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Bimonthly Review of the English Department, Cadi Ayyad University at Beni Mellal. Editor: Khalid Chaouch.

EDITORIAL

Call It A Year!

During the current academic year, the English Department at Beni Mellal has organized various scientific and cultural activities: the Study Day, the third annual Cultural Day, Pen Circle issues, and the 'Public Speaking' competition.

The students contribution was here fundamental, for without it, no activity could have been possible. Yet, we should also admit that what we have done is in no way satisfactory. We should have done much more and better. We are all to blame: the teaching staff, the administration, and the students. When we think about the world inexorable changes and the challenges awaiting the Moroccan University as a whole and the English Departments, in particular, we feel that there is still a lot to be done: Great conferences (national and international), multiple pedagogical activities, regular meetings of the teaching staff, more research publications (personal and collective)...

It's clear that all the components of the Faculty should put clear and purposeful programs aiming at diversifying their scientific, pedagogical, and cultural activities.

Pen Circle.

Pen Circle Prize Winner

A Word About Life

Life and existence have been and are still a process of colossal paradoxes. Man, this weak creature, may unconsciously entertain thoughtless and preconceived assumptions about them; he may even grant himself blindly to their humiliation and disgrace as well. Yet, if he stops to think, for a while, he can easily discern the bitter reality of this trivial life. Indeed, mankind is caring about this gloomy life much more than it deserves.

(To be continued on p. 6)

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P Pen Circle

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Pen Circle..... N°13.	
<p><u>Exam Samples from Former Sessions:</u></p> <p>⇒ Syntax/Pragmatics/Phonology 2nd Year, 2nd Cycle (Option: Linguistics) Session: May, 1998 (Duration: 4 hours)</p> <p>Syntax: Answer all the following questions: 1-Using examples, discuss the interaction of the following transformational rules/ the imperative, reflexivisation, and tag-question rules. 2- Why should movement rules be constrained? Explain and illustrate. 3- How is TGG (including GB theory) superior to PSG in the treatment of the following grammatical and ungrammatical sentences: - the lecture was postponed. - was postponed the lecture. - themselves have slaughtered the sheep. - John seems to be happy.</p> <p>Pragmatics Language and social control and the relations of both to social structures and ideology are the central concern of critical linguistics. Discuss these relations with reference to the study of the media.</p> <p>Phonetics/Phonology Answer all the questions included in tis section. 1- Look at the following diagrams. Identify and then clearly describe the phonological processes they depict: a- _____ b- _____ c- _____ d- _____ 2- Glottal stop is a possible realization of certain sounds in English. Identify these sounds and clearly describe the contexts where this realization is possible. 3- Devoicing is a process that may affect both consonants and vowels. Give the exact environments for such a phenomenon and illustrate with examples.</p>	<p>2- Do you think that, for the happiness and welfare of the family, both parents should work (outside) or not? Illustrate your choice by providing the necessary evidence.</p> <p><u>Grammar</u> Make sure that the grammar paper consists of two sections. Answer all the questions of each section.</p> <p>Section I <u>Question I</u> However hard we try to understand the word 'tradition' in a very clear way, we won't succeed as long as this word is used in a loose way. Indeed, associated with actions and beliefs which do not involve us personally, 'tradition' is far from being a clear concept. The beliefs related to tradition, even though persisting for no better reason than that they are traditional, determine greatly our existence. If the old ideas, that have become outmoded and that do no longer serve heir purpose, are immediately discarded, the word 'tradition' would have no such rigid status. But no one can guarantee affecting such an important change. a- Isolate and identify the different <u>adverbial</u> clauses contained in the text. b- "Indeed... a clear concept." Identify this structure, provide the different finite forms in which it can be reformulated. c- "If the old ideas... such an important change." 1- Give the basic constituents of this structure 2- What type of <u>condition</u> do we have here? 3- Give the different rules related to adverbial clauses of condition while illustrating each rule with an example. d- Can you isolate any cases of opposition in the text. Identify them and comment on their semantic function.</p> <p><u>Question II</u> Comment on the following pairs of sentences. (Your comments should cover the grammatical as well as the semantic aspects of these sentences). a- He could have been hurt by the falling branch, because he can hardly walk straight. - He is hurt by the falling branch because he was near to it. b- She reacted, as usual, in an indifferent way. - She reacted, as you predicted, in an indifferent way.</p> <p>Section II 1- Describe the differences between a relative clause and a clause starting with 'that'. 2- Comment in a coherent paragraph on the following sentence: John is, I think, able to succeed if he is constantly reminded of the agreement that if he passes the exam, he will receive a precious gift.</p>
<p>⇒ Grammar and Composition 2nd Year, 1st Cycle May Session, 1998 (Duration: 3 hours.)</p> <p><u>Composition</u> Write a five-paragraph essay on one of the following topics: 1- The Moroccan society has witnessed several changes for the last two decades.</p>	

