Department of English Language and Culture

ENGLISH JOURNAL FOR YOU



PEDAGOGICKÁ FAKULTA



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LOVAKIA



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Dear readers,

This year has been highly challenging for our department, with recent events leading to the intake of many students from Ukraine and Russia. The situation has opened up opportunities for developing new friendships and learning about different cultures. Moreover, Slovak students could also share their opinions, ideas and experiences with Serbian and Spanish students. We would therefore like to stress the importance of understanding each other and showing empathy in these difficult times. We as teachers need to think about the individual needs of our students, as everyone is unique in their own way. In this journal you can learn more about our department and why it is worth studying here, not only from the perspective of determined and creative students, but also our PhD. students who have eagerly motivated our students to get ready for their future professions and helped organize the Open Day event for future university applicants. After the lockdown ended, our department head also initiated a trip to Scotland, which gave students the opportunity to discover the beauties of the country with possibly the greatest diversity of the English language. The mastery of language and its creative application can be found in special poetic and thoughtful works of art that were shared by some of our students, who were also inspired by their literature and creative writing classes. Last but not least, we would like to share with you a sample of innovative lesson plans written by our Master students, which can be inspirational for their younger colleagues, as they can learn about designing a creative literature lesson, while not forgetting about involving our learners` emotions and feelings. Experiencing joy in classes and creating an enjoyable atmosphere is a must in every foreign language lesson.

Hope you enjoy reading every page of our journal and learn that everybody can discover his/her creativity.





Open Day event

On 24th November 2022 our Department of English Language and Culture held an Open Day event for all our future perspective students who are eager to learn about the opportunities our department offers. Visitors could experience live presentations or attend workshops led by our amazing students and expert lecturers. Our doctoral students were more than happy to help with any additional information about our study programmes and student's life at our department.





I. Studying at our department

Program DOD ŠTVRTOK 24.11.2022

10.00 - 10.20

Who is a good English teacher? (Aký je dobrý učiteľ angličtiny?) doc. Mgr. Elena Kováčiková, PhD

10.20 - 10.40

Around the World - program Erasmus+ pre študentov Mgr. Zuzana Sándorová, PhD.

10.40 - 11.00

A Giving Tree – kreatívny metodicko-literárny workshop Bc. Kristina Ćmelik, Bc. Anja Hrćan

11.00 - 11.20

Pursue your passions and teach English – kreatívny workshop Daniela Verešová, Terézia Guttenová, Jakub Hlavačka

11.20 – 12.00 Diskusia učiteľov a študentov KAJK s uchádzačmi o štúdium





Through the lens of Samuel Duriš: An honest story about friendships, inclusion and education process at our department.

Dear readers,

You probably agree that learning should give us knowledge and new useful skills. Someone can say that we study to prepare for our future profession. Of course, it's true. On balance, Departmental life is not only about lectures and seminars. Studying hard is very important, but joy, mutual respect between students and teachers, friendly atmosphere, and good cooperation are equally important.

To put it briefly, Department stands on these strong pillars: 1. Passion for English language, 2. Amazing, open-minded and innovative teachers 3. Inclusive environment, 4. Respect and tolerance 5. Welcoming atmosphere. Do you want to find out more? Let's begin this adventure with me!





Inclusive Environment

Since the first day, I entered the field of the department, I have felt accepted and welcomed irrespective of my inborn physical disability and wheelchair. What a pleasant surprise. There were no strange gazes or comments. Instead of this, all employees and students were polite, honest and kind-hearted. The head of the department is very empathetic and helped me with getting used to University and departmental life. What is the situation nowadays? It is marvellous, because I feel like a part of the team. Inclusion goes hand in hand with respect, tolerance, and kindness.

Even Phonetics and phonology can be interesting

At the first glance, phonetics and phonology is a very hard subject, or is it? Topics about the classification of speech sounds are demanding and you have to learn from lesson to lesson, but lectures are interesting and easy to understand. Professor Kráľová is very inspiring and she is happy to answer all the questions if anything is unclear. I am really into going to seminars, where I can practice and improve my pronunciation. Professor has the talent to explain complex and boring phenomena, in a unique way that sparks your interest and curiosity to learn more. Experiments with recording and homework are voluntary, but a good opportunity to get an extra percentage to your final mark. She has a talent and mechanisms to stimulate us positively. Phonetics and Phonology is one of my favourite courses.

