BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

The 9th IDEAS English

Students' Conference

April 2025

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Category: Translation

Translating the Sacred and the Existential: János Pilinszky in English

János Pilinszky is widely recognised as a key voice in the Hungarian literary canon. His poetry clearly depicts collective suffering and spiritual struggle. Despite the isolation of the Iron Curtain in the Cold War period, his poetry attracted the attention of several scholars in the West, including the English poet Ted Hughes. Hughes translated Pilinszky's condensed imagery with particular sensitivity, aiming to preserve its biblical and existential dimensions. This paper examines how Hughes translates and reinterprets biblical imagery and existential themes in Pilinszky's poetry focusing on the interplay between religion, "existential anxiety", and transcendence. Through an analysis of selected poems and their English translations, this study investigates how Hughes's approach reflects both linguistic precision and interpretative choices shaping the reception of Pilinszky's work in the Anglophone literary world.

Author: Bc. Viktorie Vršanská

Affiliation: Jan Evangelista Purkyně University

Category: Linguistics

Formant Analysis of Fricatives with Czech Speakers of English at C1 and C2 Level

This contribution discusses the pronunciation difficulties encountered by Czech speakers of English at advanced levels, specifically those at C1 and C2 proficiency levels, regarding English fricatives. A literature review of the relevant literature leads to predictions that the TH-sounds /θ/ and /ð/ (dental fricatives) will be the most challenging to pronounce for Czech speakers of English. Surprisingly, empirical analysis reveals that pronunciation difficulties extend beyond dental fricatives. The empirical component involves a phonetic analysis of speech recordings from students at the Department of English, Faculty of Education, Jan Evangelista Purkyně University. Utilizing Praat software, the study employs formant analysis to evaluate the accuracy of English fricative production. A comparison of the predictions with the findings offers novel insights into non-native speech production and provides practical recommendations for improving pronunciation training in second language acquisition.

Author: Mgr. Veronika Hudáková

Affiliation: Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice

Category: Linguistics

Contrastive Analysis of Nominal Compounds and Related Constructions with Genitives

Descriptive genitives, or genitive compounds, in English, are a type of construction with quite an elusive character, standing on the edge of being considered compounds or phrases. They differ from nominal compounds by the addition of the possessive 's as in writer's block or bull's eye and are often seen as fixed terms (Rosenbach, 2006: 78). Nominal compounds occur in Slovak; however, genitive constructions are expressed through collocations with genitive nouns or relational adjectives, as seen in (1). The pilot study of my research focuses on genitive constructions with the same non-head, the noun marked by the genitive case, that being the noun woman, both in singular and plural.

(1)   a. women's rights   právo$_N$ žien$_{N\ PL}$

             b. women's prison   ženská$_{Adj}$ väznica$_{N\ SG}$

The above examples illustrate genitive constructions in English and their counterparts in Slovak. In (1a), the Slovak structure consists of two nouns in the genitive case, while in (1b), the structure consists of a relational adjective related to the noun žena ('woman') and a noun. To compare the structures of genitive constructions in the two languages, firstly, the status of English genitive constructions as either compounds or phrases will be explored through morphological frameworks and tests, which will lead to the differentiation between morphological and syntactical constructions in English while in Slovak the structure of the collocations will be examined in terms of whether they indicate a concept or merely a phrase.

My research thus aims to compare the structures and formation of genitive constructions in English and Slovak, highlighting common patterns and generalizations.

Author: Mgr. Dominika Madalová

Affiliation: Trnava University

Category: English Language Teaching

Using Videos in English Language Teaching: A Review

Videos are engaging and it is something most students are familiar with as they have access to numerous types and sources of videos in their leisure time. In the present paper, the light is shed on the utilization of videos in English language teaching in primary and secondary education, and several types of videos are introduced with examples of studies that focused on the given type. Therefore, this paper serves as a review, whereby 18 studies published in recent years were examined. Furthermore, attention is paid not only to methods used in the investigated papers but also to the role humor plays in the videos since the present paper is preliminary research to a dissertation thesis focused on humor in ELT.

Author: Amina Burkhanova

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Category: English Language Teaching

## Digital Tools for Language Learning and Teaching

The advent of Digital tools in English language teaching (ELT) has completely changed learning environments. By harnessing the power of game-based learning, collaborative platforms, and AI-powered applications, educators can boost student engagement, tailor instruction to individual needs, and streamline communication. But the success of these tools is really based on how they are used, who has access to them, and if teachers are prepared to use them effectively. This paper examines the contribution of digital tools in ELT, focusing on its effect on the students learning and classroom environment.

