



PROGRAM OUTLINE

8:30 - 9:45	Linguistics/Language teaching methodology (Farah Kassem, Karajos Rebeka, Urrné Bökönyi Klaudia)
9:45 - 9:55	briefing about the TDK-process
9:55-10:00	break
10:00 - 11:15	American studies (Farkas Kinga Lidia, Porcsin Sára Viktória, Fazekas Fruzsina)
11:15 - 11:30	break
11:30 - 12:45	British studies 1 (Mikulcza Ágota, Szakács Tibor Dominik, Zsíros Liza)
12:45 - 13:15	break
13:15 - 14:30	British studies 2 (Törzsök Réka, Czirják Zsófia, Jakus Dávid)

ABSTRACTS

8:30 - 9:45: LINGUISTICS / LANGUAGE TEACHING METHODOLOGY

Farah Kassem (supervisors: Dr. Christina Hodeib, Dr. Tóth Enikő)

A PRAGMATIC ANALYSIS OF COMPLIMENT RESPONSES IN SYRIAN ARABIC

The aim of this study is to investigate how power relations might affect compliment responses among speakers of Syrian Arabic. The current study collected a sample of 768 compliment responses using a discourse completion task (DCT) based on a modified version of a DCT by Lorenzo-Dus (2001) and was distributed online among 64 speakers of Syrian Arabic. The responses were categorized by applying Nelson et al. (1996) classification scheme and analyzed using Brown and Levinson's (1987) model of politeness, Leech's (1983) Politeness Principle, and Pomerantz's (1978) Principles as frameworks to discuss the results. The findings of this study showed that the most common strategy is acceptance, this strategy was mostly popular when the compliment was offered by someone in a higher power position.

Mitigations, on the other hand, were used the most when the complimenter was in a lower power position, while rejections were mainly common with equals. The study also highlights some culturally specific strategies, for example, offering the complimented object to the complimenter, tendencies to use humorous praise upgrades, and the evil eye effect when it comes to compliments.

Karajos Rebeka (supervisor: Dr. Habil. Csépes Ildikó)

DEVELOPING LANGUAGE LEARNER AUTONOMY THROUGH SELF- AND PEER ASSESSMENT: AN EXPERIMENT AMONG FIRST-YEAR ENGLISH MAJORS

This experiment investigates the effect of self- and peer-assessment on developing learner autonomy among first-year English majors at the University of Debrecen. The study involves nine seminar groups, approximately 110 students, who participate in a three-month training as part of the *Skills Development: Speaking and Reading* course. Over several assessment sessions, students evaluate both their own and their peers' oral English skills, focusing on key areas such as pronunciation, vocabulary, fluency, and grammar. Preliminary findings suggest that students tend to misjudge their own abilities and often misattribute the sources of their difficulties. By systematically incorporating self- and peer assessment practices, the experiment aims to improve the accuracy of student evaluations and enhance learner autonomy. Ultimately, the study seeks to explore the potential of these methods to support more effective language learning and self-regulation in a classroom setting.

Urné Bökönyi Klaudia (supervisor: Dr. Szabó Fruzsina)

NAVIGATING SECOND LANGUAGE ANXIETY – UNDERSTANDING AND ADDRESSING CHALLENGES FACED BY HUNGARIAN STUDENTS LEARNING FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Language anxiety plays a significant role in influencing language acquisition. As a future educator myself, understanding the root causes of anxiety is essential to effectively identify and address issues that arise among students allowing them to implement strategies that facilitate successful language learning. By understanding the underlying factors contributing to second language anxiety, teachers can tailor their teaching approaches and methods to create a supportive learning environment in which students can flourish and overcome challenges. Hence, in my research, I attempted to gain further knowledge on second language anxiety, focusing on Hungarian students, because in the Hungarian context it is not as acknowledged as it should be. Being an anxious student myself, I sought to get answers and possible solutions from students themselves with the help of semi-structured interviews.

All in all, through my research, I aim to raise awareness about the impacts of language anxiety on language acquisition and provide valuable insights that can aid educators in better supporting their students in the language learning process.

9:45 - 9:55: BRIEFING ABOUT THE TDK PROCESS (URECZKY ESZTER)

9:55-10:00: BREAK

10:00 - 11:15: AMERICAN STUDIES

Farkas Kinga Lidia (supervisor: Dr. Pataki Éva)

DRAWING DIVERSITY: REPRESENTATIONS OF QUEERNESS AND SEXUAL IDENTITY DEVELOPMENT IN WEBTOONS

Webtoons are becoming more and more mainstream and the LGBTQ+ issues do not cease to be important and relevant; the former includes several works with queer representation, and this research attempts to initiate a conversation about the subject. Being a relatively new form of media, there does not exist much academic research on webtoons, while sexual identity and queerness are widely discussed topics. My research focuses on the representation of queer characters, their sexual identity development, coming out, and even spiritual experiences in webtoons. I shall analyze the characters' appearance and behavior through close reading of some selected scenes and panels, taken from series from different genres and artists, all of which can be found on the platform named simply WEBTOON, as it is one of the biggest and most accessible ones. In my presentation, I focus on the subject from the aspect of stereotypical appearance, apparent transgression, stereotypical behavior, and behavioral transgression. In my research, I argue that webtoons are inclusively representing queer characters, but may simplify the process of identity development and the issue of coming out.