Creativity, Gamification and freedom of discussion

I love writing so, I enrolled in creative writing course. I do not regret this decision. Tutor, Doctor Burcl is very energetic and has a good sense of humour. I learned to write a short story, article, HAIKU poem and description. We discuss a lot of different writing styles, I am not afraid to express myself.

In addition, I also worked in groups. Teamwork is great for improving social skills. We played a lot with words types of rhymes and discovered the basic principles of journalistic writing.

Tutor is friendly, not so strict. His feedback is always constructive and well-explained.





Listening and speaking comprehension

Mr. Vnučko, is a very innovative teacher. He is optimistic and that has a positive effect on student' mood. If I feel under the weather and I need to improve my mood solution is simple. I go to his lesson and my mood improves immediately. Frankly speaking, his lessons are full of humour and well organized. We work with authentic, as well as adapted listening and speaking materials.

The best parts of this lessons are: 1. Role-plays, 2. Warm-up discussions, 3. Working with a course book. 4. Watching funny sketches and analysing them with a help of worksheets. 5. Doing SWOT analysis of the video. To be honest everything is awesome at his lessons.

Introduction to the study of English language Doctor Chválová and her fascinating passion and determination. Linguistics and the development of English Language, are quite hard and complex topics, but you do not need to worry. She is very helpful and empathetic. She gave us literature and a syllabus, so learning is made easier and more accessible. To be honest, her lectures are a little bit longer, but it is not a problem to keep attention. Secondly, she uses a lot of interactive materials, from the British Library, YouTube videos and articles from trustworthy scientific databases. These lectures are quite long, but our teacher is constantly doing her best to make lectures as interactive and as entertaining as possible. I really appreciate it. I was satisfied with the lectures to a great extent.

English for specific purposes Choosing this course is a perfect option if you want to improve and master your business English, Language of Law, Technology or Health. At high school, my presentations were a bit boring and they lacked a spice of originality. Thanks to Doctor Sándorová, I considerably improved my presentation skills and learned a new specific vocabulary that I use in my everyday life. My mental health also improved, because we are a good team. As a result of this, I get rid of stress, while giving an important speech or presentation.



To conclude, I absolutely enjoyed Winter Term at the Department. All employees are a great inspiration to me. Students formed an inclusive and diverse team. We are helping each other and so far and the whole department is filled with joy + innovation + inclusion = Department of the 21st century is ready for the future.

Department has made a small step for man, but a giant Leap for modern education.

Extro lip: Thanks to digitalization, students don't need to take long notes from lectures. We have UKF EDUPORTAL, where the notes from the lectures are uploaded. Each subject, has a different course and different self-enrolment key that students need to enter.

Once you are enrolled, you have access to the whole course.

This mechanism facilitates the submission of homework. No matter where you are you can revise everywhere. Some teachers don't use EDUPORTAL, but they prefer using MS Teams to Upload notes and everything works well.

I wish you all the best in the upcoming summer term. Take care.





Erasmus experience with Inés Brito Delgado

Interviewed by Ema Fišerová

What University do you study at and what's your study program back home? I study Primary Education (Didactics for Primary School) at the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria in Spain.

How did you learn about Erasmus? At my home university, there was a discussion about different mobility programs, including Erasmus. I took interest in knowing new cultures and thought of it as a good opportunity and experience.



What motivated you to go on Erasmus?

My main reason was to get new experiences and meet new people. Moreover, I wanted to try Erasmus out, so I could improve my English language because at home I didn't get the opportunity to practice my English that often and going abroad would force me to speak in English.

How did you feel before going abroad?

I felt so excited but also scared. It's a whole new situation that you expose yourself to and face on your own. Meeting new cultures, living with people whom you do not know, etc. But I think of this experience as a part of my life in which many changes can occur, and in my case, I believe that any change can be good as long as I am open to it. I've also had a lot of luck with the people I've met along the way who made this experience unforgettable.



What did you like the most about your experience? Honestly, the relationships I have made here. It is incredible how one experience puts so many people in your life and allows you to spontaneously meet and open up to people you would not imagine talking to. It's amazing how much it opens your mind and enables you (in a way out of necessity) and forces you to meet other people and create precious bonds.



I. Studying at our department

What are some challenges you stumbled upon?

I believe that I learned from every obstacle that I overcame and manage it in the best way possible, some experiences were easier to handle than others but in general, I am proud of how I handled the various situations.

Can you think of some differences between the Slovak and Spanish educational systems?

