

Editorial

Dear Members of ELTAI and other Readers

Season's Greetings!

It has been a long time since the last issue of the journal was published and we are truly sorry for the delay. Nevertheless, we are happy to bring you the next issue on behalf of ELTAI, which added a feather to its cap by conducting its 14th International Conference along with its Golden Jubilee Annual Conference in October last in New Delhi. We hope you attended the conference and have been networking professionally with fellow teachers and scholars since then.

We bring you the regular columns on grammar ('Grammar Guru') by Dr Saraswathi, the story of English by Dr Lal and the reading activity by Dr Elango (focusing, in this issue, on directed reading-thinking). We are sure you have been filing these regular features for your reference.

This issue includes quite a few short articles. To begin with, we have an article by Thakur on the importance of learning English as a necessary tool for communication, especially for students of engineering in order to be successful in their academic studies, job interviews and professional life. The author, in an effort to provide the historical context, traces briefly the status of English in India and its education system as well as its impact on teaching English in rural areas. Two other articles in this issue may be read along with this: one on achieving sustainable growth and development of a nation through English by Srivastava (citing examples from other countries) and the other by Sadh on the phenomenon of 'Hinglish', an emerging variety of English for inter-state communication and an Indianized variety deployed by well-known creative novelists writing in English.

Included in this issue is another set of two articles, which offer practical suggestions for classroom use. Seemusuru and Prasad, in their article, discuss how Kagan's concept of cooperative learning and the learning structures proposed by him can be used to enhance students' writing skills. In the process, the authors describe Kagan's model and its features. In the other article, the author, Chandrasekaran, discusses the use of ICT tools, especially mobile phones, to develop the listening, speaking and writing skills of our learners in English.

We have also reproduced most of the remarks made by Elango, our national Secretary, at the inaugural session of our Golden Jubilee Conference as part of the report presented by him on ELTAI's recent milestones. His remarks raise a number of vital issues and questions relating to the teaching and learning of English in India, and of local languages in general; these are serious concerns and need to be reflected upon seriously.

ELTAI organized a two-day workshop on new technologies for 21st century teachers on 6-7 December in Chennai. Excerpts from the chief guest's address at its inauguration pointing out the key strategies required for the 21st century classrooms and a handout given out to the participants of the workshop on creating engaging and effective conference presentations have been reproduced here. The latter may be read along with the article on the art of public speaking by Rao. Both of these pieces offer practical and useful tips for speaking effectively to an audience.

P. N. Ramani