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CONTENTS

Foreword	5
Keats's "Ode to a Grecian Urn": A Rejection of the Poet's Desire of Identification with the Urn	PYEAAM ABBASI 7
Between Analyst and Analysand: Poe and the Psychoanalytic Critic. Revisiting "The Purloined Letter"	LORELEI CARAMAN-PAȘCA 21
Dehumanization through the Enforcement of Ideology in Aldous Huxley's <i>Brave New World</i>	RENATA REICH 33
Narrativizing Trauma in Jonathan Safran Foer's <i>Everything Is Illuminated</i> and Nicole Krauss's <i>The History of Love</i>	ALEXANDRA MITREA 49
Achebe's Fiction and the Changing Generation of Nigerian Women: Towards a Paradigm Shift in Leadership	UZOECHI NWAGBARA 61
Perspectives on English as a Lingua Franca in the European Union	ANCA-LUMINIȚA IANCU 84

The Living Tradition: Liberal Arts Education. The U.S. Campus Heritage	MIHAELA ARSENE	104
How African-American 'Race Records' Became Obfuscated by 'Rock 'N' Roll' Within Transatlantic 'Cover Versions'	ERIC GILDER and MERVYN HAGGER	115
Notes on Contributors		141

Foreword

Our contemporary world is a place of constantly changing perceptions about individual and collective identities, of re-defining private and public spaces, and re-writing and re-interpreting literary and gendered histories. From literary, linguistic, and cultural vantage points, the articles in this issue cover a wide spectrum of topics, ranging from innovative re-interpretations of famous literary works and analyses of particular aspects of sociolinguistics to discussions about liberal arts education and cultural matters.

The first part of the volume includes inspiring articles on various literary works, such as John Keats' "Ode to a Grecian Urn," Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World*, E. A. Poe's "The Purloined Letter," Jonathan Safran Foer's *Everything Is Illuminated* and Nicole Krauss's *The History of Love*, and Chinua Achebe's novels. By applying the Hegelian dialectic to Keats' poem, Abbasi analyzes the connections and relationships among the themes and concepts present in the poem (truth, beauty, earthly life, pain), proposing an alternative interpretation of the symbolism in the poem. Reich's article focuses on a re-definition of the concept of "dehumanization" in Huxley's *Brave New World*, examined through the critical lenses of Althusser's theory. Based on critical interpretations of Poe's work through psychoanalytical lenses, Caraman-Paşca's article discusses the analyst-analysand relationship in "The Purloined Letter" by comparing two interpretative models (of Marie Bonaparte and Norman Holland), with a view to illustrating how the text reflects back on the interpreter, more than on the author or the text. Similarly, Mitrea employs a comparative approach when looking at Foer's and Krauss's novels, focusing on how the authors discuss the concept of empathy and the ways in which both texts offer various responses to traumatic memories. Finally, Nwagbara examines the

transformations (from traditional to modern) that the female characters have undergone in several of Achebe's novels, demonstrating the connections between the literary depiction of changing gender roles and those occurring in the contemporary Nigerian society.

In the second part of the volume, the articles focus on linguistics, college education, and music. Thus, Iancu proposes an examination of the nature and status of English as a lingua franca in the European Union, by analyzing the complex academic, political, and social contexts that have shaped the current situation of ELF in Europe. Arsene discusses the merits of liberal arts education in the United States, offering an overview of its historical contexts and highlighting its merits as a type of multilateral education that fosters life-long learning. Finally, Gilder and Hagger look at the historical contexts and related legal and financial issues, which shaped the early years of the rock and roll era, both in the UK and in the USA.

The Editors

Keats's "Ode to a Grecian Urn": A Rejection of the Poet's Desire of Identification with the Urn

PYEAAM ABBASI
University of Isfahan

Abstract

John Keats's "Ode on a Grecian Urn" has been interpreted in different ways, the best-known of which is the imaginative Keats's desire to be identified with the urn in order to enter an ideal world of beauty where there is no pain. This study is a rejection of the long-held notion of the idealist Keats's desire of identification with the urn. The poem is the poet's discovery or recreation of the self in a Hegelian dialectical process for which he needs an addressee/other. Thus, the poet creates the urn not in order to be identified with it but to escape from what it represents, i.e. the ideal and relief from earthly pain. Based on evidence from Keats's letters, this article concludes that the poet/urn relationship remains I/thee to the end, and the poet sees earthly pain as necessary to the formation of the self. It is in relation to the place of the urn as other as well as to the feminine descriptions of the urn that the poet can articulate himself, and establish a superior identity. This yields a different interpretation of the challenging "Beauty is truth, truth beauty" assertion. It emerges that Keats perceives the beauty of the truth that pain is both necessary and beautiful. Thus it is concluded that the unity of the poet and the urn is suspended and the poem ends with the poet's assertion of what truth is. Keats rejects the urn at the end, for it can be no substitute for reality.

