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THE INTEGRATION OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) AND MACHINE LEARNING (ML) IN ROLE-PLAYING GAMES (RPGS)

Res. Asst. Ercan Tugay Aki
The Department of English
Language and Literature

The integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) in role-playing games (RPGs) represents a transformative advancement in the gaming industry, significantly enhancing the complexity and depth of gameplay. This inclusion fundamentally affects non-playable character (NPC) behaviour, narrative development, and personalised player experiences, thereby enriching the overall engagement of players within virtual environments.

AI and ML algorithms enable NPCs to exhibit more sophisticated behaviours, ultimately creating a more dynamic and immersive gaming experience. Traditional NPCs often followed pre-defined scripts, resulting in predictable and static interactions. However, with AI-driven approaches, NPCs can adapt their actions and responses based on player behaviour and environmental stimuli. For example, employing reinforcement learning techniques allows NPCs to learn from player interactions, refining their responses and strategies over time. This responsive behaviour contributes to the development of a living, breathing game world that enhances player immersion and emotional investment. Red Dead Redemption 2's dynamic world, for example, reacts to player actions, with NPCs recalling previous interactions and adapting their behaviour.

In addition to improving NPC dynamics, AI and ML significantly impact storytelling within RPGs. These technologies facilitate the creation of adaptive narratives that evolve according to player choices and interactions. Natural language processing (NLP) allows for more nuanced dialogue systems, enabling players to engage with NPCs in a more meaningful and contextually relevant manner. Consequently, players can forge unique storylines, fostering a sense of agency and ownership over their gaming experience. The adaptability of narratives not only enhances player engagement but also encourages replayability, as each playthrough can yield distinct outcomes and discoveries. Cyberpunk 2077's storytelling, for instance, adapts based on player choices, shaping the game's progression and multiple endings through complex branching narratives.

Moreover, the personalisation of player experiences serves as another critical benefit of incorporating AI and ML in RPGs. Analysing player data enables developers to tailor challenges, narrative arcs, and even game mechanics to suit individual preferences and play styles. This personalised approach fosters deeper connections between players and the game, as experiences become more aligned with their interests and motivations.

In conclusion, the inclusion of AI and Machine Learning in RPGs revolutionises the gaming landscape, enhancing NPC behaviour, enriching storytelling, and facilitating personalised experiences. As these technologies continue to evolve, their potential to further transform the RPG genre remains profound, promising a future of increasingly immersive and engaging gaming experiences.



WHAT IS THE SECRET TO THE SUCCESS OF THE NINTENDO SWITCH?



Ahmet Alparslan MARAL

A 1st Year Student from the
Department of Management
Information Systems

Launched in 2017, the Nintendo Switch has managed to remain a significant part of the gaming world without losing its popularity over the years. As of 2024, Nintendo continues to release new exclusive games (games that can only be played on the Switch) for its users, providing a device that feels almost ahead of its time in the tech and gaming industry. The Switch is currently the third best-selling game console in the world. With approximately 143 million units sold, it will surpass the PlayStation 2 and take the top spot if it sells about 16 million more units. So, why is the Switch still selling so well, and what makes it one of the most successful game consoles? One of the most striking features of the Switch is its hybrid design, which allows it to be used as both a portable and a home console. The device offers players the opportunity to play games on a large screen at home while also providing the same gaming experience in portable mode. This flexibility makes the Switch an excellent option, especially for traveling gamers. Additionally, the Joy-Con controllers, which can be attached to the sides of the console, offer ergonomic use when the console is used as a home system. Furthermore, the motion sensors in the Joy-Con allow players to interact with games using physical movements. The hybrid design is considered as one of Nintendo's biggest innovations in the console world.

What sells a game console is not just the console itself, but the library of games it offers. Just as titles like God of War or The Last of Us are significant for PlayStation's sales, games like The Legend of Zelda, Mario, and Pokémon hold the same importance for the Switch. These games were released exclusively for a single console at launch. For instance, you cannot play The Legend of Zelda: Tears of the Kingdom, which was released for the Switch, on any other console. While Sony eventually releases these PlayStation-exclusive games on PC after some time, they are initially launched exclusively for a specific device. The Switch entered the market with a plethora of legendary titles, such as Mario Kart 8 Deluxe, Splatoon 2, The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild, and Super Mario Odyssey, which directly contributed to the console's sales.

Speaking of games, it's worth noting that Nintendo places great importance on the trio of Zelda, Mario, and Pokémon, with almost every title released under these brands breaking records. These games are not only of high quality but also offer a substantial amount of content for a handheld console. For example, The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild, released in 2017, provides players with around 50 hours of gameplay. Additionally, the game has an impressive critic score of 97 out of 100 on Metacritic, making it the fourth highest-rated game of all time. The console also supports third-party games. Popular titles like EA FC, Mortal Kombat, DOOM, The Witcher 3 and Hades have been released for the Switch, contributing to increased sales of the console. Normally, we play these big games on powerful systems with home consoles or large PCs, but when these massive games are fit into a compact device, they capture the interest of players significantly.

In September 2019, Nintendo launched a new model of the Switch, called the Switch Lite. This model does not have detachable Joy-Cons (Joy-Cons integrated with the console) and cannot be used as a home console. Additionally, it features hardware with lower processing capabilities. The original Switch model had a screen size of 6.2 inches, while the Lite model's screen size was reduced to 5.5 inches. However, the Lite model was more affordable and designed specifically for players who prefer handheld gaming. By October 2021, the updated version of the Nintendo Switch, known as the Switch OLED, was released. This version featured an increased screen size (7 inches) and upgraded the screen technology from LCD to OLED, resulting in a much higher quality and brighter display. Today, the gaming community is eagerly awaiting the announcement of the Switch 2. Meanwhile, Nintendo continues to release new games for the original Switch. This dedication demonstrates that Nintendo truly values its consoles; continuing to launch new games for a 7-year-old device is a significant show of respect towards players.

GAME
OVER





THE SUCCESS THAT INSPIRED THE WORLD: 2024 NOBEL PRIZE IN ECONOMICS GOES TO TURKISH ECONOMIST DARON ACEMOGLU!

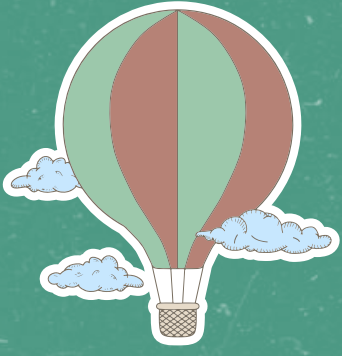
Res. Asst. Eslem BUYUKARSLAN
The Department of Customs Management

Daron Acemoglu has once again written his name in gold letters in the world of economics by being awarded the 2024 Nobel Prize in Economics. Acemoğlu, who was among the top 10 most cited economists in the world according to the IDEAS/RePEc research database in 2021, was seen as a harbinger of the Nobel by also winning the prestigious John Bates Clark Medal. Acemoğlu, who shared the 2024 Nobel Prize in Economics with Prof. Simon Johnson and Prof. James Robinson, is known in the academic world for his revolutionary work. The Nobel Prize is not only Acemoğlu's personal success, which has had a great impact both in the world of economics and in the field of social sciences in general, but is also considered a tribute to all studies on the role of institutions in economic growth.

Jakob Svensson, Chairman of the Nobel Economics Committee, drew attention to the research of the award winners by saying, "Closing the income gap between countries is one of the biggest challenges of our time. Thanks to the groundbreaking research of Acemoğlu and his colleagues, we have a better understanding of why countries succeed and fail". The Nobel Committee's statement included the following: "Societies with a weak rule of law and institutions that abuse their populations cannot create growth. The research of the laureates helps us understand why this is the case".

Acemoğlu's success is based on dozens of articles and books that have attracted worldwide attention, written with his long-time colleagues Simon Johnson and James Robinson. The duo's jointly written "The Economic Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy" (2006) and especially the highly acclaimed "The Fall of Nations" (2012) emphasize the role of political transformation in creating wealth. According to Acemoğlu and Robinson, in order for a society to be able to escape poverty, ordinary citizens must gain political power; it needs to establish strong institutions, as in the examples of France, Japan, Botswana and the US. The source of these ideas goes back to Acemoğlu's youth. In an interview, he said, "I became curious about the relationship between democracy, political institutions and economic growth, and the pressure of dictatorship when I was a teenager, growing up in a country that had experienced a military coup". He explained how his youth in Türkiye inspired his work.

