

STUDENT CONFERENCE 2017

English section abstracts

DIPLOMA PROJECTS

Alena Kadlecová

Palacký University Olomouc

Social Aspects of Textbooks

“In teaching any language, we are imparting information and therefore power; in teaching *English* we can impart to learners not only the present perfect, but also the power of knowing and caring more about the world they live in.” (Prodromou, 1992)

The diploma project deals with the content of commonly used English textbooks and what learners can learn from them besides grammar, vocabulary and language skill practice. The aim is to find to what extent textbooks provide information on cultural and social aspects connected to the target language.

Mariana Karpetová

Palacký University Olomouc

The Concept of Black Womanhood in Alice Walker's fiction

The aim of the presentation is to give a theoretical background of black feminism and black womanhood. Two of Alice Walker's novels - *The Color Purple* and *Meridian* - will be analysed, especially the characters of black women in these stories.

Kateřina Kovářová

Palacký University Olomouc

The Perception of American Culture in the Works of Contemporary American Authors and Its Employment in English Lessons

The diploma thesis deals with general definition of culture and mainly the values, which are then applied on the specific matter of American culture. It strives to describe American culture from a broad and general perspective, using underlying factors, historical facts and how they affected contemporary features of it.

The practical part of the thesis strives to analyse two books of contemporary American authors of Young Adult literature, whose works could be easily used in FLT as a means of teaching English. These books were chosen because their main purpose is not to describe the American culture, nevertheless, the author tries to prove that they carry the American cultural features and, therefore, they can be used in lessons of English not only to teach language, but also cultural facts.

DIPLOMA PROJECTS

Zuzana Kubáčová

Palacký University Olomouc

American Dream in Contemporary American Drama

This thesis deals with the concept of American Dream, its history and impact. The American Dream is an ideology that is present everywhere in American culture; from literature to the film industry to music and visual arts. Part of the thesis is also an analysis of two contemporary American plays which deal with the topic of American Dream; *Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller and *A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry.

Simona Navrátilová

Palacký University Olomouc

The Comparison of the Role of Literary Heroines and Gender Stereotypes in the Past and the Present Time

My diploma thesis deals with the status of women in the British society throughout the centuries, and the reflection of their position in the literature. In the theoretical part all historical periods, from prehistoric times until today, are covered, and the change of the position of the female gender and the progress are outlined, with regard to the centuries. The practical part is based on the theoretical background and it focuses on three selected literary works from different time periods. The theme of these books, as well as the reflections of the lives and attitudes of the heroines depicted here, is compared with the gender stereotypes and oppression in the context of the changing position of women in the course of the British history.

Anna Pecháčková

Palacký University Olomouc

Using a Blog as an On-line Support for Learning British and American Cultural Studies: Learners' Attitudes and Motivation

The diploma project is concerned with online support for learning British and American cultural studies. The online support in the form of a blog was created to help lower-secondary learners with learning British and American cultural studies. Learners of the 6th, 7th, 8th, and 9th grade were provided with the possibility to access the blog with texts and pictures that were dealt with in the classroom as well as with some additional texts, exercises, and tasks connected with the given topic. The main objective of the project is to acquire learners' assessment of the blog itself, to find out how students used the blog, and what motivated them to do so.

BACHELOR'S PROJECTS

Kateřina Gabrielová

Palacký University Olomouc

American Slavery from a Male and Female Perspective in Selected Slave Narratives

The thesis deals with the literary genre of slave narratives, specifically then with the analysis of four narratives written in the nineteenth century by fugitive Afro-American slaves. For the purpose of the analysis, the autobiographies written by Frederick Douglass, Solomon Northup, Harriett Ann Jacobs and Mary Prince have been selected. The main aim of this thesis is to describe the different perception of slavery between male and female slaves, their roles in the whole system of slavery and their approach to the problem.

Nela Pavlová

Masaryk University Brno

American Roaring Twenties and the Jazz Age in Modern Films

I will present my BA thesis which deals with the topic of the American Roaring Twenties and the Jazz Age and how the atmosphere of this period is depicted in selected Oscar-awarded films, namely *The Great Gatsby* (2013) and *The Artist* (2011). I will suggest that although Luhrmann's modern approach of *The Great Gatsby* may be perfectly suitable for present-day audience, there is a possibility of future generations losing the capability to understand the aim of the film. On the contrary, Hazanavicius's *Artist* may have the potential to maintain its excellence further on, having been noticed among the highlighted Hollywood pictures despite being a silent black and white film.

Kryřtof Pleský

Palacký University Olomouc

King Arthur in British History and Literature

The aim of this thesis is to create an overview of the evolution of the Arthurian legend, its historicity, and the impact it had on certain British rulers. In its first part it focuses on written sources and the way they portray king Arthur. The second part then examines the historicity of the claims made in these sources, with emphasis on places mentioned, and the impact they had on British kings. The end of the work also contains a brief part about the portrayal of king Arthur in popular culture.

Žaneta Voldánová

Masaryk University Brno

Grammatical Mistakes in English Songs

I am going to give a short presentation about my bachelor thesis with the topic of grammatical mistakes in English songs and their effect on how teenagers perceive grammar. At first I will talk about the theory of using music for the process of learning English and then mention the most common grammatical mistakes that appear in songs and their correct transformations. After that I will introduce the practical research I have done with grammar school students, concerning their attitude to English songs, their lyrics and the mistakes in them. Lastly, I will talk about what the research looked like in practice and of course, also about its results and its outcome.