

## Abstracts

### Putting the prologue before the stories: an analysis of *Cuentos con walkman* (1993), *McOndo* (1996), and *Se habla español* (2000)

★Thomas Nulley-Valdes★

My research seeks to understand the positioning of these three Latin American short story anthologies and the respective literary fields in which they intervene and circulate. As these anthologies are produced and circulate in three distinct literary spaces, Chilean, Latin American, and United States, I approach these anthologies using Pascale Casanova's theory (and methodology) of world literary space. In distilling my methodology I have demonstrated how Casanova both implicitly and explicitly builds off Pierre Bourdieu's theory of artistic production as well as examined the reception of her theorisations in Latin American criticism. After explicating the methodological groundwork, I will summarise my analysis of the first anthology *Cuentos con walkman* (1993) as a kind of prototypical case study. *McOndo* (1996) and *Se habla español* (2000) will be briefly discussed in respect to the questions and issues which these particular anthologies and literary spaces generate. By way of conclusion, I propose some of my preliminary findings regarding the ideological (sociocultural, political, and literary) nature of these anthologies, clarifying misunderstandings of these anthologies in academic criticism, and some preliminary observation regarding the noteworthy literary impact of these anthologies.

### The Relationship between L2 Motivation and the Type of English Course: An investigation of learners of English at Saudi universities

★Aser Altalib★

One of the common arguments and claims about ESP (English for Specific Purposes) courses which suggest that these courses are more likely to generate higher levels of motivation than other types of English courses such as GE courses (General English). According to a number of scholars (such as Basturkmen, 2010; Dudley-Evans & St John, 1998; Hutchinson & Waters, 1987) the only justification for such claims is that ESP courses are more relevant to learners' needs and interests and this in turn increases learners' motivation. However, none of such claims are based on any empirical studies, and the study I present aims to fill this gap. Using Dörnyei's (2009) L2 Motivational Self System as a theoretical framework, the study not only aimed to explore the relationship between L2 motivation and the type of English course (ESP and GE), but it also attempted to determine the relationship between L2 motivation and students' actual English course achievements. Data were collected with an online survey from students enrolled in English courses at four Saudi universities (N=4043). The data analysis shows a significant relationship between learners' motivation and the type of English course. For instance, ESP students had a higher ideal L2 self than the GE students. In addition, the findings indicate a relationship between students' L2 motivation and their actual English course achievements. The findings of this study provide an exciting opportunity to advance our knowledge and understanding of how types of English courses (i.e. EGP and GE) may affect and enhance learners' motivation differently.

## Evidentiality in Korean

★Yunseok Lee★

Evidentiality is a grammatical category which marks the ways in which the speaker knows or came to know the information s/he is presenting, and so its primary meaning is information source. In my PhD thesis, I attempt to advance the understanding of the Korean evidential system through the examination of a set of four evidential (strategy) markers (tela, ney, kwuna, and tay) as used in spontaneous speech (data: Sejong Contemporary Spoken Language Corpus). In particular, I ask how these markers are used to express the semantic parameters that have been proposed for evidentials—Visual, Sensory, Inference, Assumption, Reported and Quotative (cf. Aikhenvald (2004)). In addition, predominant meanings denoted or implied in the selected evidential markers other than information source (e.g. epistemic extension, mirative overtones) are examined for their interrelation with information source.

The presentation deals particularly with the marker –kwuna, among the four markers, and I regard the marker as evidential strategy, rather than evidential marker. The study shows the core meaning and extended meaning of the evidential strategy –kwuna. The core meaning has two folds: acquisition of new information at the time of speech, and the speaker's commitment to the truth of the information. For the extended meaning, or contextually-derived meaning of the marker, I proposed mirative overtones and evidential meaning. For evidential meaning in –kwuna constructions, two semantic parameters Inference and Assumption were coded, without parameter for direct perception in the data. Due to the core meaning of the marker –kwuna as acquisition of new information at the speaker's speech, the marker is very compatible with linguistic features such as exclamation and specific prosody denoting mirative overtones like unexpectedness and surprise. The marker –kwuna itself is not a mirative or exclamation; it frequently occurs with mirative overtones depending on contexts of the –kwuna constructions (52%). The study also examines, in –kwuna constructions, deferred realization or hindsight compatible with Inference or Assumption + mirative overtones; first person effect implying lack in control or awareness, the degree of the integration of the acquired information into the speaker's knowledge system in terms of mirative overtones.