After receiving the award, Acemoğlu expressed his happiness in a message he shared on his X account, and emphasized that the way to deal with global problems such as economic inequalities, the future of work and climate change is to establish strong institutions. "In this period when democracy is under attack, the way to achieve social consensus in order to deal with major problems such as artificial intelligence, economic inequalities and climate change is to have stronger institutions than ever," said Acemoğlu, expressing his belief that the Nobel Prize gave him the chance to explain these efforts to a wider audience. Acemoğlu's words strikingly summarize his belief in his work and his hopes for the future: "This award is an opportunity to show how difficult a struggle it is to strengthen institutions and democracy in the world. Endless thanks to everyone".



Tourism Sector After COVID-19 PANDEMIC



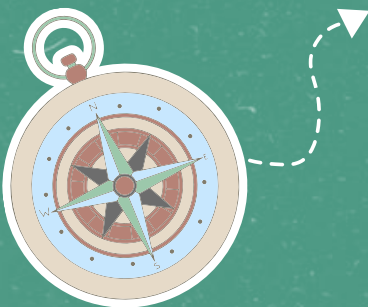
Res. Asst. Kartal Doğukan Çıki
The Department of Tourism Guidance

The tourism sector, which is trying to overcome the effects of the Covid-19 Pandemic, showed a great recovery in the first quarter of 2024, reaching 97% of pre-pandemic levels in the number of international tourists. According to the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO), more than 285 million tourists traveled internationally between January and March 2024. This statistic represents a 20 percent increase compared to the same period in 2023 and shows that the sector is recovering. In addition, UNWTO predicts that by the end of 2024, the number of international tourists will exceed pre-pandemic levels by 2%.

Analyzing regional performances, the Middle East achieved the highest growth rate in the first quarter of 2024, exceeding pre-pandemic levels by 36%. Europe, as the largest destination region for international tourism, exceeded pre-pandemic levels for the first time by 1%, welcoming 120 million international tourists in the first three months of the year. Africa surpassed 2019 levels by 5 percent in the first quarter of 2024, while tourist arrivals in the U.S recovered by 99 percent. Asia and the Pacific accelerated its recovery, reaching 82 percent of pre-pandemic levels in the first quarter of 2024.

In 2023, international tourism revenues reached \$1.5 trillion in nominal terms, returning to pre-pandemic levels. Many destinations achieved remarkable revenue increases in the first quarter of 2024 compared to 2019. Countries such as Türkiye, Serbia, Japan and Tanzania were among the destinations that recorded significant growth in tourism revenues.

While this recovery impacts the global economy and the lives of millions of people, it also highlights the importance of sustainable tourism policies. In 2024, international tourism is expected to fully recover, with increased air connectivity and the return of Asian markets as factors supporting this process. At the same time, however, worldwide economic uncertainties, high inflation and transport costs still pose significant risks to the tourism sector.





Prof. Dr. Ayşe Didem USLU

The Department of English
Language and Literature

MICHAL AJVAZ'S *THE GOLDEN AGE* AS AN EXAMPLE OF POSTMODERN LITERATURE

Michal Ajvaz's novel *The Golden Age* (2001) is truly a postmodern fiction. How does postmodern fiction differ from modernist fiction?

The narrator, whose name we do not learn, describes the ideal island where he spent three years as a utopian settlement in the Atlantic Ocean. Moreover, he gives a geographical description of this imaginary island on a map. The people of this island are interesting. They are both natural and unconscious. There is no loyalty or passion on the island. The islanders have no art, temples, offices or common traditional values. Spirituality or supernaturalism is also unknown. There is literature on the island, but the strange book with the narrator's girlfriend Karael continues until the end. Everything is fluid. Sounds and lights are important. Conversations, words, rustling. Grammar and letters. Often in postmodern novels maths and physics and their complex versions are also described. Science is also included into stories within stories. It is as if the author is telling whatever comes to mind or competing in general knowledge.

The novel is multi-layered, mocking and deconstructive. The fragmented fiction progresses piece by piece and chapter by chapter. The novel contains all the problems and crises that Europe has fallen into during this period because Europe has lost its compass after the modernist period. With the 18th century Age of Enlightenment, Europe, which created a world based entirely on reason and science, lost all its confidence and perception when it experienced two world wars when it came to the modernist period, when the age of Enlightenment promised progress and happiness. Therefore, it is now living in the postmodern era where everything is dissolved and decomposed. In the novel, a lot of European criticism is made on issues such as the collapse of nature or Europe's class society.

In a modernist novel, first of all, the sequence of events proceeds chronologically in a cause-and-effect relationship until the climax, which leads to a clear finale. The psychology of the characters is important and they change/transform. However, in this novel, there is a narrator and his friend Karael, about whom nothing is known. The modernist novel is easy to understand and make sense of, but the postmodern novel is sometimes like madness. The postmodern novel, whose characters and way of writing are difficult to recognise or understand, is fond of sequences and encyclopaedic information in relevant and irrelevant places. Formlessness and blurriness are important. It makes use of fantastic elements as well. The Book, which gains importance towards the end of the novel, becomes a novel within a novel with its ever-changing and self-writing state. The stories are also influenced by ancient Greek mythology. In fact, while the fiction describes an imaginary island, it is also connected to the real world. In this respect, even magical realism can be involved in the novel, because although Michal Ajvaz mentions an unknown island as a location, he also deals with Prague and Paris. The chase of thieves on the rooftops of Paris is like an action film. The magical ones, on the other hand, find meaning in the novel through detailed descriptions and obscurities such as walls of water, labyrinths, fairy tales, mirrors, glittering letters and stains. In fact, everything is ambiguous and unlimited, just like postmodernism itself.

While the novel narrates various themes, it also becomes a meta novel. In other words, a discussion is made on what the novel is and the states of reading. All kinds of absurdity and strangeness are incorporated into the novel. The king and the giant squid is another fairy tale narrative. The king's assassination story and the cook's warning to him are among the interspersed stories. Towards the end of the novel, the issue of theatre and stage show emerges. The novel ends as a mess in which various stories and ideas are scattered. In fact, this ending is also ambiguous because it does not lead to a conclusion. In short, the novel can be ended at any point, it does not need to be completed.



DISCOVER ORIENTALISM IN PERA MUSEUM

If you're interested in Orientalist paintings, the Pera Museum in Istanbul is a great place to visit. Orientalism is a broad term that encompasses various meanings, but generally, it refers to the study and portrayal of the 'Orient' by the 'West'. In the realm of art, Orientalism is a style which focuses on depicting what we now consider the Middle East, encompassing regions in West Asia, North Africa, and the southeastern part of Europe. Orientalism captivated many artists in the 18th and 19th centuries, particularly after Napoleon Bonaparte's invasion and occupation of Egypt in 1798. This movement attracted the attention of European artists, including those from the Romantic movement, who were inspired by the allure of the East.

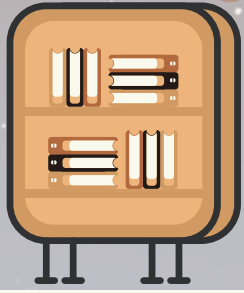
At the Pera Museum, you'll find orientalist works from both European and Turkish artists. One notable piece is "The Tortoise Trainer" by the Ottoman painter Osman Hamdi Bey. Hamdi Bey spent nine years in Paris, where he was trained by renowned French Orientalist painters, and this influence is evident in his works. He became a leading figure in the Ottoman art world, blending Western techniques with Eastern themes.

Another great Orientalist work is "Portrait of a Lady of the Court Playing Tambourine" by the French history painter Pierre-Désiré Guillemet. Guillemet lived in Istanbul for 13 years at the request of Sultan Abdülaziz, who commissioned him to paint his portrait in a Western style. Before his death in 1878, Guillemet created numerous Orientalist works that captured the elegance and intrigue of the Ottoman court.