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The Poet's Corner	
<p>This corner is devoted to all kinds of attempts by <u>all students</u> in poetry or poetic criticism. Such writings should be printed, otherwise written in handwriting as clear as possible, and submitted to the Department office. Attempts, either published or not, will not be returned.</p>	<p>Cramming does often more harm than good.</p> <p>There are three main things which can help you: study, past exam papers, and textbooks and notes you have taken in class. Don't spend hours copying notes and telling yourself that you are working part of your answers because you are not. It is best to prepare a field of study on which you can concentrate. Build up your study time weeks before the exams. Remember that all your friends are taking the same exam and that you are not the only one! Make clear distinctions for yourself: there is a time for work and a time of distraction.</p> <p>Unfortunately, stress is inevitable and unavoidable; if it overwhelms you, it can destroy you. So be prepared for some stress. Physically, make sure you have a good diet and adequate sleep.</p> <p>After study, go to bed early, after checking that your bag is packed with the right stuff and that you know where the exam is to be held the next morning. Get to the exam early and avoid talking to your friends because some may confuse you. During the exam, ignore all the others. It is your exam that matters. Try to avoid spending too much time on one question. That question may be worth three points, when there are others that are worth more than that. After the exam, avoid, once again, your friends and concentrate, rather, on the next exams. After this, my advice to you is to go home and relax.</p> <p>The harder you work, the better you'll get!</p> <p>Good luck to everybody.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Your intimate friend, EL JAMALI 2nd Year (2000-2001)</p>
<p>(This essay, "Exams are Coming Up," was submitted to Pen Circle in March 2nd, 2001, that is, just after the release of the last issue of the year 2000-01. So we are happy to publish it. We have still promises to keep!)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Exams are Coming Up</p> <p>All of us are aware that our future depends upon these exams which will take place on May. Tests have become a fact of life, and there is no secret formula for scoring high. Time has to become one of our valuable resources because it's the best thing that we all possess. Everybody says: "I'm going to flunk!"</p> <p>So the most important thing to remember is not to panic. There is no substitute for knowledge, but knowing how to answer a question is crucial. Sometimes, speed is also a problem and we usually blame the examiners. We usually say: "They should have given us another half an hour." The solution? Practise at exam speed without spoiling your work. Practice makes things perfect.</p> <p>Throw in neatness too. You are to lose marks if your work is not neatly presented. When preparing for the exam, approach it as a sportsman; aim, and then shoot! When recording information, as it is the case with 'history' (British Civilization), elaborate some 'silly' rhymes and diagrams to help you.</p>	

Pungent Quotations

In this column, we have been giving quotations by different authors on one theme or phenomenon. From now on we shall present, instead, a choice of quotations by a prominent personality in art, literature, politics, history, philosophy, etc. Any suggestion or contribution is cordially welcome.

Francis BACON¹... says:

“[Knowledge is] a rich storehouse for the glory of the Creator, and the relief of man’s estate.”

“We are much beholden [indebted] to Machiavel and others, that write what men do, and not what they ought to do.”

“Nakedness is uncomely [improper] as well in mind, as body.”

“There is in human nature generally more of the fool than of the wise.”

“If a man be gracious and courteous to strangers, it shows he is a citizen of the world.”

“Money is like muck, not good except it be spread.”

“Reading makes a full man; conference a ready man; and writing an exact man.”

“Fame is like a river, that beareth up things light and swollen, and drowns things weighty and solid.”

J. M. & M. J. Cohen, *The Penguin Dictionary of Quotations*. Harmondsworth, Middlesex: Penguin Books Ltd., 1983, pp. 16-19.