I think the main difference lies in the time spent on studying and the time it takes you to finish your studies.



Photos provided by: Daniel Rodríguez Sánchez and Selena García García

How has your stay in Slovakia enriched you? I'm proud of myself because I have learned how to manage stress in different situations.

Was there anything surprising about your stay?

Yes! At first, it was so difficult to understand the different atmosphere we felt because of the cultural differences.

Would you recommend going abroad to our readers?

Of course, I do. If you have the opportunity to get out of your comfort zone, you should take it. Leaving your comfort zone makes it easier to open yourself up to new experiences, develop greater control over situations, and above all a lot of learning when it comes to managing situations. You expose yourself to new experiences. It has its advantages and disadvantages, and that always depends on how you stand up to it. In addition, you can start a new stage of your life by showing people only the sides of yourself that you want to show, without anyone knowing you. This can make you feel vulnerable at first, but it helps you build new aspects of yourself without judgment, from scratch.

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I. Studying at our department



ja_cube24 btw, they have a great veggie pho in





Edinburgh

Image: Provide Kingdom
Image: Provide Kingdo

• We stopped at the Falkirk Wheel and saw the Kelpies too. A kelpie is a shape-changing aquatic spirit of Scottish legend. Kelpies are said to haunt rivers and streams, usually in the shape of a horse. But beware...these are malevolent spirits! We arrived at the hotel in Glasgow late at night. Hooray! A warm shower, soft quilts and finally sleeping on a normal bed.Thursday was quite a demanding day. From Glasgow we travelled to north towards the Scottish Highlands. We passed through the unique desolate landscape of Rannoch Moor and the Black Mount to Glencoe, where the MacDonald clan massacre took place in 1962. We visited the Ben Nevis Distillery, then

enjoyed a cruise on Loch Ness and at the end of the day we visited the town of Inverness. On Friday morning we visited Rosslyn Chapel, the most beautiful Gothic building in Scotland. In the afternoon we had the opportunity to see rainy Edinburgh and Calton Hill with a wonderful view of the whole city. On Saturday the worst awaited us. A long journey home. However, we stopped in Amsterdam, which is proof that paradise is not always tropical. The beating heart of the Netherlands has left us with wonderful memories. In addition to memories, we also took away other things from this trip. For example, Jakub got a tattoo of a sword that will forever remind him of the beauty of Scotland. Daniela bought several bags of vinegar chips that will remind her of the taste of Scotland. And Terezka will forever remember the atmosphere of Scotland - illness + gin + waves at sea = an unforgettable combination. In conclusion, we'll just write that the trip was really great, despite the lengthy bus journeys. Travelling with amazing people, seeing wonderful places - what more could you wish for? ♥ Daniela Verešová, Terézia Guttenová, Jakub Hlavačka

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II. Poetic artworks





I am trying to keep abreast of the news in the world.

The more I try, the heavier my head is. The more I try, the more desperate this world sees.

The good news is- we can be saved. If there's, at least, a cubic of magic in human hearts- new humans can be raised. This magic, that's all that is left, When our eyes see the counterclaims to the claims of politicians, When our sight debunks life's conditions, And the mind doesn't approve of fads of humanity,





Our magic stays- it's called solidarity. Soña Červeňová







Be

The mess you caused To my soul was calming Like a prose Heart-warming I got struggles though When I find their stem You love to see me grow And I know I found the gem

Eclipse

Butterflies in the garden are all colours, all types Some of them have stars And some of them have stripes The feelings are not the same Some of them want to be displayed in the hall of fame Those acting like a chief Are nothing but a thief That makes this work of art Tear more apart



Bc. Natália Šmitalová

Intangible

Let me feel it

The things that

are impossible to

touch

Show me what love

is

What a feeling

Means so much

Not just a fizz

Confusion. Delusion. Fusion. Souls that are walking by Drained me to come up with a solution I´m craving some alone time



You took the rose That was pretty close She with the thorn With it, she was born The thorn started spreading She tried shedding But many of them in her soul Created a big hole



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II. Poetic artworks

The end of the world

Each of us has one world and one life, and yet we want to destroy it. The enemy stabs enemy with a knife, as if there was no other way to solve it.

The world is a place of many fears, why don't we have any freedom? Rivers are full of blood and tears, where are the powerful when we need them?

Humanity is poisoned by hatred and greed, neither side will stop until the end of the fight. Peace was within reach, but no one agreed, because each side thought they were right.

