

# ABSTRACTS OF THE 2015 STUDENT CONFERENCE

## LINGUISTICS

### **Sagit Blas: Perceptions of Fluency.**

This paper examines listeners' perspectives of oral fluency. In particular, it investigates whether advanced non-native speakers and native speakers of English evaluate oral fluency differently.

### **Lily Shehady: Code-switching**

Why do bilinguals code-switch? This paper investigates the reasons behind everyday code-switching.

### **Shany Nidam: Discourse Analysis of Gay Representations in American Sitcoms**

Jeremy Bentham, a 19<sup>th</sup>-century social reformer, argued for legal reforms in favour of homosexuals; however, his recommendation took effect only in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. The situation has changed significantly for homosexuals, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgender people (LGBT) since then. Viewers who watch television shows featuring gay characters in leading roles assume that society has progressed towards the acceptance of the gay community as a whole. By exploring the representations of homosexuality on American television through an analysis of discourse in *Will & Grace* and *Ellen*, two of the most successful sitcoms on American television that feature homosexual leading characters, this presentation will prove the ways in which the discourse reinforces homosexual stereotypes, rather than contributing to the acceptance of the LGBT community.

## EDUCATION

### **Ido Avidor: Article Review on Heterogeneous Classes**

99% of the classes in schools are heterogeneous classes with learners from different backgrounds and with different learning abilities. How can teachers teach such classes in an effective way?

### **Teryn Josset: Article Review on Teaching and Learning Vocabulary**

Teaching and learning vocabulary is an integral part of learning English as a second language. In my presentation I will relate to the different ways of teaching and learning vocabulary and the effectiveness of each method.

### **Hodaya Rosh: Classroom Behaviour Management**

According to Koshy (2005), teachers engaging in Action Research confront a situation or problem, and then attempt to improve it. As I have been facing difficulties with classroom management in one of my classes this year, I chose to do my Action Research on "teacher behaviours that minimise student misbehaviour" (O'Neill & Stephenson, 2011, p. 35) to "promote student engagement, and strategic, respectful actions . . . to restore the learning environment" (ibid). I started to teach a certain class as a substitute teacher, which seemingly made the students view me as "temporary." This led to discipline problems as well as their testing my authority. In doing the Action Research, I have expanded my knowledge of the subject and developed productive skills that have helped me improve both my teaching and the general atmosphere in class.

## LITERATURE

### **Lily Shehady: “the happiest woman on earth”: An Analysis of Chapter 8 in Eric-Emmanuel Schmitt’s *Three Women in a Mirror***

Chapter 8 of Eric-Emmanuel Schmitt’s *Three Women in a Mirror* consists of a letter that Hanna writes to her cousin Gretchen about her millefiori and sulfide paperweight collection and the hardships linked to her marriage to the wealthy, young Count Franz von Waldberg in part related to her inability to conceive. Proven fertile, Hanna refuses the doctor’s request to test Franz for infertility because the defect and shame lie with her. In the postscript, apologizing about her previous woes and complaints, Hanna joyfully announces her new pregnancy. Blinded by society’s demands, she fails to hear the feminist voice within her, vaguely apparent in her clouded thoughts and poetic language. A feminist analysis offers a reading of Hanna’s failure to identify her external conflict, due to domestication and society’s expectations of women, as well as her internal conflict, related to her feminist potential.

### **Aviv Rubin, Itay Abitbul, Shaked Greener, Shir Romashkano, Avia Ben-Ari, Lina Ghrayeb, Shimrit Shahar, and Lee Hed: The Effects of Childhood Voids: Deconstruction of a Passage from Matthew Manera’s *Turning of Leaves***

As part of the Critical Approaches to Literature course, we have deconstructed a passage from Matthew Manera’s *A Turning of Leaves*. To share the extent of possible deconstruction we have combined parts of our writing, turning it into a collective text.

### **Hdar Yashar: Two Halves Do Not Make Up a Whole: Deconstructing Social Exile in Nancy Huston’s *Losing North***

The passage deconstructed in this presentation follows the quotation from Matthew Manera’s *Turning of Leaves* in Nancy Huston’s essay *Losing North: Musings on Land, Tongue and Self*. It enables further thinking about social exile.

### **Rina Marjeh: Women’s Empowerment as an Illusion: A Comparative Analysis between Shakespeare’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* and Aristophanes’ *Lysistrata***

Some plays present women’s empowerment in challenging ways, especially those written in patriarchal societies that did not allow women to act, such as *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* by Shakespeare and *Lysistrata* by Aristophanes. By comparing these two plays, written respectively during the English Renaissance and in 4<sup>th</sup>-century classical Greece, this paper suggests that women’s empowerment is no more than an illusion. While dealing with the illusion in the thematic structure of both plays, the presentation will also address the similarities and differences between them as well as Shakespeare’s use of many themes and elements from classical Greek theatre.

### **Dafna Ben-Yosef: By Man or by God; Rules in a Patriarchal Society in Sophocles’ Tragedies *Antigone* and *Oedipus Rex***

The Greek tragedies present a true and vivid imitation of life in the fifth century BC. Through mimesis, they send the message that the gods always defeat those humans who try to defy their rules. In Sophocles’ *Antigone*, Oedipus’ adult daughter seeks justice for her dead brother, Polyneicês, in the name of the gods, wishing to bury him against the express orders of Creon, the king of Thebes, not to bury traitors. In Sophocles’ *Oedipus Rex*, her father tries to find King Laios’ murderer, unaware that his seeking justice will bring him to his tragic fall. One cannot miss the family resemblance: believing in serving justice regardless of the consequences, Antigone and Oedipus reveal their tragic flaws, creating a conflict not only between the rules of the gods and the rules of the State, but also between and within the sexes.