



**ENGLISH**

**Culture, Civilization**

**ABSTRACTS**

❖ Florentina ANGHEL, University of Craiova, Faculty of Letters  
*Resistance to Change in William Faulkner's Light in August*

Resistance to change can have either personal or collective reasons whose identification and analysis are undoubtedly related to psychology, sociology and history, which implies an interdisciplinary approach. William Faulkner's novel *Light in August* has as major theme racism in the South of the United States. At the crossroads of the individual and collective struggle for and against racism a biologically and socially uprooted character, Joe Christmas, emerges. The protagonist, a result of the interracial intercourse, is the embodiment of the restless South that fails to accept a peaceful and eventually unavoidable coexistence of the black and white people. The scission at the level of the community gets confusing and troublesome at the level of the individual. Most characters are reluctant to the emancipation of the black people, which induce the resistance to their own emancipation and reveal their perseverance in the already 'traditional' course of life. My paper will present the elements that contribute to the characters' resistance to change in William Faulkner's *Light in August*.

Keywords: *American literature, change, resistance, interdisciplinary approach, identity*

❖ Denisa BĂRBUCEANU, University of Craiova, Department of Applied Foreign Languages  
*Dualism and Bogomilism in Byron's Cain*

Byron's demonism has its source in the unbounded admiration for Ossian, which inspired Chateaubriand or Goethe when he wrote *Faustus*, thus all fall into ossianic despair from which melancholy and loneliness spring, attributes that characterize both Manfred and Cain or Eminescu's Toma Nour and Dionysus. Goethe said that Byron "(...) has made use of the impelling principles in his own way, for his own purposes, so that no one of them remains the same ; and it is particularly on this account that I cannot enough admire his genius ." If we were to enumerate all his heroes suspicious of demonism, we would start first, from its most weak pulses: the poetry of youth, and especially the oriental poems in whose absence the demonic hero would not be fully emerged lacking a base and a timid start. We finally turn to the most affected of all, the true romantic characters, complex and difficult in construction, the exponents of demonism in Byronic work, Manfred and Cain, of Ossian and Faustian substance.

Keywords: *bogomilism, demonism, dualism*

❖ Felicia BURDESCU, University of Craiova, Faculty of Letters  
*Bradbury's University Gets Faustus Haunted*

Through the dark vision of a leader/creator/academic of a glass and steel British university, the author gives an ample picture of society vs. the educational system, at the end of the past century. Bradbury's *History Man* has been called an academic novel, a social satire in fact, that introduces a subversive kind of hero or a postmodern *Faustus*, self critically built.

Keywords: *Faustus, academic novel, subversive hero, social satire*

❖ Mihai COȘOVEANU, University of Craiova, Faculty of Letters  
*Denise Levertov and the Secret of Life*

Surrounded by a world of doubt, Denise Levertov was a seeker. A seeker who tried to emphasize the idea that God is in everything and that the secret of life can be discovered by anyone willing to notice and listen. Hope and grief are the two main coordinates of her poems, the lines revealing a continuous, intriguing combination of optimism and skepticism. In order to preserve the magic and mystery of life, she launches a poetic battle against violence, particularly against wars and social injustice. By declaring religion and nature her reliable allies, Denise Levertov is ready to defend her views.

Keywords: *God, hope, life, secret, violence*

❖ Ana-Maria DEMETRIAN, University of Craiova, Department of Applied Foreign Languages  
*Go Tell It on the Mountain: Lessons in Life*

*Go Tell It on the Mountain*, a highly praised autobiographical novel of James Baldwin, is more than a study of African American fundamentalist church and its tradition, of racism and its effects, of black life; it is a powerful and evocative depiction of life with its dilemmas, its pains, its joys written passionately. The author has been inspired by his own experience and his own emotions, which makes the story authoritative and involves the readers from the beginning to the end. Baldwin manages to bring his contribution to history and to the fight for changing the world into a better place without turning into a protest writer filled with hatred for the whites because, according to him, hatred is self-destructive and quite useless. Moreover, he presents the historical realities of black religion, migration to the North, Harlem, racism, and segregation in combination with different aspects of human existence such as love, sex, beliefs, sins-punishments-redemption, courage, power, and freedom transforming his book into an unforgettable and vital message to the world and in the same time working out his uncertainties; his difficulties with his identity in general and his racial and sexual identity in particular; his pains, anger and regret. In the end *Go Tell It on the Mountain* proves to be a revealing piece of history and a crucial lesson about the politics of resistance in life and of the human heart. It also warns us about the existence of the many types of evil: historical, cultural, and social and suggests that only through common effort and love can we save each other. All in all, in this book, history, culture, and universality are blended together so brilliantly that any reader from any time and place can acquire invaluable knowledge and enrich his/her life.