It has always been and always will be, humanity will never change or learn. that's why I'm glad to have you and me, because this world is about to burn. Lea Vešelenyová

Bookshelves

People as many as trees in a forest Double the numbers and that's how you're stressed. Trying to deal with all this mess Is like printing paper on an old press.

Problems come one after another And our minds are all scattered. Trying to keep our minds sane Is most of the time real pain.

Though dusting your mind shelves with a broom You still feel like a child locked up in a dark room. Trying to plan how to help yourself Is feeling like a lone book on a shelf. Lukáš Košelík and Kristína Schweizerová

STOP THE HATE

S eeing the world around me, my hands are shaking,T he words are hard to find, my heart is breaking.O f fear; of agony; of anger, all those.P erhaps it will end, but who knows?

T he truth is – hope is hard to find.H olding onto it for a long makes us seem blind.E ven the strongest ones sometimes give up on our mankind...

H ush those hurtful tones poisoning your lips, A nd leave alone those painful habits. T he LOVE shall never be defeated! In this I have faith, E motions are contagious. Let´s stop spreading hate. Lívia Furdová

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Song of the Lost

I heard the call of the waves. How it only called the braves. It was loud in all the caves and brought up all the old mistakes. The wise one said the water takes. But it also shapes and makes. While it made some rightful slaves, it never once gave me rusty chains. Never once took any breaks. Always changed its hollow shapes. There were oceans, drops or lakes, but the dearest are the waves. Fanni Jakusová

A Poem in Nonsense literature

Yesterday I met a cat. She invited me to her wonderful flat. It was all green. Other cats called her: "My queen". In the kitchen, there was a cake. But it was made from a snake. So, I went to the nearest shop. Because the cake was a flop. The Birthday's song was 'The baby shark'. But all the guests just bark. Bc. Monika Mifkovičová

The Two Companions

On a branch sitting a crow With full glance and glow. The fog puts its cloak On the alone standing old oak. It seems little it broke, When it is surrounded by smoke. The oak's death will approach as slow, After everything will be covered with snow. The old tree is about to die, But for the crow, there is no time to cry. She rushed to fight For some place where to spend the night. Viktória Benčíková

Acrostic Poetry

M ichaela is a best friend of mine I conic golden hair is her sign C ooking is what she likes to do H eavenly good and no way blue A like sunflower she is greatly bright E verytime, also during the starry night L ucky me, she is my soul mate A lso thankful for a quirk of fate Bc. Tatiana Kostúrová

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II. Poetic artworks

A PROP IN THE OCEAN (PART 1); SILVIA ORAVCOVÁ

On a cold December morn in the middle of a long-lost kingdom a young prince is born. His screams wake the land the newborn yearning for mother's hand. Like a blank parchment waiting to be inked he's brought to life, to his kingdom linked. The prince grows into a young man; one full of hope of desire to change the world. He wishes to feel the spark, to go on an adventure and leave a mark to escape his boring life of a monarch. He attends lessons in geography and astronomy. He learns how to dance oh, and when he does, he feels like in a trance. No one teaches him how to be a lover yet for the love he becomes a fighter. The young prince meets a princess. She's beautiful, otherworldly, she's grace. They talk for hours and dance for days. They share their desires dreams their deepest secrets to go through life sleepless. As the years go by, the lovers exchange their sincere goodbyes. No longer do they dance nor do they trade a lovely glance. On a cold January night, the prince is reborn with his heart torn He tries to drown his sorrows in alcohol tries to sleep through days and black-out through nights. He tries and fails falls apart and wails and finally, when he's had enough, he steals a boat and tries to flee into the night.





A DROP IN THE OCEAN (PART 2); SILVIA ORAVCOVÁ

The man, no longer a prince, but a traitor, sails and sails and never looks back. He throws himself into the sea his boat rocking gently and leaves behind all things lordly. The ocean greets him like an old friend waves splashing around playfully. And when the man tries for the end it carries him to land, loyally. And so the man lives with the ocean together they sail in motion. Once, a storm breaks the clouds the man rightfully in his doubts yet he fights for his life. He dances with the waves in most beautiful, ardent ways. They guide him through the thunders it leaves the man in wonders. Then he realizes, out in the open sea he has found his ecstasy. His fire, his passion, his breath of life he fell in love with the ocean right on the spot. Again and again, he reaches for treacherous wind All of his sails were tightly pinned His bleeding hands tying knots Waiting for the godly waltz. And the way he lived, he dies. On a cold February noon when he misses the sight of the moon he lies on his ship with a trembling lip and the last thing he hears

is the serenade of waves, taking him to the graves. And like life-long lovers, they become one.





