

EDITORIAL

Dear Readers

Here is the November-December issue of JELT and comes with a few seminal articles on teaching grammar, using social media as well as inclusive education. The articles are diverse in their focus, but are knit together by the authors' concerns for improving English language education in the Indian scene at large. Besides these three articles, the issue also carries two book reviews and the annual report of activities of the Association by Prof Elango, the National Secretary.

To give you a glimpse of the articles included, here is a gist of each one of them. In the first article, Sudharshan N P of IIT Kanpur looks at how grammar needs to be taught. The article is the result of an extensive research conducted by the author. He traces a history of ELT in terms of the methodologies used and categorises them into three groups. He provides a detailed description of each of these three groups and states the theoretical underpinnings that support them. He also provides ample illustrations and suggests a pragmatic approach. He says: 'teacher is the best judge to choose from an array of options, depending on the learner needs.'

The second article provides a detailed account of the use of ICT and how it has been in the nature of human beings to reject any innovation to begin with, and accept it at a later stage. ICT has been no exception, and in particular, the social media which has come under the scanner for long, is now seen as a savior. How best to use this social media, especially WhatsApp and Blogging to develop writing skills at the tertiary level is the focus of Sujataha's article - 'Computer Mediated Communication'.

The third article by Arun Bhattacharya and Sunil Kumar Jha discusses the problems school students face while learning English. This paper which is data-driven looks at the demographic profile of the learners such as age, gender, income and parents' educational background affect the learning of English. The authors have also taken care to suggest remedial strategies that can be adopted both by the schools and the teachers concerned. Though the sample is restricted to a district in Bengal, the findings have a universal application.

This volume carries two book reviews. The first book Design of ELT is a collection of papers based on three different themes prevalent in the field of ELT. These papers were presented in a conference organised by the Netaji Subas Open University. The second review looks at a course book Function of American English, helps the learners become familiar with functional English. Though the book claims to promote American English, its use is universal and the structure is commendable.

Towards the end of the issue, we carry a report on the activities of the Association for the year ending on 31st Dec 2021. Despite the pandemic, the Association was able to host quite a few activities and keep the fold together. How this was possible is clearly stated by Elango the National Secretary.

We are now the UGC-CARE List. We would welcome your articles, book reviews and also your views on how to make our journal more useful to you. Please write to us.

Best wishes