The data reviewed in this study include popular digital tools used in ELT such as game based learning platforms (Kahoot, Quizlet, Mentimeter), audio-recording tools (Eduling Speak, Vocaroo), communication platforms (WhatsApp, Slack, Spatial Chat) and content creation software (PowerPoint, Canva, PechaKucha, Miro). There is also a close look specifically at vocabulary-building apps like Wordela, Memrise and Anki to see how successful they are for second-language acquisition. It draws on and synthesizes data from both student research and the academic learning literature in considering how these tools affect language learning outcomes.

Studies show that technology increases student motivation, interactive learning, and instant feedback. Game-based environments facilitate fun learning through gamification of lessons, while collaborative environments ensure simple communication between teachers and students. AI-driven vocabulary apps personalize learning experiences, allowing students to

learn their language skills at their own pace. Challenges are the digital divide, over-reliance on technology, and teacher training in digital pedagogy.

While computer tools have a lot of benefits in ELT, their success depends on proper integration and accessibility. Teachers should be trained with digital literacy skills to get the maximum benefits from these technologies without compromising the human element of language learning. Future studies should aim at bridging accessibility gaps and tailoring computer tools to suit various learning needs. Technology can revolutionize language learning with proper application.
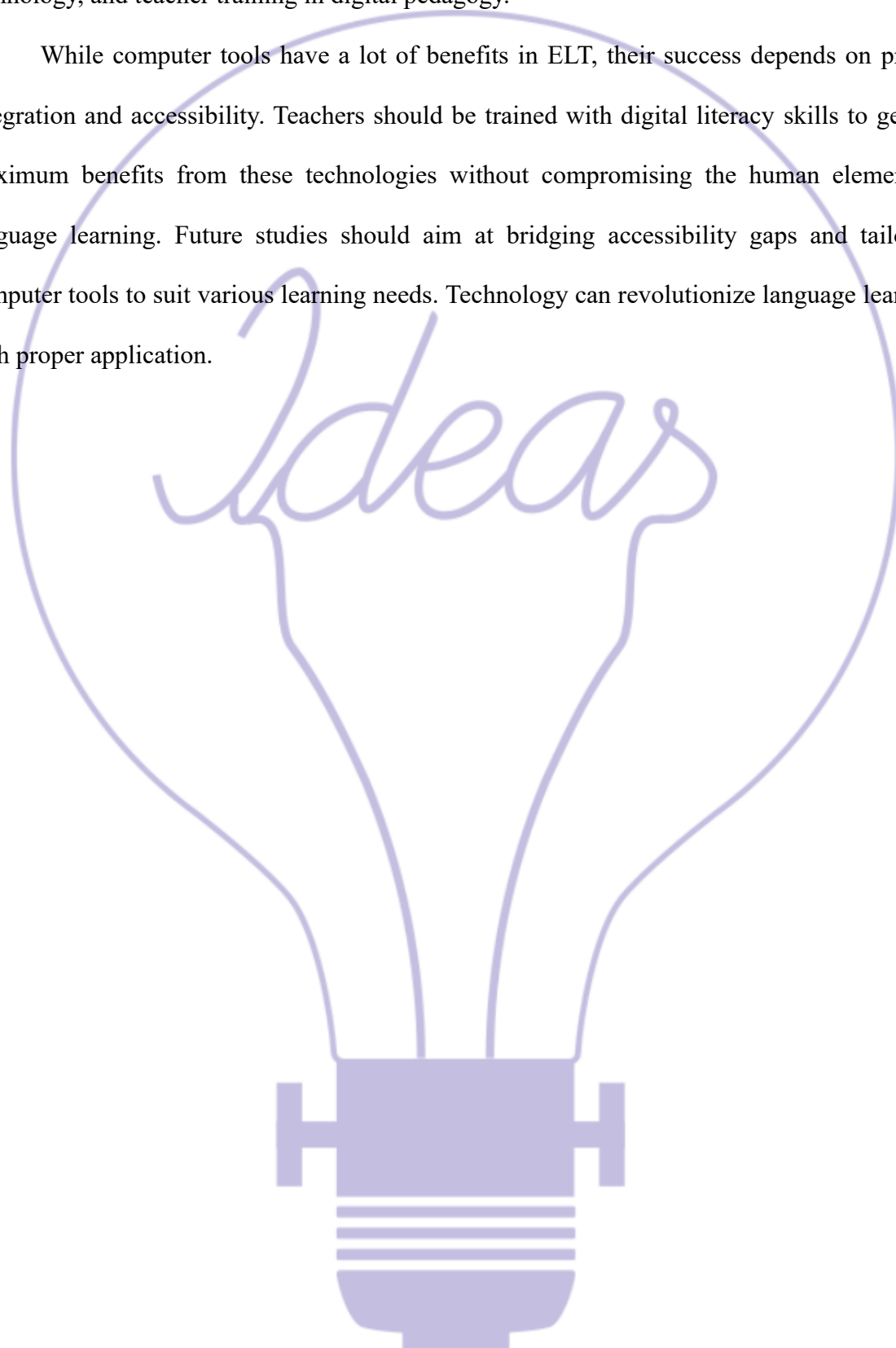
Author: Darya Panchenko

