

# Editorial

*This issue of ELTAI in your hands brings to you, as its wont, quite an array of articles on an extensive range of topics based on field practices as well as on teacher insights gained over a substantial period of time in the English language classrooms. Such areas as the mother tongue (MT) influence on the teaching and learning of English as a second language (L2); the teaching of language through literature; motivation factors and reading skills; varieties of English and technology interventions in language learning/teaching constitute this issue, besides a book review and other regular features.*

*The influence of MT on L2 has been and still is a veritable cause for concern for the teachers of English. Decades of unrelenting discourses over it have not as yet yielded any solution of significance to write home about, and, overcoming it, in essence, proves to be next to impossible. But, is it worth an attempt, given the low-key enthusiasm over the so-called RP, emergence of World Englishes, etc.? Do think about it and then take a plunge into Aparna Bhanik's article, Teaching ESL – Avenues and Challenges, which eminently brings to the fore the difficulties involved in teaching English to students from the vernacular medium of instruction.*

*The article that follows dwells on the topic of teaching the language through literature. This may sound an oft-repeated theme in the ESL literature but it does merit repetition as more often than not the language classroom is willy-nilly reduced to, at best, a content subject classroom. It is time we reflected on the processes involved in the transaction of teaching/learning of English. One may be convinced of the school of thought that espouses the dictum of teaching literature for literature sake. Nonetheless, what is in it for the learners in a wider context? It is against this backdrop that Chodiganji Ravi's article could perhaps be seen which brings the concept of teaching the language through literature under new light.*

*Innyasamma Gade, through a random survey conducted, profiles the reading habits of 200 students representing various UG Colleges in Vijayawada (Andhra Pradesh). Contrary to the popular notion, and quite refreshingly, the survey indicates that being economically poor does not in any measure diminish the interest of the students in reading books and journals that may have no direct connection to the curriculum. Though clichéd, that motivation is the key is the message of the article. Their own interest combined with the rich amount of motivation they received from the parents and teachers, it is claimed, helped in improving their reading skills.*

*Aptly quoting Shaw, who famously said that Britain and the USA are two nations divided by a single language, in her article entitled Speaking British American Tongue, Salonee Priya attempts to distinguish between the two varieties of English, namely, 'British' and 'American', by highlighting their semantic differences, punctuation, etc.*

*Viju's article, Philosophical and Theoretical Perspectives of Educational Technology (ET) and its Application to Facilitate Teaching/ Learning in the 21st Century deals with advancements in educational technology vis-à-vis the concept of language learning as a process. Touching upon the dominant theories of learning under the behaviourist, cognitivist and constructivist schools of thought, the article exhorts for a judicious mix of all the three to ensure effective learning among a mixed group of students of varied capabilities.*

*Besides these robust articles, this issue contains a compendious account of the recently concluded IATEFL conference and a book review by Pramod Kumar Das and Narayan Jena, which serves as an additional feature. Elango, as usual, provides an outline of a useful activity to be tried in your classrooms.*

*Do not miss out on the details about the upcoming ELTAI conference in the historic city of Hyderabad!*

*In closing, may I request you to enrich the journal with your contributions in the form of articles, book reviews, etc.! Do share your experiences...*

**Dr. S. Savithri, Editor**