

CONNECTION

Everyone Can Write!

The SLCC Community Writing Center

Spring 2022 | Vol. 22, No. 1

A Lesson in Linguistics

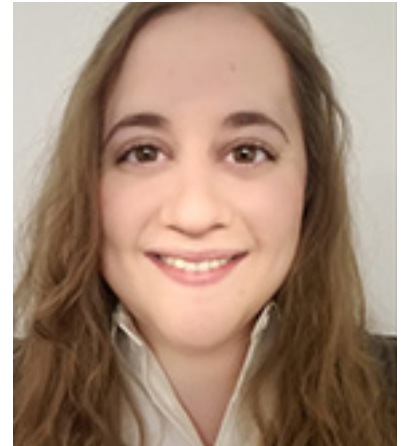
By Tara Hogan

It may surprise some of you to know that American English is only one variety out of nearly two hundred varieties of English spoken around the world. The linguistic range is a direct result of British and American colonization and imperialism that used English as a form of indigenous cultural and linguistic erasure. Knowing that English is a second language to many American and global citizens, it's vital that we take the time to understand as many perspectives—linguistic and otherwise—as we can in order to enrich the world we live in.

Let's begin in Africa, where English is one of thousands of languages spoken across the continent. About a quarter of those languages can be heard in Nigeria alone. Nigerian English, which belongs to a linguistic class not unlike Singaporean English, harbors many cultural influences that we can categorize as 'native local language' influences. Many Nigerians refer to their vehicles or travel methods by certain terms dependent on where the vehicle was made or how it was acquired, resulting in a variance influenced by their interpretation of outside cultures compared against their own. For example, if one were to purchase a vehicle secondhand, no matter the make and model of said vehicle, that person might refer to their newly acquired machine as 'a Belgian' since Belgian vehicles are imported to Nigeria (104). Most of the local influences we see in Nigeria are common to many other African countries, as so many African languages are so closely related. As a result, some words from other African countries get picked up and mixed into the second language, or L2, varieties of African

countries. Take for example the presence of the word wahala (trouble) of Yoruba in Nigerian English (105). The Yoruba people, culture, and language predate the borders of the African countries we see on today's atlases, with its original speakers hailing from an area that now encompasses Benin Republic, Togo, and Nigeria. Hence, Yoruba has become one of the three major local languages of Nigeria, spoken primarily in the western region, that are considered lingua francas, which are shared languages that become commonly used between groups of speakers whose native languages differ from one another (102). The final native local language influence I'd like to mention here is that of a most endearing quality—how kinship roles impact Nigerian English. Direct translation and cultural importance affect the verbiage used when referring to siblings in Nigerian English. For example, there is a clear distinction between the use of the term 'senior-brother' to refer to an older brother over the use of the term 'elder-brother' used in British or American English varieties. The reason behind this difference lies in Nigerian culture, specifically the fact that older siblings often possess much greater familial responsibility and status than their western counterparts. Thus, for reasons best understood by Nigerian English speakers, the prior 'senior-brother' is the most culturally appropriate designation (106). I hope this article helps remind you about the journey that your interlocutor and their language has made the next time you have the opportunity to speak to or read the work of someone who speaks English as a second language. Happy writing!

Andy Kirkpatrick, "Voices from Africa," in *World Englishes: Implications for International Communication and English Language Teaching* (Cambridge University Press, 2015), pp. 102-106.



Tara Hogan
Youth Programs Coordinator

What's Inside

- 2 – WRITE NOW!
- 3 – COMMUNITY VOICES
- 4 – WORKSHOPS
- 6 – COMPETITIONS AND EVENTS



Facebook - @CommunityWritingCenter
Instagram - @SLCC_CWC

(801) 957-2192
slcc.edu/cwc
210 E 400 S #8
Salt Lake City, UT 84111

INTL 2040 Immigrant Experience Through Lit & Film

by Claire Adams, CWC Associate Director

As we continue to face the largest refugee crises since the second world war, the INTL 2040 Immigrant Experience Through Lit & Film class at Salt Lake Community College is perhaps more relevant now than it ever has been. In this class we learn about perilous journeys, forced migration and what the immigrant experience is like for different communities when they come to the United States.

Regardless of the reason for leaving your home, immigration is complex; it is nuanced. In our class we commit to using the terms undocumented and documented rather than illegal vs legal. We understand through policy examination that systems, governments and the lack of multi-lateral policy often criminalize people who are simply seeking safety.

