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## Introduction

This volume of *in esse: English Studies in Albania* comprises a variety of papers, some of which have been presented at ESSE conferences (ESSE 2014, ESSE 2018) or at the third international conference on language, literary and cultural studies “Language, culture and community: 21st-century perspectives,” organized by the Department of Foreign Languages, Faculty of Humanities, University of Vlora “Ismael Qemali, Albania, 30 May 2018, Vlora, Albania. The present issue contains papers from the fields of literary studies, film studies and language studies. They are divided into three sections, *English Literature; Film Studies; Language, Gender, Identity*.

The first section, *English Literature*, contains three contributions. It opens with David Livingstone’s article, which focuses on what Shaw called ‘bardolatry,’ a derogatory term meant to criticise the excessive idolisation of Shakespeare and things Shakespearean. Livingstone examines Shaw’s attitude towards his predecessor, more precisely his mixed feelings about him, in three of Shaw’s Shakespearian-themed works: *The Dark Lady of the Sonnets*, *A Dressing Room Secret* and *Shakes vs. Shaw*, in order to demonstrate Shaw’s entertaining and energetic ways, even when it comes to a world literature genius like Shakespeare.

Aylin Atilla, in her article, examines national identity in Julian Barnes’s novel *England, England* by drawing on the concept of nostalgia to trace Englishness. The author tries to demonstrate that despite the satirical portrayal of nationhood and lack of authenticity, still people feel the need for collective memory whose foundation lies in history.

Pavĺína Flajšarová, in her article, continues the interest with the theme of identity, more precisely with the contemporary values of Britishness, to examine them from a childish perspective, that of Christopher Boone, an autistic child who appears in Mark Haddon’s 2003 novel *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-*

*Time Mark Haddon*. It is exactly Christopher's 'otherness,' owing not only to his condition but also to his family situation (his parents are divorced), and the various roles he assumes in the novel, of a narrator, of a protagonist, of a detective within the story, and of a writer (he writes his own book), that make this novel a complex postmodern text in its examination of childhood landscape through the rites of passage of an autistic narrator.

The second section, *Film Studies*, contains one contribution by Julius Rozenfeld. Drawing on the concept of digimodernism, the author tries to demonstrate whether this concept can, in the context of globalisation and contemporary social evolution, redefine the concept of nation, keep to its traditional perceptions or fully describe it. To make his point, the author brings the example of the documentary film *America, Imagine the World without Her*.

The last section, *Language, Gender, Identity*, contains three contributions. In her article, Hranush Tovmasyan draws on Faulkner's short story "Dry September" to illustrate the deictic character of pronouns and demonstrate how pronominal deictic anaphoricity contributes to text cohesion and discourse coherence.

Bianca Dabu, in her article, analyses advertisements targeting women which contain unadapted English loans in Romanian. Her intention is to consider the relation between gender, social status and the use of English loans in advertisements for international products.

In his article, Viacheslav Shevchenko discusses the representation of cooking in the British media discourse. More precisely, the author focuses on the social aspects and the linguistic forms of this representation, by paying special attention to its cognitive aspects through the analysis of a specific cognitive model within the media discourse.

In her article, Adina Matrozi-Marin, by viewing food, cooking, language and communication as identity markers, tries to make an overview of the relationship between food and language, by

embedding it primarily into the realm of culture. Using the proposition of food as the oldest form of diplomacy as her departure point, the author looks into terms such as culinary diplomacy, gastrodiplomacy, diplomatic gastronomy and food gastronomy.

Finally, we would like to thank our contributors for sharing their views and ideas in this issue. Special thanks go to our reviewers for their tireless work in selecting and reviewing the contributions for this issue.