CreARTive Poetry Lessons

Acrostic Poetry —

An **acrostic** poem uses the letters of a word or name to begin each line of the poem, and each line must in turn relate to the word. Anything goes when it comes to acrostics, and they're a fun way to add a personal touch to a poem. Study our original example below, which uses Shel as a subject, and then create your own acrostic masterpiece!

Shel was a talented writer

His work is admired by many

Every poem is so clever

Let's go read them together

In the box below, write an acrostic poem about a friend, family member, or teacher. Your poem can be full sentences or simply a couple of words about your topic. When you finish writing, color and decorate your poem and ask a grown-up to help you cut it out from the page. Give it to the person you wrote about as a gift!

Sandri is a row nice person, A every smiling and dining, Never sach or ruche, Doing the box cioniamon cupcales, Ready to walk in the high boots all day, POETRY TIP! For a different take For a different take on this style, write a poem that uses the first letter of a word from the *middle* of each line of the poem to spell out the poem's topic. I I'l is a pleasure so be her prierd oem's topic - Reproducible Activity ----www.shelsilverstein.com

Jua glislova



ANDREA SKUNDOVA





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CreARTive Poetry Lessons







but still rhyme. After some time, it is became so darty. Felt like swimming with sharks In my it left a mark Reproducible Activity www.shelsilverstein.com

In your eyes

I've seen a sporte



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can look different



III. Exploring emotions in English teaching

How can you create a lesson plan and involve students' emotions? Our students Bc. Anja Hrćan and Bc. Kristina Čmelik will lead you through the examples of the tasks they prepared for the course of English methodology while forming clear objectives for the lesson.

Exploring emotions in English teaching

TOPIC: The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein

Aim: To develop learners' English language performance, and their emotional intelligence, increase their self-esteem, and improve their relationships with others (e.g. friends and family). This topic gives learners a chance to practice writing, reading, speaking, and listening skills. To rethink their actions and to become more giving towards other people.

Description of the class: A group of 16 students in the 8th grade in lower secondary school. Date: April 6, 2022 Level: A2 Age: 13 – 14 Time: 45 minutes

Aids: a PowerPoint Presentation, a PC, a projector, pictures, hand-outs, a worksheet, a piece of paper, a pen, a YouTube video, a whiteboard,

markers, sticky tacks







Class organization: individual work, whole class.

Objective: to personalize the story and to develop learners' emotional intelligence, to reflect on their personal actions in terms of giving.

Teaching Technique: discussion, writing.

Procedure:

1 Learners look at the statements provided by the teacher and think about the answers for themselves.

2 Learners write down three ways they can be more giving on the provided paper leaves. Moreover, they write down one person who is giving to them.

3 While learners work individually, the teacher draws a tree without any leaves onto the whiteboard.

4 The teacher shares what she has written on the leaves as an example and sticks the leaves onto the tree.

5 Learners share the person and the ways they can be more giving and stick the leaves to the tree.

6 At the end of the activity the learners are reminded of different ways they can help others. They are also reminded that more can be achieved while working together.

NOTE: This activity can be carried out with a simple handout, consisting of two sections. In the first section, learners think about the people who give something to them and write them down. In the second section, learners think about ways they can be more giving and then write the suggestions down. They share their ideas with the whole class.

Answer keys Task 3 - Working with the vocabulary



Task 4 - Introducing the story1 Who are the main characters in thestory? - the boy and the tree2 Where does the story take place?- in the forest3 How do the boy and the tree feelat the end of the story? - they arehappy because they are together.

4 How did the story make you feel and why?



III. Exploring emotions in English teaching

Task 5 - What did the boy take from the tree according to his age? - report the feelings

Task 5 - What did the boy take from the tree according to his age? - report the feelings

Boy's Age	What did the boy take from the tree?	Feelings of a tree
As a young boy:	He would gather its leaves and make them into crowns.	The tree was happy.
> As a young man:	He gathered its apples.	The tree was happy.
≻ As a man	He cut off its branches and carried them away.	The tree was happy.
≻ As an old man:	He cut down its trunk and made a boat.	The tree was happy. But not really.

Pictures Picture I: by Unknown Authors, retrieved from Treenewal.com



Picture 2: by Shel Silverstein, retrieved from ShelSilverstein.com







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