

Editorial

Dear members of ELTAI and other readers of our Journal

We are happy to bring out this issue of our Journal. We hope you have enjoyed going through the articles published in the previous issue. This issue carries the second pieces in the regular features on making sense of English grammar (by Dr Saraswathi) and on the story of English (by Dr Lal). Besides these, we have included the featured piece on reading activities (by Dr Elango). They deal with word order in English, the Anglo-Saxons in the history of the language we call English, and the need for developing critical reading skills respectively.

The highlight of this issue is the transcript of an interview by Dr Albert P'Rayan of Professor Jack Richards, a well-established coursebook writer and a renowned scholar in the field of teaching English as a second or foreign language. The interview clarifies the Professor's position on "native-speakerism", the importance of teacher development through reflective inquiry and principled practice, and a few other critical aspects of teaching and learning English in diverse teaching environments. Professor Richards closes his responses with a sound advice to the young teachers of English in India.

Kunneth's article on using available and easily accessible technology for enhancing the oral communication skills of tertiary level students explores the benefits of using WhatsApp for this purpose. He reports his findings of a structured experimental study he conducted using this tool and draws useful conclusions based on the findings.

Suvarna Ragini outlines the advantages of allowing students to select books of their own choice for reading for pleasure and reports her findings of an experiment in which she encouraged a group of engineering students to use the Google App 'Talk to Books' interactively on the books they had read; she has found that the App increases the students' interest and motivation to read on their own as a pleasurable activity.

Suneetha discusses the concept of 'Globish' – English having established itself as the lingua franca of world business, trade and commerce. She goes on to discuss the importance of a well-drafted CV/resume in this context and offers a few tips on the structure and content of the CV/resume. She has also suggested a model CV/resume and cover letter. This article should be of interest to teachers of business English and soft skills trainers preparing graduates for job selection.

Two other articles included in this issue are actually reprints of the ones published in our Journal earlier. Mandvi Singh's overview of research designs in ELT and second language acquisition, published in Vol. 57/4 (July-August 2015) might be treated as a sequel to Dr. Mohanraj's tips on ELT research and research reporting (published in the last issue) and provides a summary of different research methods and tools, which might be useful to aspiring research scholars.

The other article on teacher development was published years ago in our journal (in 2002). It raises a few relevant and serious issues about teacher development efforts (including preparatory, pre-service teacher education programmes and in-service teacher training sessions, and their impact on the teacher trainees. The author wonders whether there has been evidence of any large-scale, long-lasting impact at all on teaching and learning over the years. Please do send in your feedback on the contents of this issue – comments and suggestions to us.

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