Although many prominent painters traveled to these regions and based their works on sketches and objects they collected, some Orientalist painters never visited the Middle East, relying instead on descriptions from travelogs and literature to inform their artistic vision. At this museum, there are several Orientalist paintings by unknown artists as well. What stands out in many of these works is the depiction of clothing, especially women's attire. Western artists were particularly fascinated by the way women in the East dressed, with their ornate and richly textured garments. The outfits of sultans are also of special interest, adding to the allure and mystery that Orientalism sought to capture.

Ass. Prof. Vahide METIN

The Department of English Language and Literature



The Hours is a 2002 drama film directed by Stephen Daldry, based on the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel by Michael Cunningham. The movie weaves together the stories of three women, each living in different times but bound by a common thread—Virginia Woolf's novel Mrs. Dalloway and its themes of identity, mental illness, and societal roles. The film's structure highlights the interconnectedness of their lives, despite vast differences in their time periods and personal struggles.

Virginia Woolf, played by Nicole Kidman, is shown in 1923 as she writes Mrs. Dalloway. Woolf, battling severe depression and struggling with her mental health, mirrors many aspects of her novel's protagonist, Clarissa Dalloway, who is similarly plagued by existential questions and a sense of fragmentation. Woolf's battle with mental illness and her contemplation of life and death deeply resonate with the characters in the other two timelines.

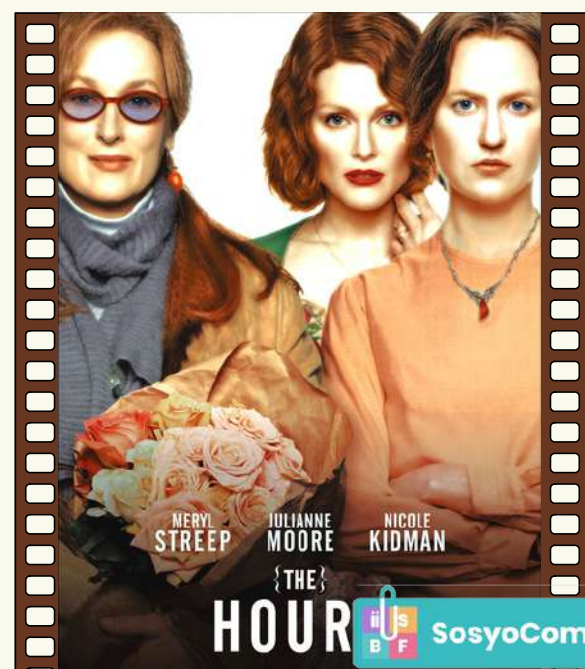
Julianne Moore portrays Laura Brown, a 1950s housewife reading Mrs. Dalloway while grappling with her own discontent. She is trapped in a life of domestic conformity and feels disconnected from herself, much like Woolf's characters. Laura's existential crisis and her yearning for escape reflect the inner turmoil that Woolf both experienced and expressed in her writing.

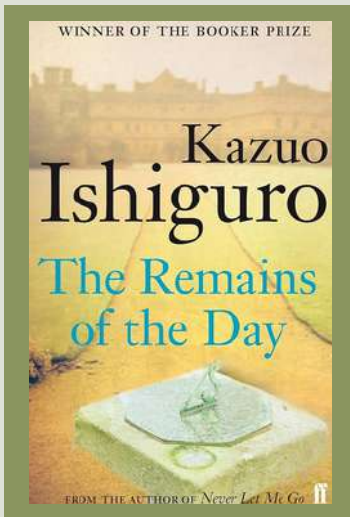
In the present day, Meryl Streep plays Clarissa Vaughan, a modern-day version of Mrs. Dalloway, the main character in Woolf's novel of the same name. She is a successful editor living in New York, preparing a party for her friend Richard, a poet struggling with a fatal disease. Clarissa's life, filled with duty and care for others, echoes Mrs. Dalloway's, as does her struggle with questions of identity, love, and mortality.

Each of the women—Woolf, Laura, and Clarissa—are connected through Woolf's novel, illustrating how literature transcends time, offering reflections on human experience and mental struggles. The Hours masterfully explores these links, showing how Woolf's work continues to resonate, offering a voice to those who feel trapped by societal expectations and the search for meaning.

It is definitely a movie worth watching.

Res. Asst. Hilal BİLGİLİ
The Department of American
Culture and Literature





The Remains of the Day: The Decline of British Aristocracy



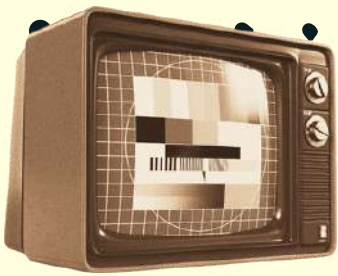
Res. Asst. Ercan Tugay AKI
The Department of English Language
and Literature

Ishiguro's *The Remains of the Day*, which tells the story of an English butler named Stevens, has been examined and analysed in postcolonial studies and narratology. As the title of the novel implies, one of the underlying themes of Ishiguro's novel is the decline of the British aristocracy.

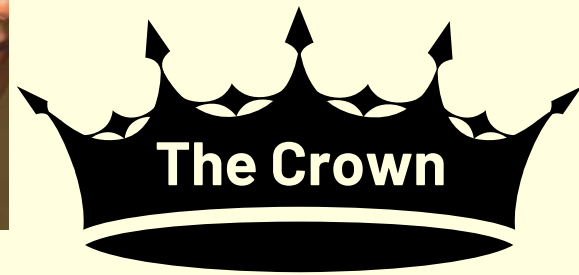
Although Mr. Stevens, throughout the novel, brags about how he is proud to be an English butler and praises England and Englishness, "Even as England has to accommodate itself to the rise of America as an imperial power, Stevens, after having served Lord Darlington for 35 years, has to adjust himself to an American master, Mr. Farraday, who has bought Darlington Hall ..." (Tamaya 45). Indeed, Mr. Farraday, as the new American owner of the house, does not hesitate to point this fact to Mr. Stevens in an explicit manner after Mrs. Wakefield tells Mr. Farraday that Mr. Stevens told her that he was not working for Lord Darlington before Mr. Farraday bought the house: "I mean to say, Stevens, this is a genuine grand old English house, isn't it? That's what I paid for. And you're a genuine old-fashioned English butler, not just some waiter pretending to be one. You're the real thing, aren't you? That's what I wanted, isn't that what I have?" (Ishiguro 130). This particular scene is indicative of the fall of the British aristocracy as Mr. Farraday, like an invader, takes control of a great British house and its British inhabitants as Mr. Stevens "finds himself sold with the house to an American" (Westerman 168). Moreover, even Mr. Stevens himself admits when he is talking to a man, whose name is not revealed, that he has to adapt to the American way of things now that he is serving an American master: "Of course, things are quite different today under my present employer. An American gentleman.' / 'American, eh? Well, they're the only ones who can afford it now. So you stayed on with the house. Part of the package.' / 'Yes," I said, laughing a little." (254-255). Perhaps this is the reason why Mr. Stevens is so enthusiastic throughout the novel to remember the "good old days" he had when he was working for Lord Darlington. However, all of his attempts to recall his past cannot prevent the glorious days of the British aristocracy from being nothing but history as "Britain is well on its way to the loss of its empire ... [and] American (economic, discursive, political) systems are taking over a Britain very much accustomed to being in charge; this Britain, like Stevens, is entering a phase in which its existing identity and modes of ordering the world no longer function" (Westerman 166).

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A TV SERIES



Res. Asst. Tuğçe Gül BABACAN

The Department of English Language and Literature

The Crown is a historical drama TV show centered on the life and reign of Queen Elizabeth II. The series begins with Elizabeth's ascent to the throne and her 1947 wedding to Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, and concludes with the wedding of Charles and Camilla, now King Charles and Queen Consort. Although praised globally for its acting, directing, cinematography, and production, it has faced criticism for inaccuracies in depicting historical events and figures.

The show aired from 2016 to 2023, spanning six seasons. It changes its main cast every two seasons to reflect the passage of time and the aging of the characters. The first season covers 1947-1955, following Elizabeth's accession after the death of her father, George VI. It also includes her marriage to Prince Philip, along with Winston Churchill serving as Prime Minister. The season delves into key historical events and figures of the time.

