

FOREWORD

The title of this publication and the preceding conference are symbolic. Although BELLS might simply bring to mind a “hollow cup-shaped instrument that emits a metallic tone when struck”, it actually refers to Belgrade English Language and Literature Studies, which have a 90-year-long history. BELLS90 is not only an acronym which stands for the 90th anniversary of the English Department and for Belgrade English Language and Literature Studies, but also a symbol echoing our activities throughout all these years.

The story of BELLS began in 1929, when two young scholars, Professor Vladeta Popović and his wife Mary Stansfield Popović, founded the department (their photos are featured on the cover of this volume). Although they started with as few as five students, the number of students reached 300 in a decade. Unfortunately, World War Two broke out, and all activities ceased. The founders of our department were taken to concentration camps. Fortunately, they survived and returned in 1945, resuming their work almost immediately. The years of captivity in the concentration camp took their toll and Professor Popović died a few years later, so Mrs. Stansfield Popović took over the department. In a few years, a new generation of scholars were ready to continue their work and the department continued to grow. Many distinguished scholars and writers gave lectures at the department, and international cooperation flourished. Unfortunately, the breakup of Yugoslavia had a major impact on the department and international cooperation ceased, while other ties with English-speaking countries were severed. After the democratic changes in 2000, the department started to recover and the positive effects are still visible today. With more than 600 undergraduate students, almost 200 future MAs and forty faculty members in 2019/2020, the department keeps moving forward by modernizing its curricula, introducing innovative courses, and advancing cooperation with other institutions of higher learning.

The variety of papers you are about to read are the results of the meticulous work of scholars from more than twenty countries from around the world. Their aim was common – to shed more light on the current issues in linguistics, literature and language teaching and to promote the study of the English language, its literatures and cultures. Although a linguistic purist might raise an eyebrow at these plurals, our common sense tells us that everything that has been created in this language is now so diversified that the plural –s is well-deserved. A literary expert would most likely embrace it, while a teacher would most probably say that everything you hear from a native speaker should be accepted. It is possible to say that these views on a very frequent English morpheme can be interpreted as a symbol – a symbol of the unity of these scientific fields which stem from the same source.

The fact that the BELLS90 conference that took place from May 30–June 1 2019 had almost two hundred participants speaks volumes about this event and the quality of the papers we have selected. The process of selection and reviewing required a great deal of effort, but at the end of the day, it was rewarding. The papers before you will undoubtedly broaden our perspectives, enhance our knowledge and help us gain new insights into our respective fields of study. Volume 1, that is in front of you, comprises thirty-three original scientific papers on theoretical and applied linguistics, as well as translation studies.

This conference would not have been such an enriching experience without our distinguished keynote speakers: Raymond W. Gibbs Jr. (University of California, Santa Cruz), Rochelle Lieber (University of New Hampshire), Raluca Radulescu (University of Bangor), Vida Taranovski Johnson (Tufts University), Mark Thornton Burnett (Queen's University, Belfast) and Ivana Trbojević-Milošević (Faculty of Philology, University of Belgrade).

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