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*English Language and Literature Studies: Tradition and Transformation* (ELLSTAT), The University of Belgrade, Faculty of Philology, English Department, Belgrade, Serbia, October 23-24, 2015<sup>1</sup>

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*English Language and Literature Studies: Tradition and Transformation* (ELLSTAT), the fifth international conference of the English Department, Faculty of Philology, University of Belgrade, took place on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> October 2015; the previous four conferences were held in 2012 (ELLSEE), 2009 (ELLSIIR), 2007 (ELLSSAC) and 2004 (ELLSII, which marked the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Department).

Each day of the conference began with two back-to-back plenary lectures, each lasting an hour, followed by parallel sessions. The conference brought together a total of 131 participants, coming from 18 different countries, spanning 3 continents.

The conference started at 8:30 AM on the first day with opening addresses by, on the one hand, heads of the English Department, Radojka Vukčević and Ivana Trbojević, and on the other, one of the youngest members of the Department, Ksenija Bogetić. This was followed by brief welcoming remarks by the Dean of the Faculty, Aleksandra Vraneš, and Erika Kuenne, Cultural Affairs Officer from the American Embassy. Immediately thereafter, Ranko Bugarski, one of the Department's most eminent retired professors, effectively started the conference with an erudite talk on tradition in linguistics and tradition in general. The second plenary was a lecture on "Malory and His Sources" given by Elizabeth Archibald, professor of Medieval Studies at Durham University. In it Archibald pointed to some of the most important decisions Thomas Malory made in adapting the Arthurian tradition and what those decisions may reveal about his views of concepts such as love and friendship.

The plenary lectures on the second day were held by István Kecskés of the State University of New York System and Gerard Steen of the University of Amsterdam. The former was on English as a lingua franca, specifically on the use of formulaic and figurative language by its users; the latter introduced the Deliberate Metaphor Theory, whereby Steen argues that not all metaphor in language is an automatic reflection of conceptual metaphors in thought, but that some metaphors are used deliberately as metaphors for specific communication purposes.

In addition to this, Steen held a workshop entitled "A 3D Model for Metaphor: Metaphor in Language, Thought and Communication", which lasted between October

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26<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> as a post-conference event. The workshop was organized in collaboration with Katarina Rasulić, one of the Department's professors, and was attended by 27 PhD students. The aim of the Metaphor Workshop was to provide anyone "interested in metaphor research with a substantive overview of current theoretical and methodological issues in the field, with special emphasis on the role of metaphor in communication. Steen introduced his 3D model for metaphor, which encompasses metaphor in language, thought and communication, as well as various methods for metaphor identification (MIP(VU))".

Parallel sessions, six of which were underway at any given time, all took place in the English Department's usual classrooms, i.e. on the second floor of the Faculty's "new building" (which is, in fact, older, but which hasn't housed the Faculty for as long).

The conference, spanning as always the entire scope of Anglistics, i.e. all facets of English language and literature studies, covered a breadth of interests. The names of the sessions should provide a glimpse of what some of the topics of discussion were: Change and the Classics, Of Structures and Meaning, Time, Space and Visual Images, Forming and Transforming Teaching, Tradition as Change, Behind Hedges, Acts and Utterances, Timescapes, Strategies and Skills to Knowledge, Identity as Change, Awareness of the Past, Limits of Form, Point Counter Point, Constructions at Work, Technology to the Rescue, Making It Specific, Within and Without the Borders of Mother Tongue, Troubles of Representation, Sizing Up, Floating World, Metaphor at Play, Representation and Beyond, Fragmented Identities, Questing Author, From One to Another, Significant Form, Interpretations of Change, Revisiting Canon, Creative Imagination, Through the Body of Words, Challenging Old Forms, Structures in Contrast, Tradition and Innovation, Of Corpora and Style etc.

The scrumptious catering during the coffee breaks and lunch breaks was organized by Jelena Vujić, another of the English Department's professors, who was also in charge of the indispensable student volunteers, who in turn made sure everything ran smoothly and who helped maintain a congenial atmosphere throughout.

The first day of the event was book-ended by the conference dinner in one of Belgrade's restaurants, while at the end of the second day a closing ceremony was held, gathering many of the participants along with the organizers and student volunteers for a final farewell. The four invited speakers were sent off home each with a heart-warming memento, a bottle of inimitable Serbian *loza* (grape brandy).