

Founded in November 2009, The Albanian Society for the Study of English (ASSE) is devoted to the promotion of English and American studies in Albania. *in esse: English Studies in Albania*, a refereed scholarly journal, is part of the Society's activities. Its aim is to bring to the fore original work in linguistics, literary and translation studies and language teaching by scholars working in Albania and abroad.



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Trends

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Introduction

The second issue of *in esse: English Studies in Albania* is entitled “Trends.” We decided to give this issue this brief but meaningful title in order to challenge scholars in Albania and abroad by calling their attention to the latest tendencies, perspectives and developments in the study of literature, language, and culture of English-speaking countries.

The contributions making part of this volume are divided into two sections: *Literature* and *Language*. Thus, “Trends” appears to have been more appealing to scholars working in the realm of literature and language. Despite this, the variety of topics covered under “Trends” is nonetheless rich.

The first section of this volume comprises four essays. We decided to open this section with “Revisiting Postmodernism” by Artur Jaupaj and Arjan Shumeli as an outlining contribution, which accommodates the following contributions within the scope of what we call postmodernism. The essay undertakes the task of answering a simple but challenging question “When was Postmodernism?” It does so by bringing together some of the definitions and developments, which are in one way or another related to postmodernism as we know it. It is, above all, an attempt to chronology in order to pin down what we call postmodernism.

The second contribution somehow continues the concern of the first one, in the sense that it carries on with matters of postmodernism, but it touches more particularly upon the concept of “The presence of the past,” the title of the 1980 Venice Biennale. The author Marsela Turku uses “The presence of the past” as a metaphor to read Mailer’s book *Of a Fire on the Moon* as a subtext of Melville’s *Moby Dick* as well as to account for its postmodern quality.

The next essay engages itself in a contrastive analysis embedded in a New Historicist perspective in order to read Charles Dickens’s *A Tale of Two Cities* against Victor Hugo’s *Les Misérables*. The authors Leyli Jamali and Reza Sattarzadeh Nowbari propose to view the representation of the French Revolution in both works from the New Historicist perspective.

Hamid EL-Dood Mahdi in his paper entitled “The influence of Western narrative techniques: A case study of Ousmane’s selected short stories” offers an interesting and illuminating account of how western narrative techniques have found ground in African culture and have aided in the development of short story in West African countries. The author tries to demonstrate how African writers departing from the oral tradition, which he identifies as the source for the short story in Africa, have at one point resorted to Western narrative techniques, thus giving way to a richer narrative mode, which combines two different cultures, attitudes, manners and styles.

The second section comprises three papers, which are mainly contrastive and deal with comparisons between English and Albanian from different perspectives. They touch mainly upon aspects of grammar and semantics.

The first paper in this section, written by Aida Kurani and Anita Muho, deals with resultative clauses in Albanian and English, more particularly with the syntax and structure of these clauses in both languages. The authors’ aim in this paper is to point out some similarities and differences between resultative clauses in both languages, which should be considered in teaching and translating situations.

The next paper deals with the formation of euphemisms in both English and Albanian. The authors Miranda Shahini and Valter Memisha discuss the euphemism formation processes in each language and also attempt a comparison of euphemisms in both English and Albanian.

The last paper in this section touches upon another interesting aspect of language, that is, homonymy. The task proposed by the authors Suela Mangelli and Magdalini Gaqollari (Vampa) is rather challenging. They do not simply propose to discuss instances of homonymy but to attempt a classification of homonymy in both English and Albanian. The authors first provide a classification of homonyms in English, then in Albanian to proceed with a general classification of homonyms in English and Albanian.

In the end, we would like to thank all our contributors for sharing their perspectives and ideas in this volume. A special thank you also

goes to our reviewers for their tireless work in selecting and reviewing the contributions for this volume.