Keywords: *identity, freedom, power, love, black religion, racism*

❖ Georgiana-Elena DILĂ, University of Craiova, Faculty of Letters  
*Family Commitment Versus Social Tradition in Arthur Miller's A View from the Bridge*

Arthur Miller's *A View from the Bridge* focuses on the Italian minority perception regarding personal and career development in the United States, unwinding a double faced story which benefits from a modern Greek chorus represented by Alfieri, a lawyer who tries to keep the balance between law and tradition. The paper aims at presenting the various psychological factors which trigger the unsettling atmosphere and the tragic end of the play by underlining the family status and the overwhelming fears which subdue the protagonist's thoughts and actions. The powerful European legacy forces the characters to take matters into their own hands ignoring the American behaviour towards such events.

Keywords: *relationship, tradition, minority, development*

❖ Maria-Magdalena FĂURAR, University of Craiova, Faculty of Letters  
*Handcrafting the Healing and Unifying Metaphor in Alice Walker's The Color Purple*

Sewing, quilting and knitting are emblematic devices of emotional healing and unity among the women in Alice Walker's novels. Not only do they unfold layers of history and cultural tradition deriving from black folklore but they also reverberate a sense of collectivity and sorority as suggested by their name for the quilt: *Sister's Choice*. While relationships are cemented, at the crux of these threads of hope is also emancipation as well as financial independence that women can gain from helping each other and combining their efforts to reach a common goal. My paper aims to investigate the metaphorical implications and the multi-faceted meanings of these manual skills in Alice Walker's *The Color Purple*.

Keywords: *culture, identity, sewing, quilts, unity*

❖ Liliana GHIDEL, University of Craiova, Faculty of Letters, Drobeta Turnu-Severin University Centre  
*Elizabethan Literature in Renaissance Europe*

The article follows the development of English literature in the sixteenth century which resembles the development of overseas enterprise and discovery. The most interesting and significant literary work of the early part of Elizabeth's reign was the work of the chroniclers and the translators, who amassed rich stores of

material for the dramatists and poets of the future. The two books which Shakespeare used more than any others were a chronicle and a translation, Holinshed's Chronicles of England and Scotland and North's Plutarch. The translators were as conscious of the national importance of their work as the chroniclers. They fired the imagination of many young Englishmen, one of whom was William Shakespeare. The rest of the chapter is a review of the work of Spenser and Sidney, but also of Marlowe and Shakespeare – the greatest of the Elizabethan playwrights and a true embodiment of the dramatic spirit of the age of Renaissance as well as the greatest dramatic genius with hitherto unmatched capacity of skill and contrivance.

Keywords: *Elizabeth, Shakespeare, English Literature, Renaissance, Marlow*

❖ Laviniu LĂPĂDAT, University of Craiova, Faculty of Letters  
*Cultural Alchemy – A Legacy of Adaptation in Ralph Ellison's Invisible Man*

Folk traditions, associated with other mechanisms of human comprehension, invite both the writer and the reader into the intimate life of blacks in America, allowing us to discover and observe them in celebration or tribulation, gripped by bliss alongside family and friends or in their darkest hour of need. Ellison employs cultural tradition without overusing external connections. His dramatic recoil is often based on a system of illusions which in the end exposes the betrayal of blackness while at the same time expounding a traumatic treatment of folk values.

Keywords: *race, identity, culture, invisibility*

❖ Cristina Cornelia MĂNDOIU, University of Craiova, Faculty of Letters  
*Temporal and Spatial Doubling in William Faulkner's A Rose for Emily*

In *A Rose for Emily*, William Faulkner masterfully provides a portrait of the Southern American society in the aftermath of the civil war, using a disrupted chronology of events, an unconventional plot and Southern Gothic elements. The story explores the tormented history of a fallen South, illustrated through the biography of a typical Southern lady whose life trajectory resonates with that of the culture it produced her. Therefore Miss Emily's life course doubles the transition of the South, both in temporal and spatial dimension, and the story brings to the fore the contradictions between national and regional beliefs, the deterioration of unity, and the loss of the traditional system of values.

