

Dear Reader,

During the course of an interview for *The Teacher Trainer*, when Alan Maley asked NS Prabhu to talk about the latter's most significant events in his teaching life, Prabhu's answer to the question had these opening sentences: "Early in my ELT career, I stumbled on Harold Palmer's *Principles of Language Study*. It's a very small book. I really was greatly moved by what I thought was a pedagogic sense of intuition and excitement in that book. It's a book I've read again and again since then." Palmer's books *Principles of Language Teaching* (1921) and *The Scientific Study and Teaching of Languages* (1917), which have had a great impact on many ELT professionals across the globe, have been read by them again and again. This year, when we celebrate the centenary of the publication of *The Scientific Study and Teaching of Languages*, it is worth recalling the contributions of Harold E. Palmer in the field of English language teaching and learning (ELTL). I thought it was important to include an article on Palmer, a pioneer in the field. Richard Smith, a Reader in ELT and Applied Linguistics at the University of Warwick, in the article "'Scientific' language teaching" says that Palmer's *The Scientific Study and Teaching of Languages* can be seen to have heralded a 'Scientific Period' of language teaching discourse. The quote by Palmer (1917) "it is not 'method' that we lack; what we lack is a *basis* for method" (translated from French into English by Richard Smith) provides food for thought for those involved in language teaching and realize the importance of scientific approach to language teaching.

Recently, NS Prabhu delivered a keynote address at an international conference organized by SSN College of Engineering, Chennai. The key points (known as "The Five Points") he explained during his keynote address are presented in the article "Re-thinking language pedagogy". It is a very useful piece of writing which, I am sure, English language teachers will enjoy chewing and digesting.

Besides regular features such as book reviews, reports and activities, this issue of JELT also features articles that focus on various language skills. Dishari Chattaraj in her paper "Mixed-Ability Classroom: A Look into a Typical Indian ESL Class" presents her study on a mixed-ability ESL class and pedagogical implications of the findings. In the paper "Reinventing the Mode of Teaching: Questioning as a way of learning (QWL)" Ritu R Agarwal shares her thoughts on questioning as a mode of learning and how questioning encourages learners' creativity. S Thiruvenkataswami in his paper "Process Writing Framework as a pedagogic tool in the context of ESL/EFL" proposes a Process Writing Framework (PWF) and discusses how it helps learners improve their writing and also serves as an effective pedagogic tool for teaching writing skills in English Language. R Jaya's paper "A Qualitative Study on Using Interactive Fiction for Enhancing Employability Skills" discusses how online interactive fiction can be used to enhance the employability skills of students. The article "Teaching Vocabulary Using Task-based Approach" by M Srilakshmi and M Kiranmai focuses on the effectiveness teaching vocabulary to ESL students within the framework of task-based language teaching.

Do you have suggestions to improve the quality of the journal? Do share your ideas with me. As always, I welcome your feedback and comments. You can contact me at jeltindia@gmail.com.

Happy reading!

Dr Albert P'Rayan