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"I am not running, I am choosing": Black Feminist Empowerment and the Continuation of a Literary Tradition in Julie Dash's *Daughters* of the Dust (1991) and Dee Rees' *Pariah* (2011)

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Abstract

This essay argues that contemporary films by Black American women filmmakers should be seen as cinematically carrying on the literary tradition that began in the 1970s and has prepared the path for this group. Since then, one has been able to observe a growing number of Black women writers who differed from preceding authors by providing visions of Black women who found the self-esteem and self-empowerment necessary to overcome negative circumstances. The filmmakers offer a continuation of this tradition; dealing with the challenges of the often condescending gaze of mainstream productions, they turned their own cinematic Black women into active agents of change.

Keywords: Black women writers, Black film, Black women filmmakers, African American literature, African American filmmakers, Julie Dash, Dee Rees

First Generation and Second Generation Responses to the Holocaust in Anne Michaels' Fugitive Pieces

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Abstract

Ann Michaels is an author of Jewish descent who did not experience the Holocaust; however, it influenced her fiction to a great extent. Michaels' parents emigrated from Europe before the outbreak of the war and parts of her family that had stayed in Europe fell victim to the Holocaust. The fact that the Holocaust represents a significant aspect in her life despite her lack of direct experience is visible in her first novel. In Fugitive Pieces Michaels focuses on the question of Holocaust trauma transmission to subsequent generations; she manages to provide a complex view of Holocaust trauma and its development. This paper focuses on the analysis of the key characters within the novel, Jakob and Ben. The primary and secondary traumas are discussed through detailed analysis of memories concerning the Holocaust past. The aim of the article is to analyze the shared as well as the differing aspects of trauma transmission in both key characters.

Keywords: Holocaust trauma transmission, PTSD, the second generation and the Holocaust, victim, perpetrator, family, Canadian literature

The Vine of Life Distilleth Drops of Grace: The Poetics of Accommodation in the Poems of Robert Southwell

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Abstract

The article discusses the poetics of accommodation in the English poems of Robert Southwell (ca. 1561–1595). Southwell's understanding of poetry is closely related to his understanding of the divine accommodation, i.e. the communication of the Christian idea of revelation in a way that is accessible and suited to humanity. The article explores this theme in relation to the literary theory advanced by Southwell's contemporaries (Sir Philip Sidney and various Jesuit treatises), and analyses Southwell's poetics, emphasizing the nature of God's agape and the emotional appeal of Southwell's devotional verse. The conclusion summarizes the specific achievement of Southwell's poetry.

Keywords: Robert Southwell, English Renaissance literature, devotional poetry, Counter-Reformation

Catholic poetics

Poselství Sarah Kaneové ve hře Zpustošení

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Abstract

This paper presents an analysis of Blasted by Sarah Kane with the aim of interpreting the brutal scenes which appear in the play and give rise to misunderstandings and misinterpretations. The work of Sarah Kane is not frequently played in Czech theatres, and the misinterpretation of the violence in her works may be one of the reasons. The paper therefore aims to interpret the violence in her plays as a way of criticising violence in contemporary society, which makes us immune to all brutalities in which we are not personally involved.

Keywords: Sarah Kane, Blasted, violence, war, in-yer-face theatre

Suasive Verbs and Their Complements: A Corpus-Based Study

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Abstract

This article deals with the use of finite complements of three suasive verbs (to suggest, to insist, to recommend) in mandative contexts. The data analysis attempts to demonstrate whether the choices of finite complements show similar patterning in non-past tense and past tense contexts. Also, it discusses whether the conclusions regarding the usage in affirmative contexts may be extended to negative contexts. Finally, it concludes that British English is converging with American English in the use of subjunctives but diverging in the use of indicatives. Nevertheless, this option, traditionally considered as a Briticism, is not excluded from American usage as it is well-established in negatives.

Keywords: finite complements, the indicative, mandative uses, modal periphrasis, the subjunctive, suasive verbs

The Expression of the Writer's Attitude in Undergraduate Textbooks and Research Articles

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Abstract

This paper draws on the theory of metadiscourse, which is viewed as a significant attempt to conceptualize the interpersonal aspects of language (especially in the model presented by Hyland). The analysis focuses on one metadiscursive category, attitude markers, and aims to compare the expression of the writer's attitude in two genres of academic discourse, undergraduate textbooks and research articles, within one discipline – applied linguistics. The paper sets out to investigate different functions of the attitude markers in the two genres, e.g. 'creating a research space' in research articles and text-organizing functions in textbooks. This reflects the different purposes and audiences of the two genres – the instructional goal of the textbook on one hand, and the more persuasive goal of the research article on the other. The results suggest that metadiscourse is not only used to organize discourse and negotiate interpersonal meanings, but it may also function as a persuasive tool – even in academic writing, which is traditionally regarded as field-dominated.

Keywords: attitude markers, metadiscourse, undergraduate textbook, research article, academic discourse

Selected Aspects of Emotionality in Medical English Lexis – Application of the Osgood Semantic Differential

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Abstract

Emotionality has traditionally been viewed as an undesirable feature in the production of specialist discourse and in word-formation processes in terminology. Nevertheless, the existence of inherent emotionality and the affective polarization of language users' view of pertinent referents in science cannot be denied, being related to the structure of extralinguistic reality as well as to collective and individual experience accrued over particular concepts. The article discusses some aspects of emotionality in medical lexis as an example of affective phenomena in professional language. The results of an Osgood semantic differential survey are presented to elucidate the extent of emotionality in health-related terminology.

Keywords: medical lexis, emotionality, Osgood semantic differential