

Learning to Count. Teaching and researching English metre in Italy today

GIOVANNI BASSI

Università degli studi di Bari Aldo Moro

Abstract

This article explores some key issues related to teaching English metre to Italian university students. In particular, it focuses on the main strategies that should be implemented in order to make teaching this subject more accessible and effective. In this respect, Derek Attridge's beat prosody is viewed as the most suitable approach, and some emphasis is placed on the concept of metrical context. Moreover, this pedagogical perspective on metrics is used to reassess some of the distinctive features of English prosody, such as the relationship between verse and strophe designs, the hermeneutic role of line scansion, and the aesthetic functions of metrical analysis. The ultimate goal of this article is to foster both the teaching and the study of English metrics in Italy, two activities which are currently in some way neglected.

Keywords: English metre; English verse; TEFL; beat prosody; stylistics.