The second season, set from 1956 to 1964, covers the Suez Crisis, Prime Minister Harold Macmillan's retirement, and the Queen's encounters with John F. Kennedy and Jackie Kennedy. It also depicts the births of the Queen's younger children, Princes Andrew and Edward.

The third season spans 1964-1977, with Harold Wilson as Prime Minister. Significant events include Prince Charles being presented as the Prince of Wales, the Apollo 11 moon landing, and the Aberfan disaster. The season ends with Queen Elizabeth's Silver Jubilee, marking 25 years of her reign.

The fourth season, covering 1979-1990, introduces Margaret Thatcher as Prime Minister. It focuses on the marriage of Charles and Diana Spencer, showing the growing strain in their relationship. Season four is regarded as the series' best, winning 11 Emmy Awards, including all major categories.

The fifth season, set from 1991 to 1997, centers on Diana and Charles' troubled marriage. It includes the Queen's "annus horribilis" in 1992, which is in Latin for "horrible year," and the couple's divorce. Titled "A House Divided," the season also introduces the Al-Fayed family and explores the Romanov family's tragic end, with Prince Philip's DNA being used to identify their remains.

The final season, covering 1997-2005, first explores Princess Diana's tragic death and then follows Prince William's early relationship with Kate Middleton. The season also marks the Queen's Golden Jubilee and Charles' wedding to Camilla. The series concludes with Queen Elizabeth's disappearance to the white light with the final song that she requests for her funeral "Sleep, Dearie, Sleep."



Silent Hill 2 Remake

Ahmet Alparslan MARAL

A 1st Year Student from the Department of
Management Information Systems



Remakes have become quite popular today. So, what exactly is a remake? The term "remake" refers to the process of recreating older, well-loved games—ones that were successful and appreciated by players—with enhanced graphics and more advanced gameplay for a modern audience. This also applied the same for Silent Hill 2. Silent Hill 2 (a survival horror game) which was released in 2001 for the PlayStation 2, Xbox, and PC, is considered by fans to be the best in the series. KONAMI, the game's developer, decided to update this classic and adapt it to today's technology, collaborating with the studio Bloober Team to bring it back to life.

Bloober Team first announced the remake of Silent Hill 2 in October 2022. Fans were thrilled to hear that the game they loved back in 2001 would be remade, and they showed their support for the studio on social media. Bloober Team released Silent Hill 2 Remake on October 8, 2024, for PlayStation 5 and PC.

First, let's mention that Silent Hill 2 Remake has been well-received by both critics and players. In fact, the critics' average score on Metacritic is 86 out of 100, while the players' average score stands at 93 out of 100.

So, what has been updated in the game? Firstly, the game's graphics have naturally been brought up to modern standards; after all, they couldn't re-release it with PlayStation 2 graphics. The RTX (Ray Tracing) technology has done an amazing job of showcasing the game's foggy atmosphere, making the visuals look impressive even among today's games. In terms of gameplay, there are some solid updates as well. In the original release (2001), a shifting camera angle was used that adapted to the surroundings, but in the remake, they've transitioned to a modern over-the-shoulder camera. Since this is a survival horror game, players need to protect themselves from various enemies. Our main character, James Sunderland, is an ordinary person without any special combat skills, so in the original, he would sometimes wield a shotgun or melee weapons like a bat. The remake preserves this approach but adds a "Dodge" mechanic. This ability allows players to quickly dodge attacks with a single button press, making for a minimal yet effective retreat move in combat. It's a great addition that modernizes the gameplay. In the original, the boss fights (facing enemies stronger than regular foes) were far from successful. Sometimes, we would find ourselves dodging in a tiny room while trying to beat a boss, or engaging in simple encounters with stationary enemies. In the remake, they've put considerable thought into these boss battles. For example, a scene where we previously dodged in a small room has now been transformed into an extended chase sequence.



As for the story, it has been faithfully preserved from the original game, with only minimal adjustments. The original game featured multiple endings, and the remake includes two additional new endings. In the original, there was limited enemy variety, with the same creatures often reappearing. The remake has added more types of creatures, and their placement on the map has been improved, making for some genuinely tense moments when they appear at unexpected spots. With new sound effects and atmospheric touches, the horror element has been heightened even further.

The original game could be completed in 7-8 hours, while the remake offers nearly 16-18 hours of gameplay thanks to new areas to explore and added puzzles. Another reason for the extended playtime is the increased difficulty of the enemies. In the original, enemies could be defeated with a few attacks, but now they're designed as more extended battles. Combat has been lengthened with mechanics requiring players to wait for enemy attacks, time their moves accurately, and dodge at the right moment. The puzzles have also been made more challenging, with various puzzles scattered almost everywhere. However, some players found these puzzles overly difficult and mentioned feeling a bit frustrated in certain parts.

Overall, it's safe to say the game has been well-received. Personally, I was thrilled to see that the remake of a game I enjoyed so much on the PlayStation 2 turned out to be such a quality production. Kudos to Bloober Team—they succeeded in a challenging task. Even players unfamiliar with the series can easily dive into Silent Hill 2 Remake. There's no need to play the other games in the series; you can jump straight into this remake.



The Roots Behind the War on Gaza in David Hare's *Via Dolorosa*

Asst. Prof. Mahasen BADRA
The Department of English Language and Literature



**THEATRE
REVIEW OF
THE MONTH**

David Hare's *Via Dolorosa* (1998) significantly serves today as a testimony by a British journalist and dramatist on an issue that has long been misrepresented in the Western media narrative. Hamas's 7 October assault on Israel was in the making for decades before it took place, a fact that Hare's play clearly demonstrates.

The play presents a factual report of Hare as a journalist who visited the Holy Land in 1997, with the initial disinterested attitude of a European traveler. He started with the aim of writing a play, but facing stunning facts about the politicians, the settlements, and the suffering of the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza, he decided to disclose those facts to his audience. Rethinking the Arab-Israeli dispute from a newly obtained recognition after that visit, David Hare startles his audience with a one-man show about Palestine that he performed on-stage in person. Hare chose to confide his findings to his audience and not to entrust them to actors.

The play is a long narrative monologue composed of a verbatim account of first-hand interviews with Jewish settlers, politicians, and notable persons from both sides. The meetings that he has had in Tel Aviv, the settlement of Hebron, Gaza, Ramallah, and Jerusalem represent distinct stages of perception in his journey. The play has no story, no plot, and none of the traditional devices of theatrical performance. Hare's initial revelation that his wife is Jewish, along with the fact that he is a Westerner, lends impartiality and sincerity to his views. Moreover, the utter simplicity of the information presented, the reference to the actual places that he visited, and the journalistic technique of using facts, statistics, and the verbatim words of renowned personages are devices that all incarnate a vigorous desire to make his audience believe him.

Hare dispenses many common illusions about the Oslo Accord and the state of Israel, and he reveals deep divisions that cut through the Israeli community. Leaving Tel Aviv and heading for the Jewish settlement of Sheri Tikva, Hare has an abrupt sense of embarrassment when he suddenly realizes "that the Jews do not belong here" [Hare's emphasis]. He finds himself unexpectedly in a wide Arabic landscape and begins to view the situation from the Arab's point of view: "... and for the first time I understand how odd, how egregious Israel must look to the Arab eye." (1998: 12) Through personal contact, Hare comes to realize shocking facts about all the forms of discrimination, oppression and violation of human rights that the Palestinians suffer from under occupation. After visiting the "Haram al-Sharif" in Jerusalem, he falls under the spell of the sacred spot; its blissful beauty takes possession of him, and he cannot prevent himself from admiring it and even appreciating fighting for its sake.

The significance of the play lies in the fact that it provides an unbiased chronicle by a British dramatist who had a first-hand experience of the facts he realized on both the Israeli and the Palestinian sides. What Hare found in Gaza 25 years before the Al Aqsa Flood operation by Hamas reflects that the Palestinians have long since reached the point where they have no choice other than resistance. *Via Dolorosa*, with its enlightening emphasis on unlearning common myths and highlighting mere facts, may provide today a fresh approach to Palestinian history and give voice to a different narrative that does not necessarily follow the Israeli master narrative. The astounding facts that he reveals have long been neglected and hidden from the Western eye to keep Palestine invisible.

