



*Visions and Revisions:
Cooperation between TU Dortmund and KTU*

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We have been exposed, in somewhat controversial yet crucial terms, to a complicated and demanding atmosphere that leads us to grow a sense of direction to the course of individual/local/national as well as the universal development. That is because the global village invites and pushes us as its residents to promote a quick, concise, comprehensive, and constant friendship all over the globe, which requires intensive consideration. Our imagination, inspired by a quote by Orhan Pamuk that “for a great many years it was as if the entire community of World literature and critical thought forgot what we call character,” is now resonating with the dirge and rhythm of a carnivalesque band of various characters in every sense of the word. Fortunately enough, we are now the members of “the global university,” being much closer than expected, and are, in Whitman’s terms, singing to diverse voices from different and distant spots from the East and the West. American Studies at the University of Dortmund, in this context, may provide us with corporative, cooperating, and open models and would considerably be helpful to pave the way for the study of humanities, particularly literature, at both multicultural and communicative levels, imbuing a burgeoning interest in the involved parties. And Europe, historically the heart and home of the university with its backbone pillars and deeply-rooted experience, can serve as an “agora” where various issues pertaining to American culture and literature are addressed. Indeed, American culture and literature can still be conceived as an off-shoot of its European counterpart. Thus, Europe can bring together both American

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and others' senses, sensibilities, and sensitivities. Studying American literature in Europe from a Turkish perspective does not only provide a cultural-optical filter looking through the prism of insights but also reveals the stage the global university has thus far achieved. This overwhelms marginalization, and Fitzgerald, Hemingway, Lewis or Faulkner stand by those having contributed to this agora from other countries including Turkey. Today, the concept of American studies is seen to have a remarkable impact on the global cultural agenda, receiving the admiration of European contemporaries. In fact, Americans, as the major contributors to the modern movement, postmark an influence of more importance than political aspects. "The energy of American writing, the force of its response to modernity and history, the range of its forms, the power of its visions, images and metaphors," as stated by Malcolm Bradbury, "have shaped contemporary World on an international scale." Thus, the erudite cooperation between TU Dortmund and KTU should be foregrounded for the sake of further visions and revisions.