a systematic classification of their usage – from both intra- and cross-linguistic perspectives – and propose a reading of the semantics of the proximal deictic element for ‘linguistic spatial location’. Based on their conclusion, what physical proximity is in the spatial sense can largely be understood as pragmatic proximity in the linguistic sense. The following articles deal with literary topics. Igor Grbić attempts to re-evaluate the ‘Temple’ in E. M. Forster’s novel *A Passage to India*, redirecting the reader towards a contemplative, even mystical, rather than political, sociological and postcolonial perspectives. The author’s final claim is that this is the only way to do justice to the entire scope of Forster’s work, a vision towards ultimate unity being at the heart of its argument. Krešimir Vunić investigates the relationship between Shelley’s poem ‘To a Skylark’ and Hardy’s poem ‘Shelley’s Lark’, recognizing not only the influence of the former on the latter but also the intentional irony manifested in both statement and its form in Hardy’s poem. Nikola Novaković’s paper is the third, focusing his attention on the American illustrator and author Edward Gorey’s works, and the themes of time, nonsense and humour therein. In other words, the author elaborates on the means by which Gorey manipulates temporal boundaries in the framework of nonsense, while in fact suggesting timelessness and infinity.

The review included in the current issue is of *The Overstory* by the American novelist and university professor Richard Powers. Translated into Croatian as *Iznad svega* and published in Zagreb this year, the novel may not be great literature, but it certainly is, according to the reviewer Igor Grbić, a very example of what is known as ecofiction.

This special issue of *Tabula* (number 19) focuses on a number of topics in the field of English and American Studies, with some of its papers of significance to Croatian and German studies, expanding the initial scope of the present issue even further.

Editors,
Full Professor Renata Šamo
Associate Professor Igor Grbić