English IDIOM OF THE MONTH

“From Your Lips to
God’s Ears”

Res. Asst. Hilal BİLGİLİ

The Department of American Culture and Literature

The idiom, "from my mouth to God's ear," (or "from your lips to God's ears") expresses the hope that something said or wished for will come true, as if directly petitioning God to intervene. It conveys wishful thinking and the desire that a spoken hope is heard by a higher power and fulfilled. Essentially, it means, "I hope what I am saying happens," with an understanding that it is beyond human control.

The phrase likely originates from Jewish and Christian traditions, where prayer serves as a way to communicate with God. A similar Yiddish phrase, "fun dayn moyl tsu got's oyer" (from your mouth to God's ear), is believed to have influenced the English version, especially in American English due to the impact of Yiddish-speaking communities in the 20th century. The idiom emphasizes that some things, particularly our deepest hopes, require divine intervention.

While it has religious roots, the idiom is widely used today in secular contexts to express optimism or hope for an outcome that is uncertain or out of one's control. It can be invoked in any situation where one wishes for something favorable, often as a casual or playful remark.

A famous instance of the idiom's use occurred when Meryl Streep referred to Kamala Harris as "Mrs. President" during a virtual conversation. Realizing her mistake, Streep quickly followed up with, "Oh, from my mouth to God's ear," expressing her hope that Harris, then Vice President-elect, might one day become president. This moment perfectly captured the idiom's hopeful nature, blending humor with an underlying wish for the future.

Interestingly, Turkish has a similar expression: "Allah söyletti" (meaning, "God made me say it"), which carries a similar meaning. It is used when someone says something, especially a prediction or hopeful statement, that they wish or believe might come true, almost as if it were divinely inspired. Both idioms reflect the idea that sometimes what we say reflects deeper hopes or wishes beyond our control.

ACADEMIC PLAYLIST



Res. Asst. Mustafa Nurkan Bitlisli
The Department of Political Science and Public
Administration

A Selection from Ezginin Günlüğü

We believe in the inherent movements of the seasons, especially the autumn, which marks the recurring loss of things. In this context, for November, we have curated a selection of songs by Ezginin Günlüğü, a group that has been striving since 1982 to create a space where the struggles and losses inherent in being human can be confronted, and where images and emotions can unfold together.

Over the years, excluding Nadir Göktürk, the members of the band have changed many times; however, the feelings they evoke and the spaces they create with their songs have remained alive. For this reason, our selection features a variety of artists, ranging from Hakan Yılmaz to Sumru Balıkçioğlu.

The effort to trace these movements, or at least to demonstrate the irreversibility of repetition, is one we attribute to Ezginin Günlüğü. We wish you an enjoyable listening experience.

[Click here for the playlist...](#)

-  **Gule**
Hakan Yılmaz, Ezginin Günlüğü
-  **Gurbete Gidişimdir**
Hakan Yılmaz, Ezginin Günlüğü
-  **Akşam Şarkıları**
Ezginin Günlüğü
-  **Gelmiyorsun**
Ezginin Günlüğü
-  **Bilinmeyen Ülke**
Ezginin Günlüğü
-  **Zerdaliler**
Ezginin Günlüğü
-  **Dağlarda Kar Sesi Var**
Hakan Yılmaz, Ezginin Günlüğü
-  **Dargın Mıyız**
Ezginin Günlüğü
-  **Yağma Yağmur**
Ezginin Günlüğü
-  **Aşk Bitti**
Ezginin Günlüğü



EDUCATION- RESEARCH



BILINGUALISM ON EARLY CHILDHOOD



*Res. Asst. Tuğçe Gül BABACAN
The Department of English Language
and Literature*

Bilingualism is the ability to use two languages proficiently. It can manifest as equal fluency in both languages or varying levels of proficiency. Bilinguals may use one language at home and another at work, or switch languages depending on the conversation. Around one in three people globally is bilingual or multilingual. Bilingualism in early childhood refers to a child's ability to understand and use two languages, typically through exposure in different contexts like at home, school, or in the community.

Early bilingualism offers cognitive benefits, such as improved problem-solving skills, greater thinking flexibility, and enhanced communication across social contexts. However, proficiency in each language depends on exposure and use. Starting early is crucial, as the brain is more receptive to language at younger ages. Research shows early bilinguals tend to have a better vocabulary, better grammar, and more accurate accents, as early language acquisition supports better language processing.

A common question is whether bilingualism confuses children. A behavior often misinterpreted as confusion is "code-mixing," where children mix words from both languages in a sentence. This is a normal part of bilingual development, not confusion. Just like monolingual children, bilinguals sometimes have limited vocabulary. If a bilingual child doesn't know a word in one language, they might use the word from the other. Code mixing is actually a sign of resourcefulness and adaptability, not confusion.

Another concern is whether bilingualism causes language delays. Studies show bilingual children do not experience more language delays than monolinguals. Delays are typically caused by other factors, like impairment or illness, and affect bilingual and monolingual children equally.

The "one-person-one-language" (OPOL) method, where each parent speaks a different language, is one strategy for raising bilingual children. While initially believed to prevent confusion, this method is not essential for successful bilingual development. There is no evidence that early bilingualism confuses children. In fact, children who are exposed to both languages by the same bilingual parent can still learn both effectively. The key to success is consistent exposure to both languages, especially the minority language if it is not widely spoken in the community.

In conclusion, bilingualism in early childhood offers significant cognitive and cultural benefits. To foster successful bilingual development, parents should ensure ample exposure to both languages for their children. While early exposure is ideal, it is never too late to learn a second language.

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ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INNOVATION



Gandalf as an Entrepreneur



Asst. Prof. İsmail Aydın
**The Department of English Language
and Literature**

Literary texts can provide significant insights into complex abstract ideas and the meaning of human actions. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy can guide us in understanding various concepts and processes related to entrepreneurship. Gandalf, as an entrepreneur, can be seen as a master strategist who orchestrates a massive, multi-faceted campaign with the singular goal of destroying the One Ring. His role as the driving force behind this campaign parallels that of a business leader navigating a challenging market, employing a variety of marketing strategies to achieve success. Gandalf's approach, in this sense, reflects core principles of coalition-building, problem-solving, and adaptive leadership.

First, Gandalf's decision to ally with diverse communities—hobbits, dwarves, humans, and elves—demonstrates the power of networking and collaboration. Entrepreneurs often seek out strategic partners who bring unique strengths to the table, and Gandalf does precisely that. The hobbits represent humility and untapped potential, the dwarves bring resilience, and the humans are key players in terms of sheer numbers and political influence. His ability to unite these disparate groups under a common cause is akin to a brand's effort to appeal to various market segments. Each alliance strengthens the campaign by adding layers of expertise, resources, and moral support.

In terms of problem-solving, Gandalf embodies an adaptive approach that mirrors modern marketing flexibility. He faces an overwhelming challenge: the destruction of the Ring, a nearly impossible task. Yet, rather than focusing solely on immediate gains, Gandalf invests in a long-term vision. Entrepreneurs are often tasked with identifying solutions to complex problems, and Gandalf, much like a business leader, breaks down this monumental challenge into manageable steps. His decision to place trust in Frodo—a seemingly insignificant player—reflects Gandalf's ability to recognize latent potential, much like a marketer identifying a niche product or an overlooked audience that can ultimately lead to success.

Additionally, Gandalf's ability to manage crises and setbacks further highlights his entrepreneurial savvy. When faced with obstacles like Saruman's betrayal or the breaking of the Fellowship, Gandalf pivots, adapting his strategies without losing sight of the end goal. He exemplifies the resilience required to handle the inevitable challenges of a major campaign, maintaining focus while adjusting tactics when needed.

Finally, Gandalf's leadership is underscored by his ability to inspire loyalty and perseverance. His leadership is not based on coercion but rather on motivation, creating loyalty in his allies. Much like an entrepreneur building brand loyalty, Gandalf creates a shared vision, ensuring that every member of his "team" understands their role in the larger goal.

Gandalf's entrepreneurial journey in orchestrating the destruction of the Ring serves as an allegory for modern leadership and marketing strategies, showcasing the importance of collaboration, adaptability, and visionary leadership.



