

Note from the Editor

As we move into the second half of 2022, myself and the Editorial Committee are pleased to announce the next issue of Thammasat University's Journal of Studies in the Second Language. In this first issue of Volume 1 (January - June 2022), there are three research papers published by scholars working in some of Thailand's most distinguished universities.

Our first paper is an analysis of Margaret Atwood's imaginings of a pre-apocalyptic future in her 2013 novel: "Oryx and Crake". Using Murray Bookchin's theory of social ecology, Sarawut Kururatphan of Chulalongkorn University highlights how inequality and hierarchy are the two key drivers of social problems in the novel; Sarawut further argues that that such social problems arise in and are reflected by two kinds of people in the novel—one of which is reflected in the novel's title (Crake).

Our second paper is by Nida Tiranawasadi, who is also from Chulalongkorn University. This paper is also a literary analysis but whereas the first paper examined a novel set in the future, this paper's analysis centres on two works of gothic fiction: Bram Stoker's "The Burial of the Rats" and H.P. Lovecraft's "The Rats in the Walls". In her detailed analysis, Nida discusses how the representation of rats has shifted from agents of evil to agents of disease, but the disease in these novels was not so much a physical contagion but an ideological one.

Our final paper is another literary analysis, only this paper moves us away from the written mode and into the arena of film. Usa Padgate, who works at Naresuan University, explores the integration of Christian and Pagan themes in Kay Pollak's 2004 movie, *Så som i himmelen* [As It Is in Heaven].

Neil Bowen
Editor-in-Chief