

EDITOR'S NOTE

English Matters is a collection of papers falling into three major fields – linguistics, literature and methodology of language teaching – and is written by the faculty of the Department of English Language and Literature, Faculty of Humanities and Natural Sciences, Prešov University.

The linguistics section deals with issues like language-culture relationship, perception of triphthongs, form and usage of English diminutives, forensic discourse, and thematic re-ordering of information in a message. In her paper, *Magdaléna Bilá* suggests that an approach applying new models of culture pedagogy stressing cultural competence as a component of linguistic competence be considered in designing the contents of the courses included in the study program English in international cultural and business practice (currently run by the English language and literature department, Prešov University, Slovakia). *Eva Eddy's* concern is pronunciation tendencies in words containing triphthongs; she provides the results of a survey carried out among native speakers of British English. *Alena Kačmárová* surveys the forms and usage of diminutives in the Slovak and English languages; in the discussion on English, she pays attention to American, British and Australian varieties of English. *Eva Pavličková's* object of study is forensic discourse, namely last wills and testaments; her focus is the construction and interpretation of the testator's intention in these kinds of documents. *Rita Rafajlovičová* provides an account of syntactic devices highlighting a particular piece of information in a message; in doing so she exemplifies and explains the effects that particular thematic constructions might bring.

The literature section gives views on issues of postmodernism, popular culture and mediated reality, the American dream and decadence, and narrative configuration. Postmodernist trends and narrative techniques of Robbins' novel *Fierce Invalids Home from Hot Climates* (2000) are explored in the paper by *Miloš Blahút*. Popular culture is also dealt with in the paper by *Jaroslav Kušnír* who analyzes Bernard Cohen's portrayal of the Australian city in *Snowdome* (1998); his contribution is critical in that he points out that the way Cohen shows how a postmodern city becomes rather universal than a culturally specific site expressing specificity of the cultural existence. *Ivan Štrba* shares views on Tom Buchanan, in the author's words "by far the most unpleasant character in the novel"; in the paper, he analyzes Buchanan's behavior and provides his understanding of such conduct. *Ingrida Vaňková* discusses the problem of narrative configuration, and she comes to conclusion that if identity is constructed narratively and in corresponding action, then, unavoidably and comprehensively, identity is text.

The section on methodology of language teaching brings ideas on digital education, a syllabus organizing principle, cultural studies, European Portfolio for Student Teachers of Languages, and the role of motivation in language learning. *Ivana Cimermanová's* paper brings up the issue of missing systematic preparation of pre-service teachers so they are able to use technologies in language teaching. *Magdaléna Rázusová* presents ideas on how to teach a course on translation and interpreting from English into Slovak and vice versa through justifying the discourse and topic organizing principle of the course. In her paper, *Anna Ritlyová* makes it clear what teaching English realia is about while paying attention to cultural awareness; she encourages teachers to be more attentive to this field of knowledge in the teaching process and presents some ideas on how to do so. *Zuzana Straková* shares her experience with piloting the European Portfolio for Student Teachers of Languages and provides her views on how to apply the document in practice so it becomes a tool that everyone can benefit from. *Michal Tatarko* tries to relate the methods of foreign language teaching to the motivation to learn a foreign language, and in doing so uncover new possibilities for improvement in this field.

In this concise form, the present faculty of the Department of the English Language and Literature discuss the issues that are of current interest to them and hope to make it interesting or even inspiring reading simply because English matters.