The Trial of Afghan Women under Taliban Rule



Assoc. Prof. Fatma Gül Gedikkaya
The Department of Political Science
and Public Administration

Today, while important steps have been taken in terms of women's rights by developing policies for women under gender equality, some countries have taken serious steps backward. Afghanistan is one of these countries. The situation of Afghan women under Taliban rule has become a matter of global concern, especially after the group rapidly regained power in Afghanistan in August, 2021.

Historically, the Taliban rose to power following the collapse of the Soviet-backed government in the mid-1990s and ruled Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001. During this period, the group implemented one of the harshest interpretations of Sharia, particularly on women's rights, excluding women from education, employment, and much of public life. With the fall of the Taliban following the US-led invasion in 2001, women's rights have slowly seen some improvements, with women returning to schools, universities, and the workforce.

With the Taliban's return to power in 2021, the Taliban established the Ministry of Propagation of Good Behavior and Prevention of Evil and established new regulations for women in public life. Education is at the forefront of these regulations. The group suspended education for girls above sixth grade. By December 2022, the Taliban expanded these restrictions and banned women from attending universities.

In addition to restricting women's right to education, the Taliban also limited their right to employment. Initially, women were allowed to work in certain sectors, such as health care, but over time, the scope of their workforce participation was drastically narrowed. Women have been almost completely excluded from public office. The group's radical practices confined Afghan women to their homes. There has also been a sharp reversal of the freedoms that women have begun to regain in the last two decades.

In conclusion, it can be said that the test of Afghan women under Taliban rule continues, and every day brings a new challenge for women. The systematic eradication of rights and freedoms threatens not only the future of women but also the future of Afghanistan as a whole. International organizations and human rights NGOs should, therefore, intensify their efforts to support Afghan women, increase diplomatic pressure, impose economic sanctions targeting the Taliban leadership, and increase humanitarian assistance focusing on education and health care.





Permanent Daylight Saving Time and Circadian Rhythm Disruption

Health-
Psychology



Res. Asst. Hilal BİLGİLİ

The Department of American Culture and Literature

Did you know that permanent daylight saving time disrupts your body's circadian rhythm? The circadian clock is a 24-hour cycle that regulates essential bodily functions, including sleep-wake patterns, body temperature, hormone release, and metabolic processes. Melatonin secretion plays a key role in maintaining sleep regulation. However, permanent daylight saving time can significantly disrupt this natural rhythm.

Permanent daylight saving time creates a mismatch between people's biological clocks and social schedules. Especially individuals who have to go to work early in the morning before the sun rises have to wake up at the time when their bodies secrete the most melatonin. This leads to sleep disorders, fatigue, and long-term weakening of the immune system. Research has shown that circadian rhythm disruptions can increase the risk of heart disease, depression, anxiety, and even cancer (Stevens & Rea, 2001; Blask et al., 2011).

One of the most concerning effects of permanent daylight saving time is the irregular secretion of melatonin. Melatonin is a hormone that is typically released at night and increases with darkness. However, waking up early and being exposed to artificial light disrupts the normal secretion cycle of this hormone. This disruption can weaken the body's defense mechanisms against cancer cells, especially increasing the risk of breast cancer (Hansen, 2001).

In short, it can be said that permanent daylight saving time has serious effects on human health. The disruption of circadian rhythms can lead to both psychological and physical long-term consequences. Therefore, making adjustments that align with our biological clocks is crucial for public well-being.

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Music Heals Not Only The Soul But The Body As Well



Asst. Prof. Tuğba Akman Kaplan
The Department of English Language and Literature

It has been thought for nearly a thousand years that the modes (maqams) of Turkish music have physical, psychological, and emotional effects on humans. And the research that has been done in the area proves these claims to be true. The connections between the modes and emotions, organs, planets, zodiac signs, the four elements, and the four humors have been classified by scholars such as Farabi, Ibn Sina, Abu Bakr Razi, Hasan Şuuri, Chief Physician Gevrekzade Hafız Hasan Efendi, and Haşim Bey. Asst. Prof. Rahmi Oruç Güvenç discusses the main modes of music used for therapeutic purposes and their effects, based on the information derived from these classifications in his works included in the *MusicTherapy* series and in the training he provides. The list of mentioned modes is as follows:

The **Acemaşiran mode** impacts the bones and brain and helps regulate fat balance in the body. It enhances creativity and inspiration, revitalizing stagnant thoughts and emotions. For women, it facilitates childbirth and assists in correcting the fetus's improper positions in the womb. It also has pain-relieving and antispasmodic properties. It brings pleasure and aids relaxation.

The **Buselik mode** impacts blood circulation, the abdominal area, hips, thighs, and legs. It is beneficial for ailments like muscle stiffness, lower back pain, and blood pressure issues. Buselik provides a sense of strength and peace. There is significant information regarding its positive effects on mental illnesses.

The **Rast mode** affects the head, eyes, cold organs like bones, the brain, and fats, as well as muscles. It provides joy, happiness, inner peace, and comfort. It is beneficial for mental illnesses and is a remedy for paralysis. It helps raise a low pulse and corrects the imbalances in children's bodies, which are often dominated by moisture. It prevents excessive sleep and, due to its antispasmodic properties, is useful in the treatment of spastic and autistic conditions.

The **Rehavi mode** is beneficial for ailments related to the right shoulder, headaches, nosebleeds, mouth distortions, phlegm-related diseases, and mental illnesses. It aids in childbirth and is helpful for the chest, stomach, and side flanks (hips). The mode gives a sense of infinity and liberation from gravity. It is frequently mentioned by Ibn Sina and Evliya Çelebi.

The **Hüseyni mode** is effective in extinguishing and eliminating inflammation of the liver, heart, and spirit. It helps alleviate gastric heat and is beneficial for the secret febrile seizures seen in older males, as well as daily fevers. It affects the left shoulder and is good for malaria, instilling a sense of peace. It impacts the internal organs and creates a sense of unity with nature. Due to its hidden pentatonic structure, it provides feelings of confidence and determination, making it beneficial for autistic and spastic patients.

The **Hicaz mode** is beneficial for ailments caused by dry and cold conditions. It has healing effects on the bones, brain, and childhood diseases. It also significantly impacts the urogenital system and kidneys, with the chest area being another major area of influence. Hicaz raises a low pulse rate and instills a sense of humility. More to follow in the next issue!

ORANGE THE WORLD: CALL FOR THE PREVENTION AND ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS (VAWG)



Asst. Prof. Vahide METİN

The Department of English Language and Literature

Every year from 25 November (the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women) to 10 December (Human Rights Day), we witness “the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence” worldwide. This civil society initiative goes parallel with the UNiTE campaign led by the UN secretary General with the aim of raising awareness and sharing knowledge to end VAWG once and for all.

Violence against women and girls is one of the most widespread types of human rights violation around the world. According to the statistics released by UN Women, an estimated 736 million women — almost one in three — have been subjected to physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence, non-partner sexual violence, or both, at least once in their life. The violation setting has been extended to workplace and online environments, and in spite of many countries passing laws to get over VAWG, the problem persists with only slight progress.

The effects of violence on women’s physical and mental health, as well as its subsequent impact on their economic empowerment and professional development, have been closely examined in recent years. Similarly, the impact of gender-based violence on children, who face social, emotional, and behavioral challenges, has also been studied. Research shows that boys exposed to such violence are ten times more likely to abuse their wives as adults. Without urgent action, it is clear that this issue will persist across generations. Therefore, immediate measures are needed to stop it.

The 16 Days of Activism and the UNiTE campaign aim to eliminate violence against women and girls (VAWG), emphasizing that we now have more evidence than ever about what works. They employ various strategies, such as making comprehensive investments in efforts to end violence, educating the public and raising awareness, strengthening laws and policies on the issue, investing in women’s rights organizations, and transforming patriarchal social norms to prevent and reduce VAW.

In this context, the color orange has become a symbolic tool for the UN, unifying all efforts to draw global attention to the initiative. The campaign encourages partners to explore various ways of ‘painting the world orange,’ such as decorating buildings, wearing orange, and incorporating the color into digital spaces throughout the 16 days of activism. Additionally, the UNiTE campaign has designated the 25th of every month as ‘Orange Day,’ dedicated to raising awareness and taking action to end violence against women and girls. As a vibrant and hopeful color, orange symbolizes a future free from violence against women and girls.

