



**2023 TESOL-Ukraine National Convention**

**TEACHING ENGLISH IN WARTIME:  
CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR  
COMMUNITY BUILDING AND SOCIAL  
CHANGE**

**THE CONVENTION IS SUPPORTED BY REGIONAL  
ENGLISH LANGUAGE OFFICE,  
U.S. EMBASSY, UKRAINE**

**Book of Convention Papers**

**Lviv, May 26-28, 2023**

УДК [811.111:37.016]:351.86:352.07:316.422

It is recommended for publication by the Executive Committee of TESOL-Ukraine and the Organizing Committee of the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual TESOL-Ukraine Convention.

**TEACHING ENGLISH IN WARTIME: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNITY BUILDING AND SOCIAL CHANGE: Book of Convention Papers /** Comp. O. Illenko, M. Tsehelska, Liliia Kuznetsova. – Lviv : ПП „Марусич”, 2023. – 193 p.

The collection includes convention papers of the reports made at The Annual National TESOL-Ukraine Convention “Teaching English in Wartime: Challenges and Opportunities for Community Building and Social Change”, that took place in Lviv on May 26-28, 2023. More than 200 teachers from the higher and secondary educational establishments of Ukraine participated in the work of the Convention. The reports presented at the Convention deal with a wide range of research problems in the spheres of linguistics, ELT methodology, CALL, literature studies, etc.

The publication is aimed at EFL professionals, researchers, students, post-graduate students, and at all those interested in the theoretical and practical aspects of teaching and learning English.

**ВИКЛАДАННЯ АНГЛІЙСЬКОЇ МОВИ В ВІЙСЬКОВИЙ ЧАС: ПРОБЛЕМИ ТА МОЖЛИВОСТІ ДЛЯ РОЗБУДОВИ ГРОМАДИ ТА СОЦІАЛЬНИХ ЗМІН: тези доповідей (англ. мовою) /** Укл. О. Ільєнко, М. Цегельська, Л. Кузнецова. – Львів : ПП „Марусич”, 2023. – 193 с.

Збірник тез доповідей Всеукраїнській конвенції TESOL-Україна “Викладання англійської мови в військовий час: проблеми та можливості для розбудови громади та соціальних змін», яка відбулася у Львові 26-28 травня 2023р. У конвенції взяли участь понад 200 викладачів вищих і середніх навчальних закладів України. Доповіді відображають широкий спектр досліджень, які здійснюються науковцями та викладачами вищих і середніх навчальних закладів у галузі лінгвістики, лінгвометодики, комп’ютерної лінгвістики, лінгвометодики з впровадження новітніх інформаційних технологій, літературознавства тощо.

Видання розраховано на науковців, викладачів, студентів, магістрантів та аспірантів, які вивчають англійську мову та на широке коло зацікавлених осіб.

the language they are learning. Teachers can implement this approach in various subjects, providing engaging and motivating learning experiences for their students.

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**MORAL DEGRADATION  
OF A MAN IN MCCARTHY'S *CHILD OF GOD***

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Literature has always served as a mirror in which social norms and values are depicted alongside with its flaws and horrors. Its main role is not only to entertain but also to nurture. American writer Cormac McCarthy belongs to those modern artists who believe in educational role of literature. That is why, his novels are thought-provoking and controversial. Being dark and violent, they can evoke mixed feelings but never leave readers indifferent. The style of the author is quite unique and not easy to understand, as his narrative techniques, being original in nature, involve frames, inversions, dream sequences, and extended interior or exterior monologues (Frey, 2009, p 4). In his works McCarthy reinterprets classical literature, namely the novels of Hemingway, Faulkner, Melville, Dostoyevsky, and Shakespeare's tragedies (Frey, 2009, p 1) giving the themes raised by the writers' new life.

McCarthy's third novel *Child of God* (1973) is the revitalization of the "underground man" of Dostoyevsky, Ellison, and Wright (Jarrett, 1997, p 35). It depicts a gradual moral degradation of a man which is caused by isolation and alienation. The main character, Lester Ballard, has always been an outcast in his community, since his childhood he has been bullied because of his father's suicide. Then, being evicted from his house, Ballard lives in different places starting from rented shacks to jail cells, caves and finally an asylum for insane criminals. As he changes his place of dwelling, he starts to commit more horrible crimes. At first it is just voyeurism and petty theft, then it is arson, attempted rape, and at

last murder, mutilation, and necrophilia (Bloom, 2009, p 66). As the protagonist falls into the depth of alienation, he becomes more capable of evil and loses his humanity: “*You ain’t even a man. You’re just a crazy thing*” (McCarthy, 1993, p 117). However, darkness has always been present in his soul: “*people are the same from the day God first made one*” (McCarthy, 1993, p 168); it only needs a trigger to become apparent and his isolation in wilderness becomes such a trigger.

The novel, belonging to postmodern gothic, is characterized by excessive deaths which evoke unconscious feelings of fear, terror, and anxiety (Beville, 2009, p. 11). The protagonist is a dreadful precursor of death, who undergoes an extremely awful transformation into a corps-hoarding and posthuman monster (Jafari, 2023, p 6) and whose obsession with corpses and collecting trophies from the dead go beyond the deeds of an ordinary criminal (Bloom, 2009, p 67). The darkness of his soul reinforced by alienation and an isolated way of living prevails over his humanity: “*Ballard turned his light on ledges or pallets of stone where dead people lay like saints*” (McCarthy, 1993, p 135). The necrophile is ruled by his own desires as he is no longer a member of the society but a beast that hides in the darkness of the caves.

Thus, living on the margins of the society Ballard loses the sense of law and taboo. Murder for him is not a crime but a way to solve his problems, and human life is worth nothing. This moral degradation is the result of his alienation and rejection by society. Being released from the conventions of the community Ballard becomes a heartless murderer who languishes in the tight grip of his own sins and lives solely to satisfy his most horrid desires. Hence, the novel challenges the notion of the inherent goodness of humanity and explores the consequences of social isolation and rejection.

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Наукове видання

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Укладання *Олена Ільєнко*  
Комп'ютерне верстання *Наталія Лобач*

Формат 60x84/8. Папір офсетний. Гарнітура Times New Roman.  
Друк на різогр. Умовн. друк. арк. 9,7.  
Тираж 200 прим. Зам. № 744.

Видавничий центр: ПП „Марусич”, Львів