Keywords: John Keats, "Ode on a Grecian Urn," Hegel, Dialectic, Beauty, Truth, language, identity, self, other.

Between Analyst and Analysand: Poe and the
Psychoanalytic Critic. Revisiting “The Purloined Letter”

LORELEI CARAMAN-PAȘCA
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Abstract

Pre-Freudian or post-Lacanian, archetypal or object-relationist, biographical or deconstructive, regardless of its form, psychoanalytic criticism repeatedly (re)turns to Edgar Allan Poe. What lies at the root of this curious affinity between Poe’s texts and the critical-psychoanalytic approach? Is the answer to be found in the author or rather in the critic? *Between Analyst and Analysand: Poe and the Psychoanalytic Critic* takes a closer look at the relationship between Poe and psychoanalysis, exploring the dynamics of the critical reading and the critic’s own position as analysand. Revisiting two interpretative models centered on *The Purloined Letter*, mainly Marie Bonaparte’s reading from *The Life and Works of Edgar Allan Poe* and Norman Holland’s *Re-covering the Purloined Letter: Reading as Personal Transaction*, it seeks to show how the text, while inviting, manages to eschew psychoanalytic interpretation as its reading ultimately reflects back, not on the author or the text, but rather on the interpreter.

Keywords: Poe, psychoanalysis, critical reading, Bonaparte, Holland, analyst, analysand, “The Purloined Letter,” psychoanalytic criticism, transactive criticism

Dehumanization through the Enforcement of Ideology in
Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World*

RENATA REICH
Independent Scholar

Abstract

The issue of dehumanization in Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World* has been widely acknowledged and studied throughout the academia, but Huxley suggested that the world he described in the novel might become our constant reality. My essay focuses on verifying Huxley's theory by relating the matter of dehumanization as it is perceived today to the Althusserian view of ideology and to the manner in which it appears to be enforced in *Brave New World*. Is mankind headed towards the world described by Huxley or can our humanity, and our free-will, still be salvaged? This is the main question that my essay tries to answer and the facts uncovered by this research reveal an entirely distinct perspective upon what being human means currently, and what it might mean in a (not-so-distant) future.

Keywords: Aldous Huxley, *Brave New World*, dehumanization, ideology, enforcement

Narrativizing Trauma in
Jonathan Safran Foer's *Everything Is Illuminated* and
Nicole Krauss's *The History of Love*

ALEXANDRA MITREA
Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu

Abstract

Jonathan Safran Foer and Nicole Krauss, husband and wife, third-generation survivors of the Holocaust, both address in their works the problem of trauma as well as the appropriate responses to it. Both writers investigate histories of Jewish suffering, constructing protagonists who struggle with traumatic memories of violence and victimization. Their work reflects Cathy Caruth's view on trauma as a point of encounter with the other since, "one's trauma is tied up with another," leading "to the encounter with another, through the very possibility of and surprise of listening to another's wound (8)". The two novels under analysis also illustrate Caruth's view that history and trauma are tightly connected to each other: "history, like trauma, is never simply one's own... [H]istory is precisely the way we are implicated in each other's trauma" (*Unclaimed* 24). This essay will scrutinize the nature of this implication by exploring the management of empathy as well as the narrative techniques employed by the two writers in order to achieve this effect.

Keywords: empathic unsettlement, memory, trauma, Holocaust, history, dialogic imagination, acting out, working through

Achebe's Fiction and the Changing Generation of Nigerian Women: Towards a Paradigm Shift in Leadership

UZOECHI NWAGBARA
University of Wales

Abstract

The universe of Achebe's fiction is awash with representations of women as "second class citizens," to borrow Buchi Emecheta's phrase or "the second sex," to cite Beauvoir's expression. This mode of female representation as well as womanhood's meanings in Achebe's world is sustained by the logic of chauvinistic *modus operandi*, patriarchy, that owes its existence and pathogenesis to stereotyped provenance of traditional African world-view *prima facie* phallogentric and hegemonic. This system has spawned a leadership pattern that relegates women to the background. However, Achebe's novels, as this essay shall argue, calibrate the rise and fall of patriarchy – the changed colour of Achebe's (African) women representation. Thus, Achebe's novels mediate this shift. Beginning with Achebe's artistic primer, *Things Fall Apart* (1958) to his last novel, *Anthills of the Savannah* (1987), an aesthetic sensibility is couched in reflecting the cartography of change, which inheres in re-shaping male-dominated leadership structure for democratic leadership. The central question in this essay is to tease out how Achebe reflects women's leadership empowerment precipitated by self-discovery (Aristotelian *anagnorisis*) that resonates with a paradigm shift in leadership. Paradigm shift is a marker for canonical change in practice capable of radicalising established practices. This paradigm shift is central to re-mapping Africa's male-female dichotomy as well as potent in changing African politics.

Keywords: Achebe's women; *anagnorisis*; democracy; generational change; Nigeria; paradigm shift.

Perspectives on English as a Lingua Franca in the European Union

ANCA-LUMINIȚA IANCU
Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu

Abstract

The *English as a lingua franca* (ELF) movement is a part of the larger World Englishes movement and looks primarily at how English functions as a means of communication among non-native speakers. In recent years, English has become an important means of communication in the European Union in administrative institutions, in the academy, and in the lives of regular European citizens. In Europe, discussions around ELF include such issues as nationalism and linguistic identity, multilingualism, and the status of English as a language of communication not of identification for European citizens. Therefore, the main purpose of this essay is to examine various linguistic, cultural, political, and economic factors that might influence the complex process of implementing a lingua franca in the European environment. In order to accomplish this goal, it is important to contextualize ELF within the wider debates about English as an international language, to examine the theoretical and empirical academic research that has been done in order to conceptualize and define ELF as a legitimate language variety, and to analyze the current EU language policies.

Keywords: English as a lingua franca (ELF), non-native speakers (NNES) in the European Union, language of communication, national and linguistic identity, multilingualism.

The Living Tradition:
Liberal Arts Education. The U.S. Campus Heritage

MIHAELA ARSENE
Romanian-US Fulbright Commission

Abstract

The research affords a comprehensive insight into the liberal arts approach to higher education as a cherished tradition on U.S. campuses inherited from the Greek and Roman antiquity via the medieval and Renaissance university model. After a thorough discussion of its European origins, this educational approach prevalent on US campuses is presented in terms of its multiple ramifications and benefits – intellectual, emotional and civic – and is ultimately assessed in light of its relevance to current labour market needs, thus highlighting the inherent value and current effectiveness of this time-honoured paradigm.

Updates on the state of liberal arts education worldwide wrap up the essay together with news of its coming full circle as this broad, long-term educational approach preparing students for lifelong learning returns to the continent that gave birth to it.

Keywords: liberal arts and sciences education, liberating education, non-utilitarian educational approach, singularly American, well-rounded student, intellectual curiosity, free exchange of ideas, transferable skills, labor market needs, lifelong learning.

How African-American 'Race Records' Became
Obfuscated by 'Rock 'n' roll' within Transatlantic
'Cover Versions'

ERIC GILDER

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and

MERVYN HAGGER

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Abstract

When references are made to the development of 'Rock 'n' Roll' music during the Twentieth Century, they usually focus upon two episodes as related within two conflicting versions. Disparities are the product of perceptions formed both by observers in the UK who reacted to artists from the USA, and observers in the USA who reacted to artists from the UK. The overlapping biographical accounts of both artists and audiences have been melded together into one universal story, but it is far from being a genuine recital of events. Original works were often derived from the African-American community, who in the days of racial segregation had no way to protect their financial interests. Consequently, racial sources were intentionally obfuscated by 'cover versions' in order to maximize profits by adapting material to appeal to a wider, bleached culture by the media conglomerates that created legislation to protect their commercial interests. While resulting 'cover versions' frequently lacked originality, sensitivity and cognition of original works, on occasion counter-copy-productions eclipsed the originals. But over time a 'cultural stew' became blended beyond the point where original components are now discernible, which has prompted this re-examination of the happenstance 'recipe' that resulted in a Transatlantic fare known as 'Rock 'n' Roll'.

Keywords: 'race records'; 'cover version'; 'constructive possession'; General Electric; 'anti-Trust'; RCA; EMI; IFPI; 'needle time'; Alan Freed.