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## 02. English

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## **Abstracts from the 2014 Oklahoma Research Day**

**Held at the University of Central Oklahoma**

### **04. Liberal Arts**

## **02. English**

### **04.02.01 Wichita Mountain Wildlife Refuge Clean-up**

**Rhiannon, Poolaw , Kitty Johnson**

*Cameron University*

A valuable contribution to the litter crisis affecting the natural habitat of Wichita Mountain Wildlife Refuge can be made through volunteer efforts, the strengthening of fines and regulations, and promoting awareness. The objective of this research is to find a plausible solution to the accumulated litter on the Wichita Mountain Wildlife Refuge. When visitors enter, often they leave more behind than just their footprints. Debris poses a threat to the animals and the environment. In such an expansive and highly trafficked area litter remains an on-going issue. We began by doing a basic library and internet search. We met with a Ranger on the Refuge and began building a relationship with the staff. After gaining more information on the problem, we began formulating a solution. We drafted a donation request letter and solicited local area businesses. We then followed up the letters with many phone calls. We then sent out emails student organizations requesting volunteers. Through our efforts to improve the WMWR, we found a true treasure. Those employed at the Refuge take an interest in preserving and restoring the natural splendor of the local attraction. They were excited by the opportunity to work with other people. We learned the hardships encountered by many non-profit organizations; we faced many instances of reluctance and red tape. We also found that there are many people willing to sacrifice their time volunteering for Refuge improvement projects.

## **04.02.02 Virtual Collaborative Writing: An Exploration into the Future of Group Work**

**Kaitlyn, Stockton**

*Cameron University*

In today's workforce and schools, group work is becoming a useful and popular tool. Collaboration allows members with different backgrounds to come together. This teamwork promotes diversity and enables groups to experience more creativity in their projects. However, group work has come to be labeled as a "double-edged sword." Bringing together people with a multitude of personalities and ideas can create conflict. In the 21st century, gender and race play a large role in the diversity of group work as many of these voices have been marginalized. While it brings new voices to work groups, this inclusion has also been problematic. As group members may not get along while working with each other in person, the idea of adding members with different beliefs and personalities becomes even more problematic once group work becomes virtual, where team members do not even have the chance to interact with one another face-to-face. While there are many new tools to connect individuals from all over the country and world to each other, obstacles can still occur. Virtual collaboration offers many advantages and opportunities for future group projects. However, as most studies on the roles of women and minorities in group work are outdated -- especially with the introduction of women and minorities into high positions in the business world in recent years -- new research is required to assist in the future progress of the tool of virtual collaboration.

## **04.02.03 Digital Manipulation use in Media**

**Shelby, Stancil**

*Cameron University*

The issue I chose to address is that of digital manipulation, which seems to be a growing problem with media. I asked if, when, and where digital manipulation is acceptable. The general consensus about digital manipulation is that it should be used when appropriate but is used far too much in places that it shouldn't be. The news is one such place that has no room for manipulating pictures. The manipulation of pictures is used so much in the world of journalism that people are beginning to think it normal but then become angry when they are told a picture has been altered. The trust between reader/viewer and journalism breaks when this happens. People no longer know what to believe. In fashion magazines it is a bit more acceptable to manipulate a picture as long as the subject is not altered into practically a new person. There are still problems with the use of this software even in the fashion world. Small models are being made to look almost skeletal and the young starlet gracing the cover, while seen as healthy to the normal eye, is called "fat" or "pudgy". The effect this has on young readers can be detrimental to their body image, which creates a problem in the real world. There are two sides to every software but how much will the public take before the real damage is done.

#### **04.02.04 The Interaction of Language Transfer and Language Processing in Second Language Acquisition**

**John, Hitz , Nawal Alhodithi**

*University of Central Oklahoma*

To date, research on the influence of the first language in second language acquisition has provided conflicting results. Some studies have argued that first language influence in second language acquisition has a significant impact on second language acquisition, whereas others have contended that its impact is minimal or non-existent. Our proposed research project on the second language acquisition of English relative clauses (hereafter, RCs) by native speakers of Korean and Arabic may shed some light on this important question. The participants in the study will include 20 adult native speakers of English, 60 native speakers of Arabic, and 60 native speakers of Korean. The Korean and Arabic speakers were selected because Korean RCs are closer to English RCs in their structure than Arabic RCs. Therefore, the Korean speakers are expected to outperform Arabic speakers on all experimental tasks. All participants will judge the acceptability of certain types of relative clauses with the aid of a computer, which will also measure their reading times. It is predicted that native speakers of Korean will read English relative clauses more quickly than Arabic speakers, and that their judgments of grammatical acceptability will be more accurate than those of Arabic speakers, due to the structural similarities shared by English and Korean RCs. Data is currently being collected from all participant groups. It is expected that most data will be collected before March 7.

#### **04.02.05 I Choose My Parents: The Use of Surrogacy in Disney Animated Films**

**Joy, Morrow**

*Northeastern State University*

In 1937, Disney's Snow White and the Seven Dwarves hit theatres launching the beginning of the Disney animated-film reign on Western society, particularly American society. One would be hard-pressed to find an American who does not have some knowledge of Disney films and usually that knowledge came from multiple viewings of the films throughout a person's childhood. What the Disney Studios created is a series of films that appeal to children and families. Disney took relatively known story plots to create family-friendly enjoyable movies; the source materials used by Disney included: fairytales, children's books, children's plays etc. The success of the films created a new definition of the original works. When Snow White and the Seven Dwarves is mentioned, the animated film supplants the original work for many people; the same can be said for works such as The Little Mermaid, Winnie the Pooh, and Peter Pan. With the target audience being families, several of the films seemingly emphasize family values. However, the majority of the protagonists are not happy with their familial lot and use surrogates to create a familial paradigm that they either believe is ideal or fulfills in area where their legitimate families lack. For a society heavily influenced by these films combined with an audience for whom family brokenness is a normality, surrogacy may be more relatable than the true family values with which Disney brands its animated films.

