

[ostrava journal of english philology

vol. 4
no. 1

2012



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The perverted cosmology of Richard Crashaw

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The essay discusses the transformation of Pythagorean cosmology in the English poems of Richard Crashaw. It argues that Crashaw's paradoxical musicality is not grounded in an orderly organization of the universe (as was the case in the Pythagorean concept), but in its abundant excessiveness. This theme is developed in relation to various cosmological allusions, the author's christocentrism and his specific use of emblems. The crucial point is the dynamic nature of Crashaw's concept of harmony based on his sophisticated handling of language.

Keywords: Richard Crashaw, English metaphysical poetry, Pythagorean cosmology, mysticism, concepts of harmony

The Gothic as a Cosmopolitan Literary Form. The Case of C. R. Maturin's *Melmoth the Wanderer*

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*Between the end of the eighteenth century and the first two decades of the nineteenth century, several Irish, English and Scottish writers – such as Maria Edgeworth, Sydney Owenson, Susan Ferrier, Sydney Morgan, John Galt and Charles Robert Maturin – focused their novels on the nationalistic/cosmopolitan dichotomy. Tellingly, in my view, this dialectics is not simply thematic, but concerns the formal organization of the text, the way a given novel is constructed. Thus, in those years, in the process of definition of a national identity and, consequently, a national literature, certain kinds of writing – variegated, encyclopaedic, non-linear – began to be stigmatized as dangerous projections of antagonist axiologies, not conforming to those parameters of homogeneity, order and rationality regarded as epitomizing the nation state and its symbolic forms. My essay discusses in particular the formal aspects connected to the way in which nationalism and cosmopolitanism intersect and yet are opposed in Charles Robert Maturin's masterpiece, *Melmoth the Wanderer*.*

Keywords: Maturin, Melmoth, Wanderer, Gothic novel, historical novel, national tale, cosmopolitanism, national literature

A Parable of Humanity – Character and Landscape Construction in Jim Crace's *Signals of Distress*

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*Jim Crace is a remarkable contemporary British novelist in the realistic tradition, who deliberately avoids postmodernist experimentation or playfulness. The power of his writing rests in the combination of distinctive main characters and the sense of constructing unique fictional topographies. The aim of this article is to demonstrate that his novel *Signals of Distress* (1994) can be read as both a counterpart and a sequel to its more famous predecessor, *Arcadia* (1992), as it also explores, through the form of the satirical parable, the position of an individual in the process of a community's transition due to larger historical, social and economic circumstances.*

Keywords: character, landscape, community, transition, parable, social satire

Challenging Traditional Approaches to Eugene O'Neill

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O'Neill is the greatest American playwright, but traditional approaches to O'Neill criticism and theatrical production require reappraisal in the 21st century. Traditional attitudes limit understanding of the range of O'Neill's plays and the possibilities for their productions. There is much more to the understanding of O'Neill's plays than reading them as the dramatist's personal psychoanalysis or autobiographical expiation. So too must directors look beyond performance traditions mired in mid-20th century psychological realism. They must see beyond the legacy of the famous productions of the late masterpieces. O'Neill's plays must not only be revered by audiences; they must ensoul them.

Keywords: Eugene O'Neill, 20th century American theatre, James O'Neill, George Pierce Baker, American drama criticism, Jose Quintero, Jason Robards, Al Pacino, Jonathan Miller, Kevin Spacey, Long Day's Journey Into Night, The Iceman Cometh, "Hughie" George Jean Nathan

Sense of Community in the Work of Gary Snyder

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This essay examines the concept of community in six selected works by Gary Snyder. Living rooted in a place in symbiosis with the non-human has been a model found in most indigenous cultures and Eastern religious traditions. Snyder's anthropological scholarship and a life-long involvement with Zen Buddhism have shaped his vision of a sustainable model of living. In his work Snyder convincingly shows that living in a place-based community has not diminished in importance in the globalized world. The sense of community in Snyder's work will be scrutinized from multiple perspectives. Those include Snyder's understanding of the

concept of community and his own role within it, his relation to nature and the non-human, his understanding of the food chain as the key process of energy sharing within a community, and the importance of the sense of place for establishing a lasting community.

Keywords: Gary Snyder, community, sense of place, shamanism, Buddhism, ecology, food web, nature, ecocentrism

Fašismus, my a Ezra Pound: Esej o jednom jazykovém hříchu

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Esej se zabývá užíváním termínu fašismus v soudobém obecném a akademickém diskursu. Tradičním esejistickým přístupem, aniž by byly užity jakékoliv lingvistické metody, zkoumá esej různé způsoby znevažování významu tohoto slova. Značná pozornost je věnována společenskému rozměru užívání termínu; užití slova fašismus nebo fašista je považováno za výkon „komunitní moci“ na označovaném a adresátovi promluvy. Příklad Ezry Pounda dokládá, jak byl význam termínu zamlžen a jak by snad mohl být znovu ustaven.