Each semester there is a student led project that seeks to highlight an area that is representative of the immigrant experience. This semester we decided to focus on something that everyone can relate to; food. We have decided to produce a cook book with the help and funding of the Community Writing Center that is a collection of recipes from student's countries of origin. We will also add a picture and short narrative of their individual or family's immigrant experience. Our hope is this book will seek not only to share great food ideas and recipes but will foster good will and understanding in our college and wider community. We all have a story and a sense of cultural identity. One of the poems we look at during the semester, "Mother Country" by Richard Blanco demonstrates the importance of food in terms of identity and assimilation. He reflects on his mom, an immigrant from Cuba:

"I taste her first attempts at macaroni-n-cheese (but with chorizo and peppers), and her shame over Thanksgiving turkeys always dry, but countered by her perfect pork *pernil* and garlic *yuca*."

We are excited to share our food and immigrant experiences with our wider community; to highlight what we have brought from our respective cultures and countries to our collective home.



Woman in Brown Long Sleeve Shirt by Nguyen Dang Hoang Nhu

Need feedback on your writing?

One-on-one writing coaching is always free. Our coaching is open to anyone who needs help or feedback on their writing. Schedule your 30-minute session today! Last coaching session is one hour before closing.

SLCC Community Writing Center Hours

210 E 400 S, Suite 8, Salt Lake City, UT 84111
Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. (Online 6 - 7:30 p.m.)
Friday-Saturday, 12 p.m.-4 p.m.

Poetry Spotlight

Untitled

by Tara Hogan, CWC Youth Programs Coordinator

Young: naïve, unknowing
 He joined a cloud of toxic jade.
 A decade passed for hands held anew,
 Months still before they warmed.
 Older: self-loathing, doubt.
 He'd never marry again, he said.
 Long live love.
 Open lust, loose bodies and tongues.
 We were upside down in all of the right ways.
 Finally we stripped each other of life's tainted hues
 And kissed fresh air.
 Our lips breathed light back into life.
 The gravity of our shared breath moved us
 And we were fallen.

I Am

by Tara Hogan, CWC Youth Programs Coordinator

I am a painted and abundant woman
 I wonder if dreams are true
 I hear the world knocking on my door
 I see the sun hiding behind the clouds
 I long to let go and be free
 I am a painted and abundant woman

I pretend to have what it takes
 I feel a cool breeze on an autumn morn
 I embody every chord
 I worry that I'm not enough
 I cry at the thought of losing them
 I am a painted and abundant woman
 I understand the duality of life

I say it's better to be true
 I dream of steep mountains and easy rivers
 I try to laugh and love
 I hope I can overcome
 I am a painted and abundant woman

Community Writing Series

The Community Writing Series is a collection of writing groups hosted by the Community Writing Center to give writers of all backgrounds a voice and a community.

The Community Writing Series (CWS), formerly the Diversity Writing Series, is up and running! We aim to provide individuals with opportunities to express themselves and to share their stories, histories, and voices with their communities. Historical, cultural, political, economic, and other structural forces have often silenced or erased the experiences of Indigenous Peoples and diasporas that make up our diverse Salt Lake communities. The Community Writing Series seeks to foster and encourage environments in which writers from different backgrounds can create and share their stories. When people write about their lives, and are valued for doing so, confidence and personal insight grow. Analysis of the surrounding community can lead to increased interest in, and dedication to, participating in that community. Also, when those stories are shared, we will raise awareness-and hopefully understanding-of the myriad of people in this community who make Salt Lake their home.

As the Community Writing Center, we believe that everyone is a writer, and everyone has something to write. We welcome all folks, especially the writer who doesn't write yet, to join our mutual-self-improvement community writing groups, and experience what the great process of writing can do for you. With our CWS program, we create a local publication every year, *Sine Cera*, that is focused on highlighting the "divercity" of voices found in and around our city.

Groups will be held virtually, every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month. You can find the registration for the Zoom link along with more information on our webpage at, <http://www.slcc.edu/cwc/dws.aspx>

We look forward to seeing you!

Scholarship and Application Essays

1-Part Workshop

January 22 (Saturday), 2-3 p.m.

A great personal essay can be what gets you that scholarship or gets you into your best college. Join us while we workshop personal essays. You will learn insider tricks and get tips and feedback on your own essay.

Cost: \$10. Registration is required.

Writing for Change: Letter Writing

1-Part Workshop

January 25 (Tuesday), 6-7:30 p.m.

