

Note From Editor

Welcome to *Journal of English Studies* (JES) Volume 12, Number 2 July–December, 2017!

With our commitment to biannual publication beginning from this year, JES committee members have been working around the clock to ensure we reach this goal and as such we enthusiastically introduce Volume 12, Number 2. This volume begins with two literacy papers: one discussing novels written by the world-renowned English author, Jane Austen; the other examining a classic African novel written by Chinua Achebe. In the article, *From a Small Market Town to the Metropolis: The Cities/Towns in Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice and Persuasion*, Choedphong Uttama discusses how landscape and administrative divisions of municipalities influenced the selection of settings in two of Austen's novels: "Pride and Prejudice" and "Persuasion". Readers are guided to conceive how a small market town like Meryton, where Elizabeth developed prejudice against Mr. Darcy, was specifically selected as an important site in "Pride and Prejudice". After the discussion of Austen's novels, we take a closer look at an important African novel: "Things Fall Apart" in *Re-Reading Achebe's Things Fall Apart in the Context of African Environmentalism* by Charles Agboola Bodunde and Saeedat Bolajoko Aliyu. In this article, the authors analyze Igbo society and culture. The aim of their paper is to examine the world view of Igbo people towards nature and the environment, which had long been portrayed differently by western critics.

While research projects on EFL learners' communicative skills are abundant in several Southeast Asian countries such as Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia, much research on similar related topics still needs to be done in the ASEAN community. Kimkong Heng's

article, *Cambodian EFL University Students' Learning Strategies and Motivation to Improve Their English Language Speaking Skills: A Qualitative Study* helps restore such imbalance. Employing qualitative research methods, Heng investigates Cambodian students' EFL learning strategies, motivations, classroom factors and their predicaments.

Our last accepted research paper is from Weerayuth Podsatiangool, who examines intercultural communication and power relations between the US and Japan by investigating the popularity of Japanese comic books or "Manga" in the US. In his article, *Why Do Americans Say No to Doraemon?: Examining Power Relations Between American and Japanese Popular Culture in Intercultural Communication through the Lens of Semiotics*, he explains the advent of Japanese Manga, and further discusses how this genre gained popularity among young American readers, with the exception of "Doraemon": the big blue cat that is very popular in Thailand. The cause of Doraemon's unpopularity is thoroughly examined.

This volume concludes with a book review from Apisak Pupipat who extensively reviews Netta Avineri's (2017) *Research Methods for Language Teaching: Inquiry, Process and Synthesis*. The book encourages language teachers to work collaboratively with their co-teachers by guiding them through each step in how to conduct classroom research. *Apisak Pupipat* discusses both the merits and limitations of this book, while praising it as one of the most updated resources on this research methodology and at the same time encouraging language teachers and students to use it as a reference to conduct their own research.

JES continually welcomes paper submissions from our dear readers. We would like to encourage you to submit original manuscripts which touch upon English Studies: Intercultural Communication, Literacy and Cultural Studies, Translation Studies, Corpus Linguistics,

English Language Teaching and Applied Linguistics, English Language Education, World Englishes and book reviews.

I would like to express my appreciation to JES board members, who constantly show support through academic advice and connections in academia. I would like to thank our reviewers for their hard work in screening the submitted papers. Special thanks goes to all JES committee team members for their earnest endeavors to make this second volume a successful publication.

Lastly, I hope that you enjoy our paper selections issued in the two issue number of 2017. I wish you all the best and look forward to welcoming you to collaborate with us in the coming year.

Varisa Osatananda
Editor-in-Chief