#### **04.02.06 “As You Wish”: Analyzing the Use of Austin's Performative Utterances in The Princess Bride**

**Carson, Stringham**

*Cameron University*

The Princess Bride, a movie by Rob Reiner, is a story that has something for everybody. It was a movie that took place in a world just fantastical enough to believe that anything could happen, yet grounded enough in reality that it seemed more like history. While there is certainly enough romance, miracles, and comedy to go around, the movie is also filled with performative utterances. An analysis of the film shows how two types of performative utterances— felicitous and infelicitous— were used to not only add drama to the story, but they also establish the nature of the characters.

#### **04.02.07 Interpretation of Dreaming: Denis Johnson's use of Theme in Train Dreams.**

**Casey, Brown**

*Cameron University*

According to Robert Ebert, “The moment a man stops dreaming is the moment he petrifies inside.” Robert Grainer, the protagonist of Denis Johnson’s 2012 novella Train Dreams, survives the loss of his wife and daughter because he is a dreamer. Despite such overwhelming tragedy, he does not petrify inside. He does, however, become a recluse, but he might have already been one before the lost his family in a fire. The use of literal trains, the use of metaphorical trains, dream sequences, and dreaming are significant to the plot as well as to the character development of the protagonist. Being around trains, dreaming in general, specific dreams, and train dreams in particular define who Grainer is as a character. Ultimately, Train Dreams is successful because Johnson carefully, effectively, and repetitively uses the craft elements of theme, character development, and episodic structure to further the tension of the plot in his novella.

## **04.02.08 Lewis Carroll and Stevie Smith: Similarities Between a Nonsense Victorian and a Modernist Writer**

**Karri, Wheat**

*East Central University*

Early in the 20th century Modernist writers who grew up reading the Victorian Romantics reinvented literature by writing works that were realistic and “grounded”, I argue that many still held onto the Victorian fairytales of their youth and applied them into their own works during the time of WWI and feminist movements. One female poet, Stevie Smith, still held onto the fairytales and brought her own twist on them to the Modernist world. Not only was she famous for her poems, but for her odd and childish illustrations that sometimes went along (and at times had nothing to do) with her poems. Lewis Carroll is mostly known for his works *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking-Glass*. Many do not know the “Father of Nonsense” also applied his unique visions into photography during its early years. It was through the whimsical, yet haunting look of child portraits of Alice Liddell and her sisters that Carroll was inspired to write the Alice novels. In this project, I do not claim a direct link from Lewis Carroll to Stevie Smith, but instead, explore how possibly a mathematician’s nonsense novels of a young girl named Alice may have subconsciously had an impact on Stevie Smith’s poems “The Frog Prince” and “Fairy Story”. I will be comparing reoccurring themes in both Lewis Carroll’s novels and Stevie Smith’s poems and explore how different artistic mediums (Smith’s illustrations and Carroll’s photogr

## **04.02.09 Little Magazines Shaping Modernism with Ezra Pound**

**Amria, Norman**

*East Central University*

The Modernist movement wanted to shape art into a new way for everyone. Ezra Pound, an American poet and modernist activist played a huge role in modernism. He was editor of small magazines in both America and overseas. With his help, *The Little Review* and *The Dial* shaped the poetry canon of what we know today. By looking into their history and their way of production, this project will show how they shaped the canon.

## **04.02.10 Personal Connections in Modernism**

**Molly, Trimmer**

*East Central University*

My research aims to bring history and literature to a personal level by examining the relationships between various writers and activists during the Modernist Era. The exchange of ideas between individuals and key groups influence public opinion and actively cause conflict and change that is momentous enough to be recorded. In the context of Modernism, it is clear that the personal relationships between writers contributed to the greater public commentary on topic of British India, and such relationships led to massive change, namely the liberation of India from British rule. By examining archives of authors’ letters, articles concerning Modernist attitudes, and biographies of Modernist-era writers, I have established clear connections between writers and activists such as Ezra Pound, W.B. Yeats, Rabindranath Tagore, and Thomas Sturge Moore that reveal the exchange of impactful ideas during common discourse between friends, acquaintances, and colleagues.

## **04.02.11 A Peak Through "A Passage To India", the Bridge That Binds, and Social Issues That Transcend Time**

**Amber, Huffman**

*East Central University*

India is a young country since Independence and is still recovering post colonialism. E.M. Forster's *A Passage to India* binds the British world of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* with modern day post colonial India, as seen through the lens of Gurinder Chandhas in the movie *Bride and Prejudice*, one of the most recent adaptations of Austen's novel *Pride and Prejudice*. Forster's novel allows its reader a glimpse into the world between these two works, and explains many of the social issues that have been dealt with and the effect they have on society today. I chose to examine these works looking predominantly at the issues of the education of women and marriage in general. My research shows that although there is nearly a hundred years between each of these works certain themes remain current throughout time.