

Editorial

It is indeed a very proud moment for ELTAI and the English language teaching fraternity in India to witness the successful completion of fifty years of the existence of this professional journal. Its survival and robust growth is all the more amazing when you consider the odds faced in this age in running a print journal for about four thousand members of the association. It's a real feat that needs to be celebrated. I am too overwhelmed to say much except to realize that it was given to me to edit this special number, standing on the shoulders of my great predecessors who were stalwarts among the English teaching community. Let me, therefore, take you to the Silver Jubilee Year Special Number and quote excerpts first from the piece 'Looking Back' written by our present patron Prof. S. Rajagopalan and then from the editorial of that issue by Dr. V. Saraswathi, both of whom have rendered yeoman service to ELTAI, to the journal and to the cause of ELT in India, besides others mentioned in these two pieces.

From the Silver Jubilee Year Special Number (Vol. XXV, No. 6, Nov.-Dec. 1990)

'Looking Back' - Dr. S. Rajagopalan, Former Professor of Education, Annamalai University

"It was in June, 1965 that the first issue of our Journal came out, thanks to the untiring efforts of the late Padma Shree S. Natarajan and Mr. Duraiswamy, whose contribution to the growth of professional organisations of teachers in our country is well-known. They were ably supported by Professor R. Krishnamurthy, former Principal, Pachalappa's College, Madras, who continues to guide us in our work even today in spite of his old age and failing health. The first issue contained six articles and it was edited by Mr. Natarajan himself. To quote his own words, 'The principal aim of this journal is to promote efficient teaching of English in our schools. The journal will have a positive and practical approach to the realization of this aim. . . .

. . . . In the words of his great friend and fellow worker in the cause of education, the late Mr. M. Duraiswamy, 'Physically Mr. Natarajan was puny, but intellectually he was sturdy; his eyesight was weak but his insight was keen and correct; his pecuniary resources were meager but he built up monetary reserves for good causes; to personal appearance and attire he was indifferent but in upholding lofty principles he was adamant.' What better tribute could anyone pay to that great departed soul?

"Mr. M. Duraiswamy, who succeeded Mr. Natarajan as the Editor of the Journal and continued to edit it till his passing away on 10.11.1984, was another great figure in the educational field in our State. He was associated with our Journal right from its inception. . . . He was master of the English language and wielded a facile pen. His editorials were always marked by brilliant wit, incisive comments and forthright views.

"Professor R. Krishnamurthy . . . is one of the greatest Principals the country has ever seen, apart from being an illustrious Professor of English. . . .

"Professor B. A. Easwaran of the Guru Nanak College, Madras, was our next Editor and he was also the Secretary of our Association for a number of years. . . . His contribution to the growth of the Journal has by no means been insignificant.

"It is with a great sense of pride and joy that we put in the hands of our readers this Special Number of the Journal brought out to mark the completion of twenty-five years of its existence.

. . . .

“... I make an earnest appeal to all the educational administrators, teachers and students to extend to us their full cooperation in all our endeavours to improve the teaching of English in our country in general and the publication of our Journal . . . in particular.”

What better tribute could anyone pay to the succession of editors and what better appeal to strengthen the journal could anyone make?

‘Editorial’ – Dr. V. Saraswathi

“As we place this silver jubilee issue of our journal in your hands, dear reader, a surge of emotions wells up in our hearts – joy that we have been able to serve you for twenty-five years, admiration for our founder, whose dream has now become a reality, gratefulness to you all for your continued support, and a host of others that the heart feels but fails to find expression for.

“We humbly dedicate this issue at the altar of all those great visionaries who worked with tireless zeal for maintaining and promoting the standards of English Language Teaching in India, and provided a much-needed forum for exchange of ideas relevant to our context. On this red letter day in the history of our journal, we rededicate ourselves to the ideals they stood for – commitment to a cause, sincerity of purpose and perseverance against odds.

“This issue offers you an excitingly rich fare from some of the best thinkers in ELT in the world today – experts of international standing

[Dr. M. L Tickoo, Dr. N. S. Prabhu, Dr. Dr. Marlow Ediger, K. Chellappan, Dr. N. Krishnaswami, Dr. M. N. K. Bose, Dr. V. Saraswathi – some of the brightest stars in the firmament of ELT in India]

This silver jubilee issue has been the outcome of the tireless efforts of the members of the executive committee of ELTAI, the Editorial Board, our many donors, . . . and of course all of you. With your continued patronage we are confident of marching on to our Golden Jubilee.”

The dream has indeed come true. I share the sentiments of both Dr. Rajagopalan and Dr. Saraswathi on this occasion and we are sure we will reach the next milestone, the Diamond Jubilee, and other milestones, too, with your continued cooperation and support.

We would like to point out that this Golden Jubilee Year Special Number is of, for and by teachers, researchers and teacher-researchers – all the articles have been written by researchers and practising teachers. They went through a rigorous review process, as the authors very well know. We profusely thank the reviewers who readily agreed to review the submissions and gave constructive feedback to authors.

This special issue includes not only articles (divided into two sections: ‘From Theory to Practice’ and ‘From Problem to Solution’) but also book reviews and reports from some of our chapters. The humorous tidbits on grammar spread across the pages were compiled by Dr. Saraswathi. You will also be happy to see congratulatory, goodwill messages from two of our ‘good old friends’ and well wishers.

You will not find the list of chapters in this issue – for want of space we could not include it. Members can, however, access the details from our website.

We will be happy to receive your feedback on the contents of this issue.

***P. N. Ramani
Editor***

Message from Dr. V. Saraswathi

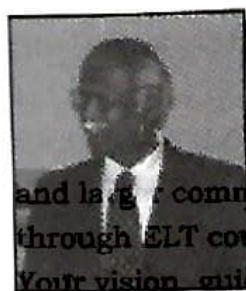


Publishing an educational journal continuously for fifty years on a non-profit basis is an achievement ELTAI can justly be proud of, a marathon feat worthy of a Guinness Record. How was the impossible made possible? In this golden jubilee year, we gratefully remember the sweat and toil of the many office-bearers who have selflessly contributed to this success. The journal has had its ups and downs, heights and depths, but leading publishers like Orient Longman/Orient Blackswan have been helping us year after year. Above all, we should not forget our dear English teachers whose subscriptions have been the mainstay for bringing out issue after issue. At this proud moment, we congratulate the editor and publisher, and wish the journal a glorious march forward to its centenary.

(S/D) V. Saraswathi
(Former Editor, *JELT*)

Message from Mr. Francis P. Jayachandran

Chennai
16 June 2015



Dear Dr. Rajagopalan,

I wish to convey my greetings and congratulations to you and all the officials and members of ELTAI on this occasion of the Golden Jubilee Special Number of the bi-monthly Journal proposed to be released at the 10th international & 46th National Annual ELTAI conference.

I am privileged to be associated with ELTAI for more than thirty years. I have seen its steady growth in the sense that it has been serving larger and larger community of Teachers of English and more and more number of institutions, through ELT courses, conferences and the bi-monthly Journal.

Your vision, guidance and inspiration have largely contributed to this growth.

May ELTAI continue to serve the cause of ELT for many years to come.

I wish the journal long life of service in the cause of ELT and the conference great success.

Sincerely yours,
(S/D) Francis P. Jayachandran