Although the efforts of UN Women and other organizations have made an impact, much more remains to be done. We know that ending gender-based violence requires more than just campaigns, policies, and painting the world orange—it demands a collective, sustained effort from every part of society. Only through this unified approach can we hope to achieve a future where all women are truly safe.

For more information, please visit: www.unwomen.org.

Time to Socialize

Res. Asst. Zehra Makar

The Department of Business Administration (English)



Club: English Language and Literature

The English Language and Literature club, where various events such as English conversation teams, reading days, translation discussions, theater/drama performances, and more will take place, is open to all students who are interested in improving their English and have a passion for literature. You can follow the club on social media to improve your English and engage in readings:

Instagram: iguell



Agenda at IGU

We've Reached the Halfway Point of the Semester

We've spent the semester wondering when school will start, what the class schedule will be like, and whether the courses will be difficult. Time flies by quickly, and it's important to make it count. How do you think the semester has been so far? How did the midterms go? Have you made any new promises to yourself before the finals? 😊 We're eagerly awaiting your comments on our FEASS social media accounts:

Instagram: iguiisbf

Twitter: iguiisbf

Let's Socialize

Sedir Kitap & Kahve

If you're someone who can't study at home and are looking for a quiet place to work, you can try this spot. It's just a 7-minute walk from Üsküdar Marmaray and metro stations, and it's an ideal place to study with the wonderful scent of books and calming music in the background. You can also reward yourself after studying with refreshing drinks made from different fruits and fresh desserts. Wishing you productive studying and bon appétit! 😊

Instagram: iguiisbf

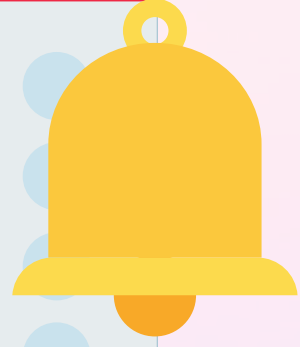
Twitter: iguiisbf



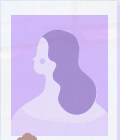
We have compiled some of the prominent events in Istanbul in December for you.

Res. Asst. Aysel ATAÖĞLU
The Department of Business
Administration (English)

December in Istanbul



Type of Event	Name of Event	Location	Date
Concert	Tuğba Yurt	Jolly Joker Vadi İstanbul	3 December Tuesday
Theatre	Turkodi Roma	Kadıköy Sahne	4 December Wednesday
Stand Up	Gır Gır Stand up	Bahçelievler Kültür Merkezi	12 December Thursday
Theatre	<u>Aşık Shakspeare</u>	Bostancı Gösteri Merkezi	14 December Saturday
Concert	Andy Stott	Blind İstanbul	21 December Saturday
Stand Up	Sergen Deveci	Torium Sahne	25 December Wednesday



IGU
STUDENT

magr

Af g A ElfgsElAr H g gu AE gsE
th sipM siL ig sf rfgA ELAg

I started studying English Language and Literature in 2022, but the urge to study this department dates back to elementary school. Before choosing this department, I was already aware that I would be studying not only literature but also history, philosophy, psychology et cetera. For this reason, what I recommend to the ones, who will choose or have already selected this department but got sad because they had not found what they expected, is that they should not only be interested in English language. In this department, we are not just dealing with English, we are also dealing with the majors related to 'English Literature'. Those could sometimes be an event that happened in the past or will possibly happen in the future. If you just imagine seeing fun activities or entertainment; you will be disappointed.

Let me talk a little bit about the classes and the advantages that ELL provides for us, literature students at IGU. I am in my fifth semester right now, and I have taken common courses, such as Introduction to Law, Introduction to Sustainability, Introduction to Philosophy, and so on. These courses have to be taken in the first 2 years; nevertheless, after being a junior, you will only be taking your own major's classes which are Novel, Literary Criticism and Theory, Postmodernism, and elective courses, and so on. You can check the elective courses on the English Language and Literature's website. Apart from these, there is an ELL Club at school, you should definitely join it. We visit museums and have frequent meetings. Our professors and research assistants are very helpful and kind educators; they never leave you in the lurch while you make a project or apply for Erasmus+. You also can apply for the TUBITAK Project by talking to one of your professors to be your advisor professor. The last thing about the advantages that I can say is the more friends and networks you make, the better your chances will be in finding a job.

University is a ladder for self-development, if you are using an elevator even to get to the 1st floor, you should not expect any improvement in yourselves. It is not about where you are, but what you do in the place where you are. I wish you all to be able to achieve more than your dreams.

**A 4th Year Student from the Department of English Translation and Interpretation
and English Language and Literature**

Hello, my name is Emirhan. I am a fourth-year student of English Translation and Interpretation. I am also pursuing a double major in English Language and Literature.

Why Double Major?

There are several reasons why I chose the double major program. While developing my language skills and translation abilities in the English Translation and Interpretation department, I am also strengthening my skills in literary analysis, critical thinking, and writing through the English Language and Literature department. These two fields complement each other, helping me become more competitive in the job market and expand my career opportunities. Additionally, my personal interest and passion for both language and translation as well as literature provide me with great satisfaction by bridging these disciplines. By developing an interdisciplinary perspective, I gain an advantage in solving complex problems and evaluating issues from different viewpoints. Therefore, I aimed to contribute to both my academic and personal development by choosing the double major program.

Are there challenges to pursuing a double major? If so, how do you cope with these challenges?

Of course, there are challenges to pursuing a double major. Focusing on two different disciplines and succeeding in both requires a lot of time and effort. One of the biggest challenges is managing time well and coordinating my class schedules. To cope with these challenges, I make sure to plan effectively. I work by prioritizing tasks and using my time efficiently. Additionally, I take time for myself to deal with stress, making sure to rest, engage in hobbies, and spend time with loved ones. By maintaining this balance, I can overcome the challenges.

Why did you choose these fields?

I chose these fields because of my great interest in both language and translation, as well as literature. The idea of bridging different languages and thus bringing cultures closer has always fascinated me. Moreover, literature is not just a hobby for me; it is a passion. Having my own poetry book and engaging with literary works is also a part of this. The English Translation and Interpretation department helps me elevate my language skills to a professional level, while the English Language and Literature department enhances my ability to analyze literary works and develop critical thinking skills. These two departments perfectly complement each other, enabling me to achieve both my personal and professional goals.

What contributions could your double major make to your future?

My double major could provide many contributions to my future. By developing my literary and critical thinking skills, it could enable me to pursue an academic career or advance in fields like publishing and writing. Additionally, this department, together with my other major, gives me a broad perspective and an interdisciplinary outlook, which enhances my problem-solving skills and creative thinking abilities. In short, this department contributes significantly to both my career and personal development.

IGU GRADUATE

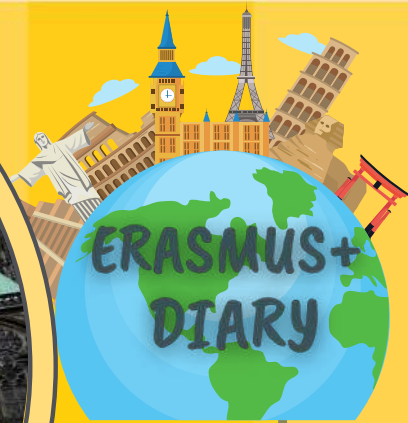
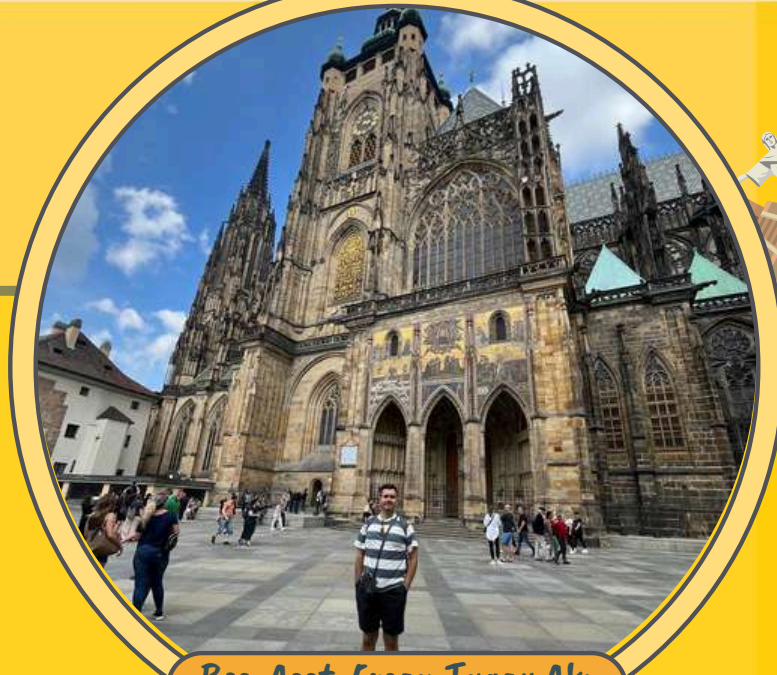


Alaa Sheikh ALKAR
A Graduate Student
from the Department
of English Language
and Literature

What is it like to be young and in love with your studies? When my journey first started, I, like everyone else, thought I was here for exams, scores, and to build my future job. Never has it ever occurred to me that there was way more to this than just that. If anything, I'm more surprised at how all of it played out—not the way I thought it would, but more than I ever expected.