*** CULTURAL NEWS ***

* The English Department at the Faculty of Letters, Beni Mellal, organized on **February 6th, 2002** a Study Day on:

English Language Teaching at the Moroccan University: Methods and Perspectives

**“Cultural Day”
Thursday, 7 February 2002**

The third annual “Cultural Day” of English Department students was organized on February 7th, 2002. Thanks to the efforts and genuine ideas of the members of the Organizing Committee (consisting of about 14 students, representing the different levels), this edition was a real success. Yet these members are invited to make an aftermath meeting to evaluate the activity and to submit a final report to the Department for the archives and for future organization.

The “Cultural Day” consisted of two sessions. In the **Morning Session**, a Visual Report (a short film) on the Department of English (Beni Mellal) and the situation of students – their social and pedagogical problems, was projected. The film was made by Mr. Ouareha and Mr. Mouayani. The **Afternoon Session** witnessed a cultural competition interspersed with different contributions of students: poems, essays, short stories, sketches, in addition to two plays performed, in English, by students of the Department:

- *A Story from the Third Millennium*
- *Letters from Mr. CADI AYYAD*

The “Cultural Day” was closed by the awarding of winners in the competition, the literary contributions and the English Department football tournament.

¹ English Philosopher and statesman (1561 - 1626)

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Creative Pens	
<p style="text-align: center;">The Dream of Generations</p> <p>Ahmed was one of thousands of victims of illegal immigration. He lived in Beni Mellal with his modest and helpful family. His father was retired; his mother was a house-woman. He had two brothers and one sister.</p> <p>Ahmed had been a hard-working student, since his first year of the primary school until the fourth year at the University. He was always the best in his class. When he had finished his studies, he started looking for a job corresponding to his aspirations but he found none.</p> <p>Two years passed, and Ahmed got bored because he was unemployed. His father was a helpful man; he understood the difficulties his son was facing.</p> <p>-“You should be patient, so much patient,” said the father.</p> <p>-“How can I be patient and I am not even on the dole?” said Ahmed.</p> <p>-“Be sure that God will never forget you.”</p> <p>In spite of the father’s pieces of advice, Ahmed was all the time looking for an outlet. At the end he decided to emigrate to Spain through illegal means because it is the only way out for many Moroccan young people.</p> <p>When he told his parents about his new plan, the family refused his suggestion.</p> <p>-“Emigration in this way is very dangerous for you,” said The father.</p> <p>-But this is the only solution, father. Do understand me please,” replied Ahmed.</p> <p>-“But you may die on your way to Spain,” cried the mother.</p> <p>-“To die in this way is normal, but to die because of poverty and misfortune is unbearable,” said the son.</p> <p>-“I can’t let you go alone, run such a dangerous risk,” said the father.</p> <p>-“I have already taken my decision.”</p> <p>Two months later, Ahmed organized himself with the intermediary. Then he</p>	<p>said: “Good bye, my poor family. My hope is to come back peacefully and find you in good health.” His brother said:</p> <p>-“Don’t forget to call once you are there.”</p> <p>Ahmed left the house to Tangiers; he stayed there for three days, then the intermediary phoned him and asked him to be ready to travel at the following midnight. So at midnight, Ahmed was waiting on the shore when the intermediary shouted at him:</p> <p>-“Where have you been, my friend?”</p> <p>Many of the emigrants were running toward the sea and getting on the small boat. They were more than forty persons. Ahmed sat among them uncomfortably. He was cold and afraid of the darkness of the sea; the others kept quite. The small boat was going on its way and the intermediary was rowing quickly. Ahmed remembered his family and his father’s advice about patience; then he had a feeling of regret. Suddenly they discovered that the army were behind them.</p> <p>-“This is a problem,” said the intermediary.</p> <p>-“What can we do now,” the emigrants asked.</p> <p>-“I’ll row as quickly as possible.”</p> <p>-“No, you have to stop, and we will surrender ourselves.”</p> <p>-“Are you dreaming?”</p> <p>So the intermediary didn’t want to stop even though the others were asking him to. When the intermediary felt that the army were nearer, he dived into the sea and escaped. The boat, which was full of emigrants, was then sinking and some emigrants were drowned before the army reached them. Ahmed was among the drowned.</p> <p>Ahmed was one of those who preferred to solve their problems in this way. His dream was catastrophic for him first, for his family, and for his country. It is still a nightmare as long as this issue of unemployment is unsolved.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Hayat BELQAS (1st year student)</p>

**Pen Circle Prize for Mellali
Writers in English**

For certain reasons, it was not possible, last December, to organise **Ramadan Prize for Mellali Writers in English**. But the best contribution to the annual “Cultural Day” was chosen as the prize winner for this academic year. The winner is Mr. Abdelhadi BELLACHHAB (4th year, Linguistics option) with his essay: “A Word About Life”, that we are publishing on the pages of this issue of **Pen Circle** (pp. 1 & 6). Noteworthy is the fact that we haven’t corrected **all** the mistakes of the contribution; the aim is evidently to represent the effort of the student.