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Category: Culture

Cultural Heritage of Loanwords in English Language

This article examines the cultural impact of loanwords in the English language, focusing on the word "ballet" as an example of French influence. Derived from the French "ballette", meaning "dance", the term traces its roots to the Italian "balletto". Ballet gained popularity in France during the 16th and 17th centuries, particularly under Louis XIV, and later impacted English culture, especially during the Restoration period. As ballet evolved into a distinct art form, it entered the English lexicon, retaining its French essence and symbolizing grace, elegance, and meticulousness. The article also explores how "ballet" is used in English literature, citing works like Apollo's Angels by Jennifer Homans and Ballet Shoes by Noel Streatfeild. These examples illustrate how the term "ballet" represents not only a dance style but also broader cultural values, reflecting long-standing cultural exchanges between France and England.

Author: Mgr. Gábor Patkos

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Category: Culture

Born-digital Global Commodities as Transmedia Building Blocks: League of Legends and Champion Skins

The digital turn has not only brought a whole new level of reproducibility but has also given rise to new forms and shapes of creativity, entertainment and culture. The hegemonic narratives of the 21st century are invented by multinational corporations, which use algorithmic digital platforms and targeted campaigns to cross national, ethnic and cultural boundaries, while simultaneously exploiting multiple mediums to attract users. One prominent example of such narratives is "League of Legends", an American online multiplayer video game which is situated at the intersection of transmedia storytelling, the global commodity market and the practice of surveillance capitalism.

In my presentation, I will show how an unassuming online video game, released in 2009, has become a transmedia powerhouse, a universe of its own with millions of people interacting with it every day worldwide. I will argue that the main vehicle of this transformation is the focus on in-game 'champion skins', alternative appearances that can be bought for real money, which have created a unique ecosystem of 100% born-digital, global commodities. The uniqueness of the system lies in the fact that the constantly renewing 'champion skins' not only generate the necessary income stream for the publishers but also productively contribute to the creation and expansion of the characters and the entire in-game universe.

Champion skins launches are aided by different channels, such as animated films, comics, music, k-pop video clips and campaigns, which also provide the studio's creative

strategies with a wealth of data supported by cultural analytics tools. The result is a business

model that leverages the potential of global born-digital commodities on a variety of platforms,

bridging the gap between income generation, creativity and entertainment.

Author: Bc. Sara Brackemann

Affiliation: Goethe University of Frankfurt

Category: Culture

The Military as a Cultural Vanguard: Project 2025 and the Militarization of American Conservatism

This paper examines the role of the military as a cultural trendsetter in the United States, focusing on the ideological underpinnings of Project 2025. Rooted in the counter-terrorism era's militaristic ethos, Project 2025 represents the culmination of conservative anxieties surrounding national identity, moral authority, and governance. The initiative's emphasis on re-establishing traditional hierarchies-particularly in military policy, gender roles, and religious integration-reflects a broader effort to reshape American society through the armed forces.

Historically, the U.S. military has served as a microcosm of social change, often integrating marginalized groups before broader societal acceptance. However, Project 2025 signals a reversal, leveraging the military as a vessel for conservative retrenchment. This paper argues that counter-terrorism operations, rather than simply reinforcing national security, facilitated a re-masculinization of the state, positioning the military as a site for reclaiming male sovereignty. The backlash against women in combat, transgender service bans, and the rejection of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives reveal a concerted effort to align military policy with evangelical cultural conservatism.

