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## From the Editorial Secretary

The English language section features a research-based article on "E]tuary English", the modern southern English pronunciation that some people claim will be challenging RP as a pronunciation standard. In addition, there is a survey of textbooks in a very important field of language teaching: stylistics.

In his very readable and critically ground-breaking essay on "Imagining Empire, Imagining Britain", *Stephen Donovan* explores the ideological connections between the colonial conquest of Africa during the 19th century and the social and political debate in Britain at that time. *Fereshteh Zangenehpour* continues on this Oriental theme, although on a completely different and more spiritual plane, by applying some very illuminating Sufi concepts to an analysis of D.H. Lawrence's great family saga, "The Rainbow".

In connection with the centenary celebration of Erich Kästner's birth *Stefan Neuhaus*, Bamberg, discusses the contemporary importance of this famous writer of children's literature. *Georgeta Vancea*, Uppsala, examines German women's literature, at the same time giving readers an insight into the debate about Feminist literary theory.

The articles in our French section cover the language situation in Alsace and in Belgium. Together they spotlight the complete dominance of French in Alsace, as well as its threatened status within the inflamed language situation and debate in Belgium. *Katharina Vajta's* study is written from a linguistic point of view, while *Ann-Mari Gunnesson's* article is both historical and literary.

*Sverker Bengtsson*

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