A Word About Life (from p. 1)

Life is no more than what Shakespeare defines it to be ‘a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing.’ Life, in this respect, is thought to be a dull, boring, and humdrum story led by a wretched, wicked being, lacking any sense of morality and rationality, even inferior to the tiniest creature on earth. No doubt, this good-for-nothing life is fraught with meaningless hodge-podge that has no links in between. Therefore, we come to the frank evidence that this life, in which humans have to suffer and endure its hardships, is nothing but a perpetual struggle against one’s fate.

Within the intricacies, one should bravely cope with the antagonisms Man may encounter as an ultimate recourse of maintaining his/her welfare. In this regard, the Arabic proverb is highly pertinent: “He who desires honey has to bear the stings of bees.” In brief, everything in this melancholic life has become upside down: virtue has changed into vice; power and selfishness have become the emblem of everyone; love has turned to be an embedded hatred, and the ignorant, rather than the wise, has been glorified more than ever.

Man, this reasoning creature, is constantly and aimlessly wandering, not having the simple idea where he is heading for. In fact, this attitude is either a sign revealing his foolishness, or, maybe, it is a result of his excessive reasoning. He is somehow like a chicken whose head is cut off, and while it is running, it strikes everything around it.

Here is food for thought; life seems to be nothing but a mere illusion which everyone should endure willy-nilly. At this stage, we feel inclined to raise the following question: What is life? My answer is so simple; it is a sort of an intricate labyrinth in which every human being has to find an outlet for himself/herself depending on the capacity of everyone. Whatever outlet it may be, it is undoubtedly heading for one destiny: DEATH.

Abdelhadi BELLACHHAB.

CROSSWORDS (N° 13)

1- Combines or unites. 2- The capital of Peru – Avenue. 3- Manuscript – Length of a step – French definite article. 4- Act of stealing. 5- ‘For this reason’ – New York. 6- Addition conjunction – Small biting two-winged insect. 7- Quantity of a medicine taken at one time – Towards. 8- Small brownish bird. 9- American word for ‘petrol.’ – Chief official of a college or faculty. 10- Underwater missile. 11- Auxiliary verb (1st pl. p.) – Adverb of time. 12- Huge mass of salt water – abstain from, avoid. 13- Spanish consent – Particular smell (pl.)

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A- Moroccan dynasty reigning after the Almoravids – Duty. **B-** Prefix denoting: bad, wrong, not – First numeral (*reversed.*) – Blood. **C-** Auxiliary verb (1st sing. p.) – Finishes – regions. **D-** Part between the waist and knees of a person while sitting – Spain (*abr.*) **E-** To be (in simple present) – Member of the Gestapo – “~ for eye...” **F-** Company – Therefore. **G-** Ray of light (*reversed.*) – *Much ~ about Nothing* – Compact Disc. **H-** Measure of land (about 4000 sq meters.) – Which person. **I-** Natural ability – Adverb denoting: preferably. **J-** Each – Unity of weight – Find in ‘news.’ **K-** Southeast – To lower the head as a sign of respect – Article.

Solution for N° 12:

1- cross - outer. 2- ai - innovate. 3- royal – reek. 4- it – blame – rest. 5- lullaby – ha. 6- an – ebb – LL – pea (*rev.*) 7- toss – aa – FAO (for Food & Agriculture Organization). 8- USA – incident. 9- re – yuyu – shave (*rev.*) 10- nod – si – sn. 11- KO (*rev.*) – *i.e.* – ado. 12- esteem – GSE - or. 13- zest – fissure.

A- caricature. **B-** riot – nose – S/Z. **C-** SA (for South Africa) - note. **D-** stables – yokes. **E-** bull (*rev.*) – I.U.D. – E.T. **F-** Albany – I’m. **G-** on - ml. – accuse (‘accuse’ is the right spelling! Sorry.) **H-** unreal – GI. **I-** toe – blade – ass. **J-** every – evades. **K-** rake – Anfa (*rev.*) – Or. **L-** sheath – or. **M-** Gestapo – snore.