

## Editor's Review

# Joycean “Chaosmos”: Excavating a Gold Mine

Cheol-soo Kim

As is commonly recognized, James Joyce's later works such as *Ulysses* and *Finnegans Wake*, written in the early twentieth century, are replete with all the characteristics of the post-modern world including deconstruction, reconstruction, and hybridity; and projecting the social, cultural, and philosophical phenomena *à la mode*.

The characteristics of his works describing the chaotic aspects of the micro-cosmos of the colonized Dublin in the *fin-de-siecle* have enabled the contemporary scholars to conduct diverse research on his works, overlapping the borders of space, time, and culture, as well as expand the territory of cognition from the city of Dublin to the contemporary world.

On the weekend of April 29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>, 2017, the James Joyce Society of Korea (JJSK) held the 7<sup>th</sup> International James Joyce Conference in Korea under the auspice of Jeonnam National University with the title, “Joycean ‘Chaosmos.’”

At the conference, Prof. Vincent Cheng from the University of Utah delivered an enthusiastic keynote speech on “Ireland and the American South,” and a young scholar named Pingta Ku from the National Taipei University of Technology presented an article concerning “Grace” in *Dubliners* from the perspective of economy. Along with the two international scholars, three more Korean scholars presented significant articles concerning Joyce, Bakhtin's heteroglossia, the game

theory, and modernity.

Again at the winter conference of English Language and Literature Association of Korea (ELLAK) this year, three Korean Joyceans presented articles concerning inventions in Joyce, game quest in *Dubliners*, and the comparison of Bloom's living room and the Korean reception room.

All of the articles presented at the conferences have represented positive, active, and diverse trends in current Joycean research. The winter edition of the *James Joyce Journal* of Korea this year, as an international issue, was supposed to be based on the articles presented at the 7th International Conference. Unfortunately, however, some conditions of the presenters have forced us to change our plan.

It is a great pity that we could not publish professor Vincent Cheng's key-note article on "Ireland and the American South," due to the copyright problem of his book to be published, but in this issue of *James Joyce Journal* of Korea, we could invite two foreign scholars from the U. S. and Taiwan, respectively, one from the Virginia Woolf Society in Korea and three Korean Joyceans.

Younghee Kho explores the traces of cinematography in "Two Gallants" in *Dubliners*. Having focused on the historical fact that Joyce was involved in what is called "Volta project: a setup and arrangement for the first movie theater in Dublin," based on her extensive research findings, she searches for plenty of non-verbal cinematographic techniques Joyce uses to highlight and amplify his ironic use of gallantry by showing instead of telling the contents of the story to the readers.

Kyoungsook Kim, in her article entitled "The Carnival of the Repressed Others: Re-Reading Joyce's "Circe" through Bakhtin," applies Bakhtin's concept of 'carnival' to reveal the heteroglossia of discourses in which subjects and objects are intermingled and the voices of the oppressed other reverberate. She attempts to expand the interpretative boundaries of the episode of "Circe" from Bloom's individual fantasy to limitless carnival in which the borders between subjects and objects are erased and all the suffocated voices including even inanimate voices are resounding through the episode, exemplifying a proper application of Bakhtin's carnival to Joyce's work.

Sangwook Kim presents an article of interest concerning a psychoanalytic approach to Joseph O'Connor's *Star of the Sea*. He interprets the novel, which deals with the Irish Famine, through the perspective of Bowlbyan developmental psychology being focused on his attachment theory, to illustrate the way in which the famine-driven emotional illness ethnographically originates the Irish emotional character such as the emotionality of betrayal and the ambivalent feelings of attached-detachment towards Irishness.

Tae Yun Lim, in her article entitled "Reading the Mirror Images in Virginia Woolf's *Between the Acts* with Psychoanalytic Feminist Theory," explores how Virginia Woolf demonstrates the issues of women looking at themselves in the mirror in *Between the Acts* and the correlation of that conception with their sense of frustration, anxiety, and fear by using several feminist theorists such as Irigaray, Grosz, Kristeva, and Silverman.

The article written by Omer Kazmi from the University of Central Florida, entitled "'What the hell is he?': Double Agency in *Ulysses*" deals with the matter of literal and metaphorical double agency in *Ulysses*, ascribed to the fractured identities of the characters in the work, paying attention to the fact that Bloom and other characters increasingly become double agents in order to navigate between opposing forces that influence the construction of self.

Finally, Pingta Ku, having had interest in fashion and style in Joyce's works, in his article "*The élite. Crêpe de la crêpe*": Mourning Dress in *Ulysses*, observes some ironic aspects that Bloom, Stephen, and other Dublin dandies display in their mourning attire, focusing on the fact that they consume the modern commodities in the hope of becoming modern and *à la mode*, only to serve the Crown and its global empire that keep them castrated and enslaved.

Not only the active and diverse research activities of the scholars as above but also the on-going monthly *Finnegans Wake* reading convention to excavate a gold mine of Joyce's work will continuously contribute to ceaseless reinterpretation of Joycean "Chaosmos."

(Chosun University)