Join the CWC during this legislative session to learn techniques of writing for change through letters to editors and public officials. Come with an issue in mind and explore persuasive strategies and format recommendations with CWC writing coaches

Cost: Free. Registration is required.

Grant Writing Basics

4-Part Workshop

February 4, 11, 18, & 25 (Friday), 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Do you need money for your project or nonprofit program but don't know where to start? Government and private funding organizations often have money to give and only require that you make a persuasive case. Join the SLCC Community Writing Center for an interactive workshop on the basics of grant writing.

Cost: \$100. Registration is required.



Surrealist Literature

1-Part Workshop

February 12 (Saturday), 1-3 p.m.

Waking up as a cockroach, existing in a century of solitude, experiencing flying elephants, living in the world of dreams and the unconscious. These are all realities for characters in surrealist fiction. Come learn about writing surrealist fiction and how you, too, can use a bizarre mix of fact and fantasy for storytelling in this workshop!

Cost: \$15. Registration is required.

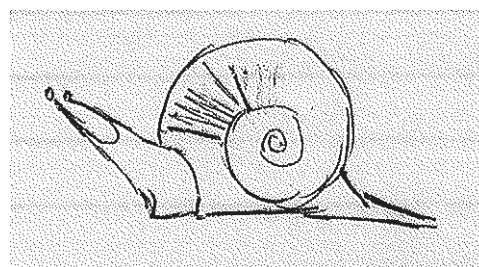
Creative Writing: Creating Compelling Plots

2-Part Workshop

February 15 & 22 (Tuesday), 6-7:30 p.m.

One of the most challenging aspects of any prose, fiction or non-fiction, is putting a compelling plot together. Unfortunately, plots are not one size fits all. Different types of stories require different elements of plot. Some, like mysteries, need a tight plot line full of twists, while more experimental writing, like collage, may let the reader fill the plot in themselves. Join us as we look at how plots work in different stories, and how to find the right plot for your own writing.

Cost: \$20. Registration is required.



Writing Doodle Snail by the CWC

**REGISTER FOR OUR WORKSHOPS AT SLCC.EDU/CWC/WORKSHOPS.ASPX OR BY PHONE AT 801-957-2192.
ALL WORKSHOPS ARE LOCATED AT 210 EAST, 400 SOUTH, SUITE 8 UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.**



Graphic Novels/Novellas

1-Part Workshop

March 3 (Thursday), 6-7:30 p.m.

Graphic novels and novellas combine art with storytelling to present narratives through sequential art. While most comic books are relatively short and have action-based, superhero plotlines, graphic novels and novellas are generally longer with more complex plots. Graphic novels range from non-fiction to every genre of fiction, such as sci-fi, fantasy, and horror. Non-fiction graphic novels and memoirs often explore themes such as immigration, coming of age, historical events, and various other personal experiences.

Come learn more about the different types of graphic novels, discover new novels you may enjoy, and bring some of your favorites to share! Have you started working on your own graphic novel? Bring it! If you are interested in creating your own graphic novel but haven't gotten started, that's ok too! We will provide writing prompts and guidance to help you get you inspired.

Cost: \$15. Registration is required.

Impossible Worlds: Fantasy

2-Part Workshop

March 12 & 19 (Saturday), 1-3 p.m..

From High Fantasy stories like the Hobbit to Time Portal Fantasy stories like Octavia Butler's the Kindred, Fantasy brings the impossible to life. Join us in exploring the elements of various fantasy sub-genres and learn how to create rich and immersive stories, characters, and magical worlds.

Cost: \$30. Registration is required.

Climate Fiction

1-Part Workshop

March 24 (Thursday), 6-7:30 p.m.

Human-induced climate change continues to worsen, producing catastrophic natural disasters around our ever-warming globe. Join us in imagining our earth's post-apocalyptic future as we explore this up-and-coming genre of Climate Fiction, or Cli-Fi, which allows us to respond to environmental issues through writing.

Cost: \$15. Registration is required.

NaPoWriMo '22

3-Part Workshop

April 5, 12, & 19 (Tuesday), 6-8 p.m.

April is National Poetry Month! Join the CWC for a workshop series that celebrates poetry in all its glory! We'll explore various genres of poetry, learn to compose poems, and practice revising and sharing our work. We also encourage you to submit to our 30 Poems in 30 Days contest—winners will have a chapbook of their original work published by the CWC.

Cost: \$45. Registration is required.

Songwriting

2-Part Workshop

April 23 & 30 (Saturday), 2-4 p.m.