My first year at university was confusing as I was introduced to new people, a new place, and new professors. But as time went by, I started seeing a change in my focus, and why I came here became my periphery. My lectures turned from classes to take notes to lessons that would teach me about life and new skills. The people I saw from 9 to 5 turned from my classmates to my best friends, who are still with me to this day. My professors, who I thought were only here to teach us how to pass our exams and get a job, turned out to be our mentors, and later on in my job, their words and ideas guide me as we speak. University is not an extension of the already established education system that we were first introduced to when we were kids. It's much more than that. And with Istanbul Gelisim University, life has been so wonderful that I truly felt it was the best 4 years of my life. I'm a teacher now. I work for 2 different companies, and I teach English and, whenever I can, some literature to my students. And my students tend to compliment me quite often on how good of a teacher I am.

I want to return the favor by writing this article to thank my professors and Istanbul Gelisim University for the absolutely terrific opportunity to be taught by this huge global community that allows us to exchange ideas, pass knowledge, and express different opinions. Diversity is one of the best things about our university. And so is the IGU global community.



Res. Asst. Ercan Tugay Aki

The Department of English Language and Literature

I visited Masaryk University, which is in Brno, as part of Erasmus+ Staff Training Mobility programme in May, 2024. It provided me with the opportunity for cultural enrichment as I was going to be interacting with people from various backgrounds, perspectives, and traditions. This cultural exchange indeed broadened my intellectual scope. The visitation included both curricular and extracurricular activities.

Let me begin with the curricular activities, which, I believe, is less fun than the extracurricular ones. On my first day at Masaryk University, Assoc. Prof. Tomáš Kačer, who is the Head of the Department of English and American Studies, offered a warm welcome and showed great hospitality. First, he and I discussed in which classes I was going to shadow and gave me great insight in terms of the professors, in order to help me choose. Later on, he was kind enough to invite me to have lunch with him, where we exchanged ideas and had a discussion on the similarities and differences in terms of the teaching methods and curricula of our respective English Language and Literature programmes. I attended "American Literature: 1865-1910 and Literary and Cultural Theory," taught by Assoc. Prof. Jeffrey Alan Smith. Shadowing in class and exchanging ideas with the professors of English and American literature were quite a well-rounded experience for me, as well as being sophisticated and stimulating. I believe that they will have a positive impact on my professional development and this impact will be resonating with me in my future studies and endeavors.

As for the extracurricular activities, which is where the real fun was, I was able to visit Prague and Vienna, in addition to Brno, due to the close proximity of both Prague and Vienna to Masaryk University. This opportunity was made possible by Assoc. Prof. Tomáš Kačer, the Head of the Department of English and American Studies at Masaryk University, who offered me a flexible schedule, which allowed me to have some free time. I was lucky enough to see such historical places as the Old Town Square, Charles Bridge, The Franz Kafka Museum, The Prague Astronomical Clock, St. Vitus Cathedral, Prague Castle, The Dancing House, The Clementinum, and St. Nicholas Church in Prague as well as Schönbrunn Palace, The Belvedere, St. Stephen's Cathedral, Hofburg Imperial Palace, Volksgarten, Austrian National Library, and *Votivkirche* in Vienna.

All in all, Erasmus+ Staff Training Mobility programme offered me the opportunity for cultural enrichment as I interacted with people from various backgrounds and cultures. This cultural exchange broadened my intellectual scope, as well as contributing to my academic and cultural perspectives.



English Breakfast

RES. ASST. TUĞÇE GÜL BABACAN
THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

An English breakfast, often referred to as a "Full English," or "Full Breakfast" is a hearty meal, typically served in the morning. It is a traditional food of Great Britain and Ireland. The full English breakfast has roots that trace back to the 13th century, though the modern version began to take shape in the Victorian era. It was a meal associated with the upper class, who would have a substantial breakfast to fuel their day. Over time, it became popular across all social classes and is now a staple of British cuisine. The English breakfast is more than just a meal; it is often seen as a social occasion. Many pubs and cafes serve it all day, and it is a common choice for brunch. It is also a symbol of comfort and tradition, enjoyed at home or as part of a hotel stay.

English breakfast usually includes a variety of components, which can vary by region and personal preference, but the classic elements include:

- **Pastrami:** Traditionally back bacon, or pastrami
- **Sausages:** Often seasoned with herbs and spices.
- **Eggs:** Usually fried, but they can also be scrambled or poached.
- **Baked beans:** Often served in a tomato sauce.
- **Grilled tomatoes:** Halved tomatoes, grilled or fried until tender.
- **Mushrooms:** Typically fried or grilled.
- **Toast:** Fried slice of bread, often served with butter, and sometimes with marmalade or jam.
- **Black pudding:** A type of blood sausage, which is optional but popular in many versions of English breakfast.

Typically, the components are prepared individually and then served together on a large plate. The full English breakfast is cherished for its variety and heartiness, making it a beloved part of British culture and cuisine. This meal is usually accompanied by tea or coffee and is known for being filling and energizing, perfect for starting the day!

FULL ENGLISH CHART

Follow the tradition or feel free to experiment

BASE		toast bacon rashers fried egg sausage
OPTIONALS		tomatoes mushrooms black pudding baked beans white pudding haggis potatoes liverbread tattlet scones mashed potato outcakes cockles
DRINKS		tea coffee orange juice

TRADITIONAL BREAKFAST RECIPES

from England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland

FULL ENGLISH

FULL SCOTTISH

FULL WELSH

FULL IRISH

EXPERIMENTAL BREAKFAST RECIPE

Make your own breakfast



ABOUT ACADEMIC LIFE

PUBLICATIONS

- **Asst. Prof. Ifedolapo Olanipekun's** article titled "Dynamic correlation among renewable energy, technology, and carbon markets: Evidence from a novel nonparametric time- frequency approach" was published in **Renewable Energy**.
- **Asst. Prof. Festus Victor Bekun's** article titled "On the nexus between real income, renewable energy consumption, and environmental sustainability on life expectancy for BRICS-T countries: Accessing evidence from quantile regression" was published in **Natural Resources Forum**.
- **Asst. Prof. Onur Çelik's** article titled "Environmental implication of international migration on high- and middle-income countries: A comparative analysis" was published in **Energy and Environment**.
- **Asst. Prof. Süreyya İmre Bıyıklı and Prof. Anton Abdulbassah Kamil's** article titled "Measurement of Education Effectiveness in the BRICS countries and Turkey" was published in **Multidisciplinary Journal of Educational Research**.
- **Asst. Prof. Mehdi Safaei's** article titled "A Comprehensive Evaluation Model for Sustainable Supply Chain Capabilities in the Energy Sector" was published in **Sustainability**.



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The Alumni Tracking System (Metsis) has been launched to determine and follow the current status of our graduates, such as their employment and higher education careers, and to generate statistical data. Moreover, Istanbul Gelisim University aims to strengthen its relations with its graduates and contribute to their employment process through the METSİS platform. IGU alumni can subscribe to the platform for free. (metsis.gelisim.edu.tr)

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