Furthermore, the military's role in shaping domestic and international norms is central to Project 2025's objectives. The initiative envisions the armed forces as a tool for enforcing a divinely sanctioned mission, reinforcing cultural dominance, and exerting domestic control. By framing military service as a moral and nationalistic duty, the project seeks to intertwine

patriotism with religious conservatism, effectively militarizing American identity. This paper contends that Project 2025's vision transforms the military into an ideological apparatus, underscoring the enduring influence of the counter-terrorism era in contemporary conservative policymaking.

Through this analysis, the paper highlights the military's pivotal function in structuring political and cultural trends, demonstrating how its policies not only reflect but also shape the trajectory of American governance and identity.
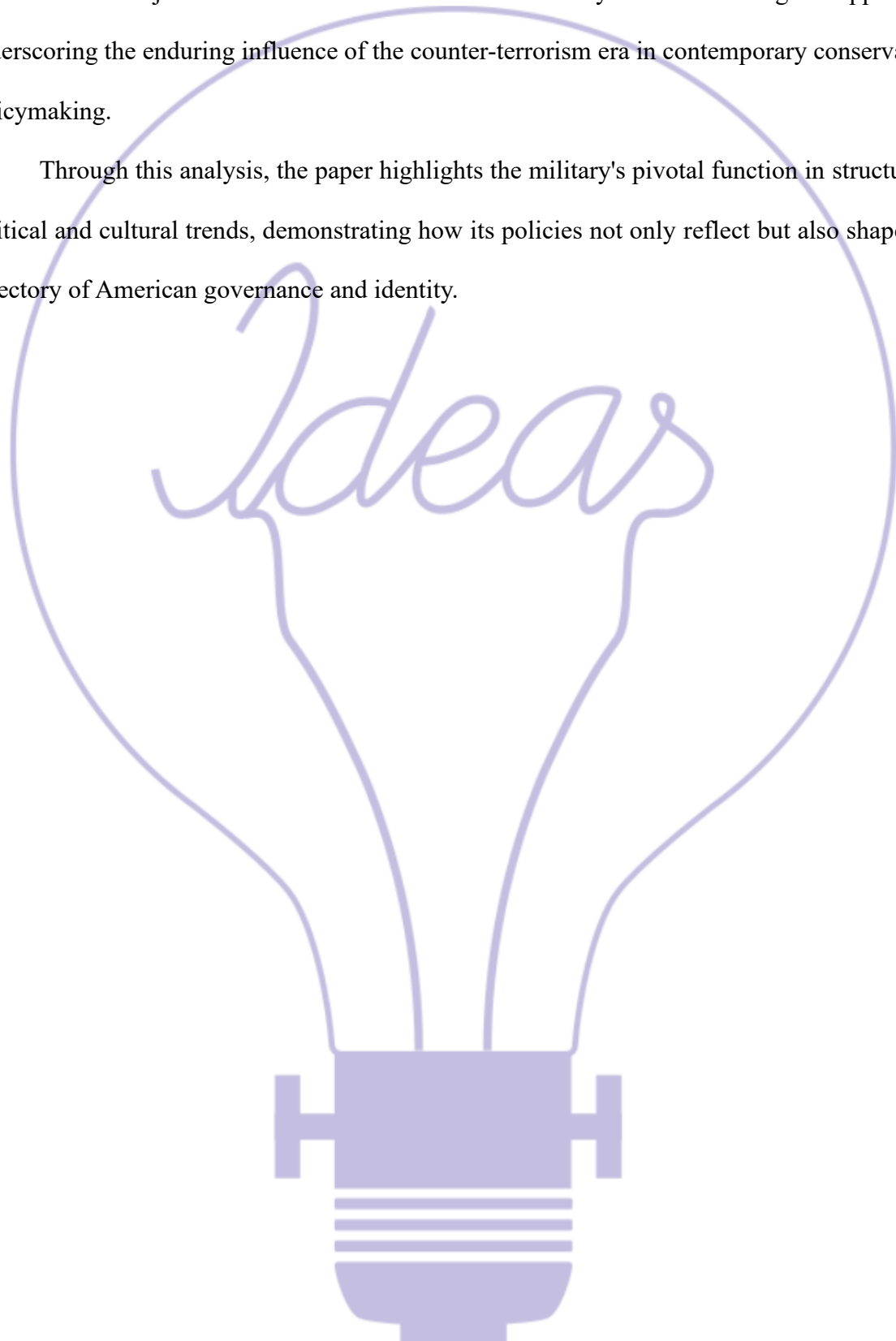
Author: Eszter Fanni Katona

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Category: Literature

The Impact of Fantasy on the Representation of Trauma in R. F. Kuang's *The Poppy War*

Rebecca F. Kuang is a contemporary author who has been gaining popularity at a rapid pace recently. Despite the growing recognition she is receiving, her books have not been discussed widely among scholars so far. The topics her novels engage with are both significant and up-to-date, since most of her works touch upon issues concerning war, colonialism, racial and territorial aggression, violence, and much more, all of which are current, global problems.

In my proposed paper, my goal is to explore how the aforementioned topics are dealt with in Kuang's fantasy book titled *The Poppy War* (2018), and to study how individual and collective traumatic experiences are represented through fantasy elements. How are painful, traumatic events introduced and emphasised, or in some cases even evoked or relived by the incorporated fantastic scenes? How does the narrative introduce the issue of the traumatic past through free indirect discourse, and how does the fantastic relate to this?

By doing a close reading of four chapters from the book, my aim is to answer the research questions above and highlight the effects of fantasy and free indirect discourse on the representation of trauma in the narrative.

Author: Bc. Hannah Berger

Affiliation: Masaryk University

Category: Literature

The theme of consciousness within T.S. Eliot's early work through the framework of

German Idealists, Fichte and Hegel

This presentation will explore the theme of consciousness within T.S. Eliot's poetry and essays through the framework of the Idealist philosophers, Johann Fichte and Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel. It will posit that within the Idealist philosophy, art acts as the ultimate synthesis between the internal and external drive. This synthesis then enables the individual to achieve consciousness. This presentation explores this philosophy within Eliot's essays, "On Tradition and Individual Talent" and "Hamlet and His Problems", positing that Eliot's concepts of Tradition, Historical Sense and Objective Correlative mimic and represent similar concepts within the German Idealist philosophy of consciousness. Through the application of the Idealist philosophy within Eliot's aesthetics and poetry, this presentation will posit that poetry, as an art, acts as the ultimate synthesis between the individual and the urban scene. This is illustrated throughout Eliot's poetry, but this presentation will focus on Eliot's early poem "Preludes" and his incorporation of the urban as the external drive through which the individual achieves self-hood.

Author: Martina Vajdová

Affiliation: Masaryk University

Category: Literature

An Analysis of Percy Bysshe Shelley's Contribution to Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*

Since its anonymous publication in 1818, Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus* was subjected to many a speculation about its authorship. Widely considered the work of her husband, the poet and radical thinker Percy Bysshe Shelley, the notion of male authorship prevails even today. This research aims to examine the contribution of Mary Shelley's husband to her gothic novel. This will be achieved through consulting the original *Frankenstein* manuscript with emphasis on the Shelleys' conversation in its margins and making use of the current study of the pair's handwriting. It will put Percy Shelley's thematic and stylistic alterations into their historical and biographical context and analyse their effect on the story. By its conclusion, it will be apparent that Mary Shelley's fluid text, despite the presence of a second hand in it is, above all, her creation.

Author: Mgr. Katarína Rendošová

Affiliation: Pavol Jozef Šafárik University

Category: Literature

Reinventing the Bildung: The Formation of Collective Identity in Bernardine

Evaristo's *Girl, Woman, Other (2019)*

This presentation will explore how Bernardine Evaristo's *Girl, Woman, Other* (2019) reimagines the literary genre of Bildungsroman by shifting from an emphasis on the development of a single protagonist to the formation of collective female identity within the Black British experience. Through a multi-voiced narrative, Evaristo aligns with the concept of the post-Black Bildungsroman, as introduced by Marlon Lieber (2017), challenging the genre's traditional linear structure and instead foregrounding fragmented, intersectional, and collective identity formations, reflecting post-Black theory's emphasis on fluidity and plurality within the Black diaspora. Evaristo's narrative can be analysed through this theoretical framework as it illustrates the characters' individual struggles for self-definition while underscoring the significance of communal relationships and shared histories in shaping their sense of identity and belonging. This study will examine the ways in which *Girl, Woman, Other* (2019) rejects the traditional Bildungsroman's emphasis on individual psychological development. Additionally, it will explore how Evaristo expands the literary genre by incorporating the perspectives of twelve Black British female and non-binary characters in the span of the last century, thereby reflecting the diversity of Black British identities and offering a more nuanced understanding of the evolution of female identities in twenty-first-century literature. Through this framework, my analysis demonstrates how *Girl, Woman, Other* (2019) exemplifies the

post-Black Bildungsroman, redefining identity formation as an inherently fluid and collective process in twenty-first-century Black British female literature.