

explorations



Explorations: A Journal of Language and Literature

A note from the editors

Jacek Gutorow, Jan Zalewski (Opole University)

It is our great pleasure to see the second issue of *Explorations: A Journal of Language and Literature* take wing. Like the first one, it includes various interests and topics centered around the area of English Studies. We hope that the few essays proposed here will keep you interested and provide you with some helpful and/or unexpected insights.

In the linguistics section of the current issue, our readers may hopefully enjoy reading two articles which are quite different from one another not just because one takes up the issue of linguistic borrowing and the other offers a taxonomy of clichés, but, most of all, because the former is written with linguists in mind and the latter is intended for a general, non-specialist audience. The first article is by Anna Niepytalska-Osiecka. Her discussion of English borrowings into the sociolect of Polish climbers is part of her research on the vocabulary of this variety of Polish. Herself being a climber and a declared user of this social dialect, she relied on the method of participant observation in collecting her spoken language data while her written language sources include mountaineering guidebooks, handbooks, diaries as well as various internet sources. The analysis presented in the article focuses on the degree of assimilation of the English borrowings in the recipient language and is divided into two sections, one dealing with borrowings with varying (i.e., either original or assimilated) spelling and the other discussing borrowings with original spelling. The second article in the language section is by Monika Porwoł. It may be found interesting by a more general audience as it represents a kind of extended definition of the linguistic phenomenon of clichés with ample exemplification. The author classifies clichés into biblical, mythological, historical, literary, and foreign language clichés based on the criterion of origin. Her discussion includes moreover structural, semantic, and pragmatic criteria.

In the literature section we have three interesting essays. First, Alicja Bemben provides us with a psychoanalytic reading of Robert Graves's *I, Claudius*, demonstrating that (and how) one's identity is constructed and developed not only through identification with other selves but also through a sense of independence possible only in solitude. Marcin Sroczyński, our second contributor, interprets Alan Hollinghurst's *The Stranger's Child* as a study of the nature of human memory, showing how the past becomes a falsified reconstruction which exerts its influence on the present; his analyses are informed by some critical insights derived from the works of Michel Foucault (notably his *History of Sexuality*) and American New Historicists. Finally, Aneta Wadowska

examines Shakespeare's portraits of wise fools, taking as her main example the presentation of Thersites in *Troilus and Cressida* and coming up with the idea of Shakespeare's dramas in which, thanks to the „medium of ironic message” (represented by the jesters), the „non-conformist spirit of the playwright is best reflected... and the elements of both official and non-official Renaissance culture and literature become effectively interconnected.” Also, take a look at our review section.

As editors, we will be definitely glad to have your comments. Any criticism and suggestions from our readers will be welcome as feedback essential to the quality of the journal and as a valued sign of its relevance to our profession. Feel free to contact us at [explorations\(at\)uni.opole.pl](mailto:explorations(at)uni.opole.pl) with your comments on the articles as well as share your thoughts or ask the author a question.

Jacek Gutorow, Jan Zalewski,

The Editors