

explorations



Explorations: A Journal of Language and Literature

A note from the editors

It is our great pleasure to introduce the fourth number of *Explorations: A Journal of Language and Literature*. Like the previous issues, it presents various interests and topics centered around the area of English Studies. We hope that the papers and reviews proposed here will provide you with some helpful and valuable insights.

One of the most electrifying features in this issue is definitely an interview with Prof. Greg Zacharias, the Director of the Center for Henry James Studies at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska, and the project director and co-general editor (with Michael Anesko) of *The Complete Letters of Henry James*. Prof. Zacharias tells us about his lifelong interest in Henry James and discusses the publication of James's letters. He has some great things to say.

In the language section our readers will find two articles by authors from Nigeria and Poland, each taking a different approach to discourse within the broad field of discourse studies. The paper from Nigeria belongs in the pragmatic tradition of speech act analysis and the one from Poland represents the tradition of more ideologically-oriented discourse analysis. Temitope Michael Ajayi, applying the framework of the Pragmatic Acts theory, offers a discussion of selected burial songs from Nigeria. In the other article, Waldemar Czachur, working in the context of the more standard concept of the linguistic worldview, expounds his original conception of the discursive worldview and deals with the methodological issue of how this notion integrates the different analytical perspectives used in different approaches to discourse.

The literature section opens with Ewa Błasiak interpreting Ben Jonson's *Volpone* in the context of legal terms and references appearing in this remarkable play. Sophia Emmanouilidou renders Ernesto Galarza's 1971 *Barrio Boy* as a study of a (Mexican) immigrant's mindset and revisits the questions of Chicana/o identity. Then we have an essay written by Portuguese scholar Fernanda Luisa Feneja who examines one of Maya Angelou's early stories and probes into the nature of the black feminist autobiographical narrative. The last two texts deal with two British novelists whose visionary works tell us something about the human condition in the (post)modern world: Paulina Kamińska provides a psychoanalytical angle to some of Doris Lessing's science-fictional stories, while Wit Pietrzak has some important things to say about the postapocalyptic terror voiced by Howard Jacobson in his 2014 novel *J*.

Finally, we have five reviews topping the issue and focusing on the latest books by Anjali Pandey, Justin Quinn, S.E. Gontarski, Ilona Dobosiewicz and Colm Toibin. As

usual, we will be glad to hear from you and have your comments. Please feel free to contact us at [explorations\(at\)uni.opole.pl](mailto:explorations@uni.opole.pl).