Learn about song structure, lyrical writing, the power of place in songs, the history of protest songs, overcoming writing blocks, and more in this workshop series. Join us as we discuss the power of storytelling, place, and protest in songwriting and learn how to write our own song/protest song. Come with a song idea in mind or to find inspiration.

Cost: \$30. Registration is required.

Playwriting

2-Part Workshop

April 28 & May 5 (Thursday), 6-7:30 p.m.

Plays are writing that has come to life. For this 2-part workshop series, the CWC has invited playwright, theater educator, and accomplished director, Josh Patterson, to lead us in the discovery of how to overcome writer's block and generate unique ideas. Join us to unearth how plays function in the realm of creative writing, the intricacies of writing for multiple voices, how to approach editing and rewriting, and what steps to take to get your play from script to stage.

Cost: \$30. Registration is required.

Interested in Volunteering?

Come to one of our volunteer orientations and learn how you can get involved.

Call (801) 957-2192 or visit slcc.edu/cwc
Volunteer orientation by appointment only

30 Poems in 30 Days Competition

Join the Community Writing Center's Annual 30 Poems in 30 Days Writing Competition! Write 30 poems based on daily prompts throughout the month of April. Winners will have a chapbook of their original poems produced by the CWC.

Registration

Participants must register for the 30 Poems in 30 Days Writing Competition. Registration begins February 2022 and ends April 30th. All writing is based on daily prompts provided during the month of April. All 30 poems based on prompts must be included in your submission. Participants can register online at slcc.edu/cwc, over the phone at 801-957-2192 or in person at the Community Writing Center (210 East 400 South). Registration is \$5 (fee can be waived on request). Register in one of two categories: Adult or Youth (18 and under).

Start Writing

April 1, 2022 at 10:00 a.m., the first of the 30 writing prompts will be posted on the CWC's Facebook (@CommunityWritingCenter) and Instagram (@slcc_cwc) accounts. Each morning, a new prompt will be posted. Prompts may be pictorial, topical, or genre-based, and will be numbered in accordance with the days of the month, i.e. 1-30. Participants must meaningfully incorporate each prompt into the corresponding poem.

Submissions

Each submission must be original poetry written within the 30 days of the competition and related to daily prompts. Submissions (all 30 poems combined) should not exceed 4000 words. Number individual poems in accordance with the day the prompt was posted. For example, a poem written for a prompt posted on April 6 should be labeled with the number 6. Please title the entire submission (all 30 poems combined). Titles for individual poems are optional. You may submit your poems either online or in-person. Please carefully follow the guidelines for whichever option you choose.

Everybody Writes Open Mics 2022

Join us at the Community Writing Center to share your words in any medium. Bring any writing you want to share and listen to local writers and performers share their work. Each open mic will be held on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month from 7 - 8 p.m.

Follow this link [here](#) to join the Zoom call, and feel free to email us with any questions or concerns.

Quip (CWP - Community Writing Podcast)

The Salt Lake Community College's Community Writing Center (CWC) has recently launched a podcast! Quip (CWP - Community Writing Podcast) is a podcast which works to foster a safe and diverse space for all writers to learn, collaborate, and celebrate one another's voices and ideas. By channeling the CWC's core principles that every person can and should be empowered to write, Quip serves as both an incubator for writing ideas and questions, as well as a megaphone for Utah writers.

Episode 1: For our first episode, the CWP team discussed how to discern poetry from prose and scrutinized some of the CWP team members' poetry-writing process, which was followed by an expert perspective given by Utah's Poet Laureate, Paisley Rekdal.

Episode 2: In honor of National Novel Writing Month, a November pastime, the CWP team examined the novel-writing and -consuming process, and shared insights from several of the Salt Lake City area's most talented novel writers.



ALL WORKSHOPS ARE LOCATED AT 210 EAST, 400 SOUTH, SUITE 8 UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

From the Dust of Stars

Congratulations to Amie Schaeffer who won first place in the 2021 SLCC Chapbook Contest. The contest changes genres each year, and this year it was poetry. As part of her winnings, the Publication Studies students at SLCC will design and publish her manuscript. A thank you to our judge, Sunni Griffiths, and to Charlotte Howe, who leads the Publication Studies class.

In collaboration with Amie, the CWC's very own Allison Hutto will be contributing pen and ink drawings, like the one below, to accompany certain poems.

The chapbook is titled "From the Dust of Stars" and will be published in March.

