

Editorial

**FROM TRADITION INTO THE FUTURE:
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT**

The Department of English Language and Literature came into being just a few years after the Faculty of Philosophy was created in 1965 as a constituent part of the newly founded University of Niš. In only six years since the University had started registering students in Niš, the demand for an English department was such that the authorities ratified its launching and the first happy generation enrolled. Now, fifty years after this beginning, the demand is still high and the enrolled are equally happy to be among the best ones who got a chance to become students at the Department of English. What has changed, since changes there must be, has been identified and recorded by the members of the Department involved in a small project aiming to celebrate the achievements of the Department in the past 50 years.

Though unassuming, the name of the project, “From tradition to the future – 50 years of the Department of English at the Faculty of Philosophy in Niš” (100/1-10-1-01), still indicates that we hoped to present our academic practices as tradition-forming, on which basis future generations of teachers and students could possibly continue building, developing, and performing always better than the preceding ones. In an attempt to paint a realistic picture of our complex activities, we envisioned a project comprising four core activities:

1. Writing review papers on the most important aspects of our teaching and research practices so far
2. Publishing a catalogue with 25 annotated titles to represent the Department’s academic output at the Faculty level
3. Refreshing the website of the Department by starting its YouTube channel and the Google site of its Alumni Club
4. Recording interviews with four different categories of participants: first generation students, eminent teachers, expatriates, and notable foreign visitors to the Department.

This volume of *Facta Universitatis* contains the results of the first core activity and offers twelve review papers:

- *Collections of Papers by the English Department, University of Niš : A Celebratory Review* by Vladimir Jovanović
- *Cognitive-linguistic Research at the English Department: Theoretical, Methodological and Applied Aspects in Niš* by Vladan Pavlović and Marta Veličković
- *A review of the Elective Linguistics Courses at the English Department* by Ljiljana Mihajlović and Milica Radulović
- *The Tradition of Literary Translation at the English Department* by Nataša Tučev and Dušica Ljubinković
- *From Problems of Language and Mind to Psycholinguistics: An Overview of Courses* by Vladimir Figar, Mladen Popović, and Dušan Stamenković

- *Developing Language Competencies Through Core Language Courses at the English Department: the First Half Century* by Ljiljana Janković, Marta Veličković, and Aleksandar Pejčić
- *The Development of Master and Doctoral Academic Studies in English Language and Literature since 1971 at the English Department, Faculty of Philosophy* by Danijela Petković and Milena Kaličanin
- *Teaching Anglo American Culture at the English Department: the Past, the Present and the Future* by Ana Kocić Stanković and Sanja Ignjatović
- *Language, Literature, Conference* by Biljana Mišić Ilić and Vesna Lopičić
- *Literary Studies at the English Department of the University of Niš: History and Practice* by Milica Živković
- *Extracurricular expression and Development of Students at English Department, University of Niš* by Ljiljana Marković
- *TEFL Methodology and Pre-service Teacher Education at the English Department, University of Niš* by Tatjana Paunović and Nina Lazarević.

The titles of these contributions are very indicative of our intention to make a survey of some significant changes in the activities of the Department: from outlining how the English language, Anglophone literatures and methodics have been taught in the 50 years of our existence, to showing how we were the first English department in the country to have introduced cultural studies courses, and then presenting some new trends such as literary translation or cognitive linguistics and psycholinguistics courses of which we are very proud – there was so much about the Department targeted by the project. No less important, structural changes implemented in the course of the last 50 years such as introduction of elective courses or master and doctoral academic studies as well as formalisation of student projects greatly improved the quality of studying at the Department. Finally, increased research activities are summarized in two articles which deal with our publishing efforts thus completing the image of the Department.

Definitely more could be said about the preceding 50 years. However, in combination with the other parts of the project, the picture becomes quite clear. The English Department at the University of Niš has meaningfully evolved in the course of its life and become an asset to the Faculty of Philosophy. Generations of older teachers are being replaced by younger ones, while ever new generations of students keep coming. Hopefully, we have established traditions which will last well into the future.

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