

## EDITORIAL

*I deem it a privilege to be editing this issue of JELT which has a rich collection of scholarly articles. I thank the ELTAI for providing me this opportunity.*

*This issue carries in it a total of nine articles. Six of these have been exclusively written for the present issue, while two of them are regular columns which we have been carrying for quite some time now. One of the contributions is a prize winning essay in a competition conducted by the ELTAI. Here is a quick glance of the contents to facilitate your reading.*

*In the first article, Venkat Reddy argues for developing socio-cultural skills among language learners. This is well in place, and while tracing the origins of social competence he introduces two terms linguaculture and languaculture. Elaborating the subtle differences between these terms, he establishes the need for developing social competence in preference to lexical and grammatical competence. He also provides a neatly laid out lesson plan for designing such language teaching lessons.*

*The article by Lalesh Nand delineates the features of academic writing. In his analysis he provides samples of different parts of an essay and emphasizes the need to go beyond syntax into the realm of discourse to master writing skills.*

*Rathore, in his write-up on how English came to India, explores some of the less known facts from history, especially the developments in the pre-Wood's Dispatch days. He reasons out how economic and administrative demands ruled over academic demands in ushering in English into India.*

*Bhaskaran Nair takes a non-conformist view on developing reading and takes a fresh look at the Schema theory. He argues for the need to go beyond vertical thinking and develop critical and lateral thinking among our learners. He*

*provides illuminating illustrations to prove his point and says that 'break the norm' should become our norm while teaching.*

*Banerjee in his article discusses novel strategies of teaching spoken English. He devises five language games which have been tried out over a period of time with positive results. Each language game is described appropriately and adequate materials are given to try these in different situations.*

*Kiran Shetty presents a nostalgic view on teachers, their role in shaping our careers and pays a wonderful tribute to the conceptual Guru. Saraswathi in her regular column 'Grammar Guru' demonstrates how various body parts are used in language with newer meanings – as adjectives, as verbs, and in idioms. This provides a new perspective on not only learning grammar but also developing vocabulary. In another of the regular features, Elango discusses how slower reading is virtuous. He mentions how on many an occasion faster reading results in loss of grasping the vital information. Slow reading is essential when there are references which need to be weighed to understand and proceed.*

*In addition to all these, we are proud to carry a prize winning essay written by Pratima Talwar. Congratulations to Pratima on winning the coveted prize in the competition! In her essay, she discusses how useful reading is and how this skill can be developed by establishing reading clubs. While providing details of starting such a club, she puts the onus on the teacher who has to be a good reader. A teacher should set an example to his/her students by possessing excellent reading habits. Can anyone dispute this?*

*This is the bouquet we have to offer. Hope you will be happy to enjoy its fragrance and also appreciate it for its beauty. Happy Reading!*

**R P Jadeja, Guest Editor**