Porcsin Sára Viktória (supervisor: Dr. Lénárt-Muszka Zsuzsanna)

REWRITING TRADITIONS AND EXPRESSING ANXIETIES: THE DARK ACADEMIA GENRE

The rising academic interest in dark academia—both as a sociocultural phenomenon originating from social media and as a literary genre inspired by Donna Tartt's *The Secret History* (1992)—is palpable with essay collections and entire journal issues being dedicated to the subject. This presentation intends to analyse dark academia as a literary genre by outlining its defining characteristics and the ways those characteristics are employed to produce works that reflect the current anxieties of students in academia—specifically focusing on substance abuse, sexual abuse and relationship dynamics. Utilising narrative theory, the presentation contends that the fragmentation and non-linearity of the narratives may reflect the disrupted psychological state of the characters. The presentation shall highlight and reflect on the similarities between dark academia and the Gothic, arguing that the genre thus offers a critique of the academic environment by shifting the focus onto the psyche of the characters.

Fazekas Fruzsina (supervisor: Dr. Lénárt-Muszka Zsuzsanna)

"THE REAL ENEMY": MAGICAL REALISM AND THE SOCIAL EFFECTS OF NARCOS

The War on Drugs caused a social and political crisis not only in the United States, but in Latin America as well. Many movies, series, and books tackle the issue from the classic *Scarface* (1983) to *Our Lady of the Assassins* (1997), and many of them aim to provide a thorough background to the global campaign, including the Netflix hit series *Narcos* (2015-2017).

Narcos approaches the War on Drugs differently: the series' American narrator ties the social and political changes in Colombia to magical realism. Because of the series' success, the narrative supported and presented by Narcos is the globally known and accepted narrative, despite the biased narration and historical inaccuracies. The aim of this presentation is to briefly chart the origins of magical realism in order to explore the genre's presence in Narcos in order to argue that the series misrepresents the genre strips it of its political/regional significance. Following the brief exploration of magical realism's presence in the series, I will argue that narcomedia like Narcos do not only fetishize and homogenize Latinos and Latin Americans while perpetuating harmful stereotypes, but they also profit off of the history and trauma of a culture by examining the social effects of both the series itself and its promotional materials.

11:15 - 11:30: BREAK

11:30 - 12:45: BRITISH STUDIES 1

Mikulcza Ágota (supervisor: Dr. Orosz-Réti Zsófia)

MAGICAL REALISM AS A NARRATIVE DEVICE IN JOANNE HARRIS' CHOCOLAT

The research explores the use of magical realism as a narrative device in Joanne Harris' novel *Chocolat* to create a distinctive narrative ambiance. It begins with a brief discussion of the origins and definition of magical realism as a literary mode that blends the fantastical with everyday elements. Building on this foundation, Harris' nuanced approach to the mode is examined, focusing on aspects such as the incorporation of different cultural influences and intertextual references, the multiplicity of perspectives and other key elements that cement *Chocolat* as a work of magical realism. Harris diverges from traditional approaches by employing unsteady governing rules throughout the narrative and the importance she places on the characters' emotional state. The use of colour symbolism is analysed to demonstrate how Harris employs specific tones and terminology as visual cues, marking seemingly ordinary scenes as infused with the supernatural. Additionally, other everyday objects, including candles, specific foods and sachets are explored to underscore how they contribute to the magical atmosphere of the novel. Ultimately, this interplay of magical and realist elements enriches the narrative and deepens the reader's engagement with the story through the distinct atmosphere it creates.

Szakács Tibor Dominik (supervisor: Dr. Orosz-Réti Zsófia)

VICTORIAN GENDER FROM HELL: VICTORIAN GENDER ROLES IN ALAN MOORE'S FROM HELL

Serial killers have always fascinated peoples' imaginations. One such case, maybe the most famous one, is that of the Jack the Ripper murders. Films and video games adapted the story, adding their unique twist to the mystery. The exception to the rule is Alan Moore and Eddie Campbell's *From Hell*, published between 1991 and 1998. Based on Stephen Knight's *Final Solution*, the graphic novel presents itself as a historically accurate retelling of the murders,

supported by thorough research by Moore himself. Their retelling is not the usual whodunit story, allowing readers to focus on the unsung victims of both the Ripper and the age: women.