This essay examines the usage of the term “fascism” in present-day academic and everyday discourse. Not using linguistic methods but instead applying a traditional essayistic approach, the author outlines the ways in which the meaning of the word has been abused. The essay pays attention to the social dimension of the usage of the term; using “fascism” or “fascist” is considered an exercise of the “community power” which is imposed both on the referent and the addressee. The case of Ezra Pound is discussed in detail in order to exemplify how the meaning of the term has been destructed and how it can possibly be reconstructed.

Klíčová slova: fašismus, modernismus, Ezra Pound, Benito Mussolini, kulturní kritika, jazyk

Keywords: fascism, modernism, Ezra Pound, Benito Mussolini, cultural criticism, language

Snad mají pravdu básníci – hlavní je láska. Aneb partnerské a milostné vztahy v díle Woodyho Allena.

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Jedním z typických rysů díla Woodyho Allena je touha jeho postav po lásce a intimitě. Tento článek představuje Allenova typického mužského protagonistu jako člověka, který kromě naplnění svých fyzických potřeb touží po ideální ženě a hledá dokonalost, zároveň však pochybuje o možnosti harmonického partnerského soužití, cítí se ohrožen dominantními ženami a navazuje vztahy, které jsou předurčeny k zániku. Pozornost je věnována schématu Galatea-Pygmalion, v souladu s nímž Allen prezentuje vztahy mezi mladými ženami a staršími muži, kteří fungují jako autorita a utvářejí osobnost a názory svých partnerek. V neposlední řadě se tento článek zaměřuje na Allenův přístup k manželství a jeho zájem o dynamiku vztahů mezi zákonnými partnery.

The need for love and intimacy shared by the characters created by Woody Allen is one of the typical features of Allen's work. This article presents the typical male protagonist as a man who, apart from satisfying his physical needs, longs for an ideal woman and wants relationships to be perfect, but at the same time doubts the possibility of a harmonious love affair, feels threatened by dominant women and seeks relationships which are predestined to fail. Attention is paid to the Galatea-Pygmalion model applied by Allen when presenting relationships between young women and older men, who act as authorities insisting on the right to influence the personality and opinions of their partners. The article also focuses on Allen's portrayal of marriage and on his interest in relationships between husbands and wives.

Klíčová slova: Woody Allen, Allenova persona, partnerské vztahy, sex, manželství, nevěra, Pygmalion a Galatea, Annie Hallová, ideální žena

Keywords: Woody Allen, Allen persona, relationships, sex, marriage, infidelity, Pygmalion and Galatea, Annie Hall, ideal woman

"Frequently Asked Questions": A Genre between Centre and Periphery

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Drawing upon the Hallidayan functional approach to language and current methodology used in genre analysis, the paper focuses on the relatively newly established web genre of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). The study traces the position and function of the genre within the genre colony of university website presentations and attempts to define its core generic properties. The genre of FAQs tends to be shaped by the interplay of conventional and variable features, with the conventionality stemming primarily from the genre's recurrent pattern and the regular use of its name, and with the inner variability captured by four tentative scales spanning between interactivity and monologic character, continuity and discontinuity, script-like organization and random composition, and between the field-dominated and tenor-dominated genre profile.

Keywords: functional systemic linguistics; genre analysis; FAQs; university website presentations; field-dominated discourse; tenor-dominated-discourse

The Manifestation of Positive Politeness in Medical Consulting Revisited

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This paper offers some partial results from a long-term project aimed at an inquiry into the field of medical consulting. The primary goal of the project is to search for communicative strategies of doctors and patients that can convey empathy and trust. Via an interdisciplinary analysis, based on data excerpted from the most recent edition of the British National Corpus (2007), the author brings quantitative and qualitative evidence that doctor-patient interaction has undergone significant modifications, resulting in a social redefinition of the originally asymmetrical roles of the main protagonists. The present paper draws attention to those

communicative practices of doctors and patients that are related to the manifestation of positive politeness.

Keywords: medical consultation, British National Corpus, positive politeness

Will English become a new lingua franca in Georgia?

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The paper reports on current language policy in the Caucasian country of Georgia with a focus on reforms concerning the use of the English language. It describes the historical and social context of the present governmental language policy and then discusses the role of English in distinct fields, such as the economy, tourism and education. The author also presents the results of original ethnographic research, based on semi-structured expert and other interviews, aiming to investigate the linguistic situation in the village of Duisi, inhabited by the Kists, one of Georgia's national and linguistic minorities.

Keywords: Georgia, Kists, lingua franca, Russian, language policy, government