Keywords: *short story, time, space, double*

❖ Simona MITROIU, "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iași  
*Between the Self and the Other. Identity Strategies and Options*

In the present context of the changes that occur at cultural and social level we can perceive the identity crisis as a perturbation of the existential equilibrium that affects the identification and definition of the self-identity processes and implicitly the identity references involving their revalorization and redefinition. We are all guided to be ourselves, to accomplish our needs, succeed and surpass our fears, and we are surrounded by a great number of recipes that promise an answer to all our problems and to provide us happiness. Confronted with all these recipes we can get to suffer from the "failure illness", having the feeling that we can't cope with the variety of those requests of being the best in everything and having everything.

The way in which the human being chooses to manage the identity crises reveals his/her identity strategies, which can vary from the moderate form of underlining different identity references in different moments of time and space, to the extreme form of the strategic reinvention and manipulation of the identity references and the creation of new ones in a disturbing social context. The hierarchy of the identity references is not established once forever, the system of multiple references being characterised especially by its dynamicity as a source of communication openness, but also of possible conflicts. Even if in each period of time the people wrongly considered that only one identity reference or affiliation can define the identity, this unique affiliation can differ from one period to another, the social context underlining one component or another. Being in danger of confusing the multiple identity references with the multiple identities, we must remember that the identity is just one, created through a

process of accumulation and addition of different identity references, the result outrunning through its complexity the particular references involved.

Keywords: *Cultural identity, identity strategy, identity references, globalization*

❖ Victor OLARU, University of Craiova, Faculty of Letters  
*The Approach of Nature in Ruskin's Writings*

The aim of this paper is to emphasize that, although nature is not a major subject of Ruskin's works, it plays its definite role in his writings, being part of his passion for beauty. Art was approached by Ruskin through nature-by which he meant the mountains, rocks, trees, plants, skies and rivers of Western Europe- and meant for him a direct revelation of God's glory. It was designed for the edification of man, and it should be interpreted as an expression of His Word. Ruskin supported the idea the nature could be read like a holy book, which it was his privilege to interpret. The thinker expressed his opinions on nature in writings like *Modern Painters*, *The Seven Lamps of Architecture*, *Fors Clavigera*, *Deucalion*, *Praeterita*, as well as in his prefaces, letters and lectures.

Keywords: *Ruskin, writings on nature, Modern Painters*

❖ Armela PANAJOTI, University of Vlora "Ismail Qemali", Faculty of Humanities, Department of Foreign Languages (Albania)  
*The Rhetoric of Civilization in Conrad's Fiction*

In his fiction Conrad displays great concern with the question of civilization. The subtlest aspect this discussion engages is language. So in "Heart of Darkness" Kurtz's eloquence comes to represent the rhetoric of Western-European civilization. Marlow as a member of the same civilization finds in Kurtz's eloquence the promise for the search of self, which explains his fascination with him. Although Kurtz is described in the novella as a genius, the rhetoric of civilization he embodies is either hardly evidenced or silenced instead in two artistic expressions of his genius, the sketch of the veiled woman and the eloquent report for the Company. Against Kurtz's eloquence Conrad places the voice of the Africans whose language, although dismissed by Marlow as "cries" or "shrieks", questions the universality of Western civilization.

Keywords: *civilization, rhetoric, eloquence, language, silence*

❖ Irina PĂNESCU, University of Craiova, Faculty of Letters  
*Language Witticisms. Oscar Wilde: The Importance of Being Earnest*

Oscar Wilde's timeless comedy provides important ways for understanding language as an indispensable tool of cultural identity. Written in a delightful style, the work is a brilliant display of social manners. Although the plot is light and does not imply serious issues, the play still unravels a piece of civilization that can be studied both with seriousness and triviality. Ultimately, the essence of things remains at the level of a great choice of words and consequently, a very clever communication.

Due to its witty dialogue, *The Importance of Being Earnest* is an expression of stylistic perfection. As a result, the play proves its popularity: it has been translated into many languages. Yet, the fidelity to the original is undermined because the target language- which clearly defines a different culture- encountered special problems in representing the pun and the liveliness uniquely rendered by the English language.

Keywords: *witty language, communication, cultural identity, popularity*

❖ Mihaela PRIOTEASA, University of Craiova, Faculty of Letters  
*Borges's Poesque Analytical Detective Story*

One hundred years after Edgar Allan Poe initiated the detective genre, the Argentinean writer Jorge Luis Borges set out to double that origin by producing three detective stories (*The Garden of Forking Paths*, *Death and the Compass* and *Ibn-Hakkan al-Bokhari, Dead in His Labyrinth*) as an interpretative rewriting of Poe's three Dupin tales (*The Murders in the Rue Morgue*, *The Mystery of Marie Roget*, *The Purloined*

Letter). The present paper aims at examining both Poe's and Borges's projects of addressing the problem of the metaphysical quest for the absolute and revealing the aesthetic effect of the genre: the uncovering of a mystery, the accumulation of evidence, the tracing of clues and the final solution that solves the riddle.

