

## EDITORIAL

*Dear Readers*

*It is my pleasure to hand this copy to you. In this issue we bring you some interesting articles with a focus on current scenes in ELT, beginning with a short paper by Prof Stephen Krashen, a name familiar to English language teachers across the world. In this short write-up, Prof. Krashen refers to an experiment conducted by Ponniah and Priya on the efficiency of “aesthetic reading” in contrast to “efferent reading”. Krashen highlights the validity of the key finding and substantiates it with further evidence.*

*Dhanappa Metri has reported an experiment in teaching Functional English to his students. In this article, he provides tips to the readers to motivate the learners to become ‘inspired learners’ by training them to find their own materials, and read to learn so that they become proficient users of English. Metri, without saying so, has pointed to a new genre of teaching which is in vogue in certain pockets of the world – the DIY (Do-It-Yourself).*

*The next article by Vijayakumar Chintalapalli argues for DIY courses in higher education and focuses on using the available corpora for language learning. He elaborates how corpus can provide the necessary help to a learner to understand the various shades of meaning a word can yield. He endorses Paul Nation’s research findings and their application in the classroom, specifically in ESP courses in higher education.*

*Doing and reporting research helps in a teacher’s professional development. Dnyandeo Kale has reported the findings of his survey to assess the knowledge of methods that the primary level teachers of English in Satara district in Maharashtra have and their*

*familiarity with the labels. Based on the survey, he has been able to arrive at valuable conclusions on the changes that need to be brought about to improve the English language teaching situation in the district. His survey may be replicated in other regions (especially rural) and the findings of such surveys might help us to make generalizations from them.*

*The next article, a longer piece, argues for introducing a course in academic writing for the students of engineering in the state of Telangana. The author puts forth powerful arguments supported by facts and figures derived from a survey conducted by him. His arguments and findings are sound and worth sharing.*

*Along with these, we have our regular features. Prof. Saraswathi (‘Grammar Guru’), with her subtle sense of humour, makes us realize the importance of passive constructions and their use in real life, and addresses the question whether to convert or not to convert an active sentence into the passive. Prof. Lal, in his series on the story of the English language, touches on a very important development in the history of the language – The Great Vowel Shift. Finally, we have useful tips by Prof. Elango on teaching reading using graphic organizers (here, ‘fishbone organizer’) to enable learners to comprehend and later produce a piece of argumentative writing by demonstrating the pragmatic value of the tool.*

*We hope you enjoy reading this issue and welcome your comments as well as contributions for the forthcoming issues – articles, book reviews, and reports on your successful classes (‘It Works!’). Happy reading.*

*S Mohanraj, Guest Editor*