

FROM THE EDITORS

The contents of this current issue, Vol. 29, No. 1, 2005, will provide some very interesting articles to accompany you in your leisure reading time and as a teaching resource.

First, you will find an article written by Patrick H. Smith who is currently working at the Universidad de las Américas, Puebla, Funds of Linguistic Knowledge in Mextesol: Considering Local and Transnational Language Resources. The author wrote this paper based on a plenary which he gave at the National MEXTESOL convention in Morelia in October 2004. He offers a theoretical justification for incorporating the English language resources held by transnational migrants into Mexican ELT classrooms, and also includes some practical recommendations for how this could be done.

The second article was written by Gerrard E. Mugford: There is Nothing Small About Teaching & Learning Second-Language Small Talk. He addresses an interesting issue about how "small talk" can be given a place in the transactional environment of the second-language classroom in which learners can be given opportunities to achieve successful social relations in the target language. Learners can be given opportunities to practice interpersonal language use by describing activities that do not take undue time away from the language learning program.

Our third article of this issue, comes from far away Turkey, Odilea Rocha Erkaya assistant professor at Osmangazi University, wrote TV commercials as authentic tools to teach communication, culture and critical thinking. She discusses the importance of using authentic materials to teach foreign students to communicate in English in a natural way, to teach them about the target culture, and to help them to engage in critical thinking.

Another interesting article was written by Anne Towgood, who is the coordinator of the CAADI (Centro de Auto-Aprendizaje de Idiomas) at the Language School – Universidad de Guanajuato. Her article Memory and the Challenge of Lexis, narrates how and why some words are remembered and some are forgotten. She also mentions how the real challenge in teaching is that vocabulary be retained by the students in their memory for as long as possible and kept available for future retrieval.

Finally, Douglas Goodwin, professor in the BA program, Lic. en la Enseñanza del Inglés, of the University of Guanajuato, shares his experiences in the article named Film and ELT: Some Considerations and Techniques for the Classroom. In this article he gives some ideas for selecting film sequences for classroom activities, and also presents different activities for using movies in a classroom context, as well as suggestions for movies and segments with which to use them.