## Writing the city as biography

★Graham Byrne★

This study explores the practice of writing the city as biography to identify the ways in which the city can be written as biography and whether or not this genre can be classified as a new literary form. The primary focus is a reading of Peter Ackroyd's *London: The Biography* to explore William Gibson's claim that the text constitutes a new literary form. The structural components and content of the text will be analysed in relation to other texts which proffer a biography of a city, or city space, along with an exploration of recent developments in conventional biographical writing to determine if the texts bear relation to, and classification as, biography. A new literary form demands a theoretical framework and this study also explores the perspectives which may be utilised to write a biography of the city. The city biography comprises discussions of historiography, architecture, literature, psychology and philosophy, amongst others, and as such, any theoretical framework requires an inter-

disciplinary perspective. Therefore, theories relating to flânerie, psychogeography, psychology, architecture, longue durée as well as literature and historiography will be explored to see how they function in a biography of the city. The final part of the study focusses on texts by Ackroyd and others whose form may be termed microbiography to assess the relative merits of biography and microbiography when tackling a subject of scale such as a city.

### **88-89 (Four Narratives) / The Role of Narratives of Protest against State-mediated Violence in Sri Lanka, with Reference to the Armed Insurgency of 1987-90**

**★Vihanga Perera★**

The project undertaken consists of four mutually resonant, inter-connected narratives set against the backdrop of the armed insurgency by the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (J.V.P) against the State of Sri Lanka between 1987 and 1990. This will be complemented by a dissertation which explores the role of narratives that are protestant of State-mediated violence in the context of the same insurrection.

The Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (or, the People's Liberation Front) is a key Left party in Sri Lanka of Marxist-Leninist origins which, in 1987, spearheaded a nationwide wave of dissent against the then government that soon evolved into an armed conflict which, in the next three years, resulted in the death of over 60,000 persons, of which The majority are alleged to be victims of extra-judicial processes by the State. 88-89 is an effort at capturing the landscape, the tension and ambivalence of these troubled years through a creative process of four movements.

The dissertation, in its focus on the role of narratives protestant of State-mediated violence, will situate the interventions made by four selected writers whose narrativizations of the insurgency in question contributes to a platform that is counter-establishment and deviated from the pro-State mainstream. These literatures of the margins play a crucial role in locating suppressed voices and histories of what can be suggested as a "muted and silenced" period of recent Sri Lankan political history. The dissertation will be anchored on the writings of Rohitha Munasinghe, Ravindra Fernando, Darman Wickramaratne and Liyanage Amarakeerthi.

### **Precarious Proximities: A Symptomology of Intimacy in HIV/AIDS Life Writing**

**★Jonathon Zapasnik★**

Recording the narratives of those who live with HIV, or whose lives have been subsequently taken by AIDS, is imperative for the mediation of gay male identities in the Western world. As a genre, HIV/AIDS life writing, or testimony, has been crucial as it offers a means of reflecting on the ravages of the disease by authors positioned as intimate witnesses. This thesis examines the role and constitution of intimacy in HIV/AIDS life writing. It challenges studies of HIV/AIDS life writing grounded in the "presumption of fatality" (Couser) and instead draws on Spinoza's formulation that we do not even know what bodies can do. This project argues that we do not even know what a body with HIV/AIDS is, let alone how it

operates or what it can enable between bodies. I contend that intimacy is an event, a process of becoming that actively contours structures of ordinariness, temporality, sociality, and corporeality embedded in the act of witnessing. Although such an account risks privileging the intensities of affect over the representational dimension of HIV/AIDS life writing, I utilise both representational and affective modes of analysis to suspend the need to value one mode of analysis over the other. The innovation of this thesis is not only theoretical, but also methodological, deploying a comparative and symptomatological reading of HIV/AIDS life writing from North America, Australia and New Zealand to interpret the 'symptoms' of intimacy. It thereby enables new ways of thinking about what a 'life' is in these texts. A symptomatology of HIV/AIDS life writing holds 'life' and 'death' in tension, providing a framework for negotiating the dynamic intersection between illness and identity.