Call for Papers

(Dis-)Harmony: Amplifying Voices in Polyphone Cultural Productions

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With Jane Hodson’s (2014) seminal publication, the representation of dialects in literary and film production has come into focus, drawing “on ideas and approaches from the discipline of linguistics in order to investigate the ways in which [...] dialects of English are represented in a range of films and literary texts” (2014: 1). With this fruitful combination of linguistic analysis and literary study, Hodson intended “to move from a practical investigation of the mechanics of analysing dialect in film and literature, to a broader and more theoretical analysis” (2014: 16). However, as the author herself concedes, “there is a lot of exciting work still to be done” (2014: 238).

This is where the present volume sets in: We would like to enlarge the type(s) of language variation investigated from English dialects to language variation (in English and other languages) and multilingualism in more general. We would also like to include more different kinds of media and cultural productions (radio shows, musical genres, spoken word poetry, news reporting, etc.), and take concepts of language contact, identity/alterity, cultural mobility, cultural appropriation, resistance as well as aspects of foreign language teaching into account.

We hence invite scholars from various disciplines – from literary or cultural studies, from linguistics, language teaching, media studies, and related disciplines – to contribute to this project and to submit proposals for article contributions. These could look at the (linguistic) representations of (marginalized) groups or communities in films, TV series, novels, songs etc. and may (but don’t have to) include the analysis of the language(s) and language varieties used. We would also welcome discussions of the visibility, agency, empowerment, stereotyping or ridiculing of different social groups. Further possible topics are issues of authenticity, power distribution, (self-)identity formation, style-shifting, audiences, media types and genres. Since this project works across the disciplines, we encourage interdisciplinary collaboration and co-authorship.

If you are interested in contributing to this volume, we would like you to let us know as soon as possible, but by March 30, 2018 at the very latest. With this expression of interest, we would kindly ask you to send us a working title and a short explanation on the contents (of not more than 150-200 words) of your intended contribution.

We expect the final articles to get to us by December 31, 2018, hoping to publish the entire book by the end of 2019. If you find this deadline difficult to meet, please get back to us and we will try and make adjustments wherever possible.

We are very much looking forward to hearing (and) reading from you any time soon.

Julia Andres, Brian Rozema, and Anne Schröder

Reference: