

EDITOR'S NOTE

English Matters VIII presents a collection of papers by both full-time and part-time PhD. students of the Institute of British and American Studies, Faculty of Arts, University of Presov. The areas of their PhD. research have been reflected in the papers.

The literature and culture areas are represented by Stanislav Kužila, Zuzana Lukáčová, Ingrid Madárová, and Jana Ščigulinská.

Stanislav Kužila in his article focuses on the sci-fi fiction of the Star Wars and analyses the conversion of races. The article of *Zuzana Lukáčová* focuses on the history of demography in the Victorian period. The main aim of the author is to investigate the nature of demographic changes in the Victorian period and to examine the factors which affected demography in the Victorian period with the perspective to determine the extent to which these factors affected the population rate in Victorian Britain. *Ingrid Madárová* in her article pays the attention to the English language as the means for intercultural communication and considers its role within worldwide communication as “English as an international language”. The article of *Jana Ščigulinská* critically focuses on the process of portraying Native Americans in the American literature as well as American film in the works labelled as the classics of the literary and film production.

Linguistic area is covered by *Henrieta Kuzderová*. In her paper the author deals with syntactic ellipses and aims to find out how or how much the informal sitcom language has changed over the years.

ELT methodology is the key focus in the articles by Róbert Majzlík, Lucia Michaleková, Zuzana Nováková and Barbora Pavelová. *Róbert Majzlík* in his paper brings a theoretical review of basic information about using IWBs generally in teaching and then with a special emphasis on teaching English as a foreign language. The initial chapters of the paper deal with a short introduction to the history of IWBs and their birth with some examples of definitions. *Lucia Michaleková's* article focuses on the language learning strategies applied in listening comprehension by students with technical specialization at the Technical University of Košice. *Zuzana Nováková* in her paper gives an account of the pilot study conducted in the course of one term at a selected higher-education institution. The study aimed at finding out the impact of technology-enhanced environment, namely students' audio-recordings their self-assessment, and teacher's feedback, on students' speaking skills was used to test the feasibility of a planned research project. The paper of *Barbora Pavelová* deals with the interconnection of culture and education at Mary Immaculate College in Limerick, Ireland. The aim of the article is to investigate current perception of international students on culture, paying particular interest to how culture is interconnected with education in the institution.

Editor