Moore's approach is unique in many ways, however, the fact that the Ripper murders are retold in a comic format makes for a fascinating case. The narrative and the visual elements work in tandem to shed more light on and emphasize the class and gender conflicts of late 19th-century London. In this research, I rely on gender and comics studies, including the works of Hungarian comics researchers, such as Gyula Maksa or Tamás Dunai. Using this interdisciplinary toolkit, I look at how the medium of comics contributes to the exploration and critique of the gendered stereotypes of the Victorian period, many of which are still prevalent today.

Zsíros Liza (supervisor: László Borbála)

LABELLING THE OTHER: DECONSTRUCTING GENDERED MONSTROSITY IN FEMINIST CAUTIONARY TALES

This presentation focuses on how otherness and monstrosity are portrayed in certain traditional and contemporary cautionary tales, namely, Christina Rossetti's poem "Goblin Market", Samantha Hunt's short story "Beast", Sarah Hall's short story "Mrs Fox", which attempt to break away from the typically marginalising and moralising aspects of educational narratives. These works distance themselves from traditional cautionary tales through different methods: for example, the gendered aspects of monstrosity – the bestial sexualised female; the cultural or social freak male; and the anthropomorphic male or female characters – are portrayed in an accepting environment, which is usually supported by a carnivalesque narrative setting, where otherness is endorsed, and the fluidity of forms, acts, and gender identities is part of normality. This aspect resonates with feminist eco-criticism, which aims to blur the hierarchical boundaries between different beings and genders. Therefore, my claim is that these works challenge the moralising aspect of traditional cautionary tales by not limiting their human, nonhuman animal and hybrid characters to gender(ed) norms and to the dichotomy of the innocent and the monstrous, but allowing these so called "others" to transgress, to blur boundaries without building on the "pedagogy of fear" (Shaijan 8).

12:45 - 13:15: BREAK

13:15 - 14:30: BRITISH STUDIES 2

Törzsök Réka (supervisor: Prof. Béneyi Tamás)

"HAPPINESS HAS GOT TO BE PAID FOR": BATAILLEAN ECONOMY IN HUXLEY'S BRAVE NEW WORLD

In this presentation, I propose a new approach to Aldous Huxley's Brave New World (1932) based on the theories of one of Huxley's contemporaries, the 20th-century French philosopher and intellectual Georges Bataille. In my larger project, I also rely on Bataille's theory of eroticism and spirituality, however, this presentation is concerned with how the economic setup in Huxley's novel might be read in the context of what Bataille terms "nonproductive expenditure". In the World State, underconsumption is to be avoided at all costs, and excess

is preferable to moderation and restraint. I suggest that the economic system in Brave New World represents a highly controlled version of what is described in Bataille's theory. While in the world of the novel there is exponential production, leading to considerable excess, paradoxically, on the whole, this excess is directed toward maintaining the system's stability rather than permitting any true nonproductive expenditure. In Bataillean terms, the World State's ultimate goal, stability itself might be seen as a way of controlling nonproductive expenditure, if we consider that unbridled wastage could imbalance the system.

Czirják Zsófia (supervisor: Dr. Borus György)

IMPERIAL BRITISH PROPAGANDA AT THE TURN OF CENTURY - FOCUS ON CULTURE AND LITERATURE

In my paper I wish to focus on and highlight those aspects of Victorianism that are rarely talked about in the academic/university life – how the different forms of media could shape and influence the mindset of the public via literature, which led to the raise of racism itself. One of the novels I try to deeply analyse is Richard Haggard's *She*, which was published at the time when the Empire was in its glory. Haggard's book is hailed as anti-imperialist peace of literature, but in this presentation and my research paper I will try to explain the more problematic elements of the story. To understand how and why literature was so popular at this time, I will also analyse the technical developments of the time which led to the popularity of the novel and reading itself.

Jakus Dávid (supervisors: Dr. Orosz-Réti Zsófia, Krek Norbert)

THE CRITIQUE OF COLONIALISM IN WARHAMMER 40,000

This research examines the connection between Warhammer 40,000 and colonial logic, with a particular focus on English colonialism. Utilising transmedia theory and science fiction studies, it aims to establish Warhammer 40,000 as a transmedia universe deeply rooted in an expansive colonial context. The study first outlines the foundations of English colonial logic before exploring specific parallels, such as the Anglo-Zulu War and a miniature diorama produced for UK Games Day '97, which serve as a clear example of this connection. Additionally, the presentation examines *Rogue Trader*, a video game by Owlcat Games, through the lens of spatiality and otherness, highlighting how it critiques the very colonial logic on which the universe is built. The analysis focuses on the developers' intentions surrounding gameplay features, companion interactions, and romance. This presentation argues that while Warhammer draws heavily from the imperialist mindset, it simultaneously critiques the very systems it portrays, offering a complex reflection on colonialism.