

Dear Reader

It is said that experience is the best teacher. Teachers and learners of English as a Second / Foreign Language (ESL/EFL) look forward to reading stories of how people who did not have adequate exposure to the English-speaking world during their school days managed to learn the language and mastered it. I read one such wonderful story of an ELT professional a month ago when Shreesh Chaudhary, former professor of English, IIT Madras, sent me the transcript of a talk given by Robert Bellarmine in 2013 at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras and asked me whether it could be published in the Journal of English Language Teaching (JELT). Like Chaudhary I found the story very motivating and decided to publish it in the current issue of the journal.

Bellarmino, a progressive thinker in ELT in India, is known almost to all the members of the ELTAI and to the subscribers of this journal. His interviews and book reviews have appeared in JELT in the recent past. Bellarmine retired as English Studies Officer of the British Council in India in 1997. Before taking up the position of ESO at the British Council, he taught at the Central Institute of English and Foreign Languages (CIEFL), Hyderabad. Besides teaching “slum children” under his “Teaching English to the Disadvantaged” (TED) Project, he has conducted numerous communication seminars for executives in industries. The article titled ‘Against Experts’, I am sure, will make us reflect and raise many questions. Enjoy reading the story, reflect it and do try to find answers to your critical questions.

In the article titled ‘Achieving Academic Proficiency Standards in Higher Education through Corpus-Based Language Teaching’ Vijayakumar, who teaches at Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University, Dammam, KSA, discusses the importance of corpus-based approach to language teaching. He discusses how corpora can assist ELT practitioners achieve high quality standards in higher education.

Jalson Jacob and Lal C.A. in their paper on English for Specific Purposes (ESP) state that though ESP has gained considerable prominence in the global scenario it is still in its infancy in India and stress the need for academics to broaden the knowledge of its perspectives and pedagogic implications.

In the article titled ‘Action Research through Mentorship Model: A Sustainable Framework for Professional Development of English Teachers’ Monishita H Pande and Ipshita H Sasmal question the effectiveness of CPD activities based on the cascade model and highlight the need for carrying out action research through the mentorship or network-based model.

Shravan Kumar and Harleen Kaur in their article ‘Efficacious Presentation Schemata’ discuss the importance of body language communication in presentations and state that “when presenting, a large part of the “visual you” is conveyed by the means of the body language”.

In their paper ‘Enhancing Communication Skills in English through Interactive Materials’ P Sathya and Catherin Edward present a research report on the effectiveness of interactive course materials to enhance the learners’ English language and referencing skills.

I hope you enjoy reading the articles. Do send in your feedback and comments. You can reach me at JELTIndia@gmail.com

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