Keywords: *detective story, mystery, labyrinth, infinite*

❖ Daniela ROGOBETE, University of Craiova, Faculty of Letters  
*Political Dystopias and Hyperreal Alternatives in Paul Auster's Man in the Dark*

The present paper discusses some of the narrative strategies the American writer Paul Auster uses in his novel *A Man in the Dark* (2008) in order to create a highly dystopian and bitterly critical gloomy universe that exposes and censors the absurdities of contemporary history and its traumas. Auster lends his voice to the protagonist of the novel, a retired literary critic confined to a wheelchair, who tries to shed some light upon his life, the relationship with his family and upon the cyclic repetition of the tragedies going on around him. The parallel flows of his various stories create an intricate narrative pattern that alludes to the infinite interactive possibilities of the virtual space with its simultaneously existing universes. All the layered stories, comments, allusions, histories and alternative realities are pieces of a narrative jigsaw which is offered to the reader as a parable on the absurdity of war and on human solidarity.

Keywords: *dystopia, Jesusland, escapism, parallel universes, hyperreality*

❖ Mihaela-Sorina ROIBU, University of Craiova, Faculty of Letters  
*Oscar Wilde and the Dandy*

The character of the dandy is a very important feature of Wilde's work. He combines several functions. The dandy draws its philosophy from his protest against society as well as the scientific and philosophical trends of the time. For Wilde, the relationship between nature and society is disturbed and his dandies are all striving for elegance, not naturalness. In contrast to the gentleman ideal, they are constructed as an antidote to the Christian humanist ideal: Benevolence and good manner are replaced by cynicism and vanity. To gain pleasure, instead of happiness, is the aim of the dandy. The dandy is provoking Victorian ideals of domesticity and masculinity, as he is not normally working for his living, occupied with nothing more than the fine arts and not overly excited about women or getting married.

Keywords: *Vanity, pleasure, floppishness, elegance, artifice, controversy*

❖ Codruța Mirela STĂNIȘOARĂ, University of Craiova, Faculty of Letters, Drobeta Turnu-Severin University Centre  
*The Early Rise of Women's Voices in the English and the Romanian Lyrics-Cultural Landmarks*

In spite of differences of time regarding the beginnings of women lyrics, in English, in the 16th century, in Romanian, at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, women poets even if they might appear relatively isolated and vulnerable into a dominant male literary culture, have become representative literary figures due to the poetic expression and achievements of their verse. Their literary careers more than those of men poets were culture related and even dependent. Our approach aims at enquiring into their lyrical beginnings by considering two different cultures, English and Romanian in order to find out and analyse what is specifically landmarked.

Keywords: *women poetry, English and Romanian, culture-specific*

❖ Aloisia ȘOROP, University of Craiova, Faculty of Letters  
*The Return of a Native: Rewriting 'Robinson Crusoe'*

The paper explores some of the rewrites of 'Robinson Crusoe', with particular emphasis on Michel Tournier's *Vendredi ou la vie sauvage* and J.M. Coetzee's *Foe*, trying to identify the ways that the rewrites reconstruct the character, the novel and its enduring legacy. The 'otherness' quality of the new texts and

their 'writing back' effect contribute to a refreshing of perspective on this now classic narrative. They both challenge and redefine Defoe's text while being altogether new narratives.

Keywords: *rewrite, metafiction, opposition*

❖ Elena Raluca TURCU, University of Craiova, Faculty of Letters  
*Hemingway within the Spanish Culture*

My presentation aims to reveal various instances that feature Hemingway's influences from his encounter with the Spanish culture. They are meant to bring spots of energy and colour from his early days as a writer, contouring the theme of love-war-death for the macho hero and the nada philosophy as expressed in two representative novels: *For whom the Bell Tolls* and *Fiesta*. Spain, Mediterranean country and the paradise of holidaymakers, ensnared with Latin and exotic influences, helped shape Hemingway's life-long philosophy depicted in his works to come. In other words, the main influences in his works seem to be routed in the European Existentialism and the Spanish Civil War. Consequently, two of Hemingway's sides will be disclosed in these two dissimilar works with Spanish culture in the background. One of them will show a peaceful, joyful Hemingway, the other a courageous warrior.

Keywords: *Spanish culture, theme, hero, existentialist concept*