

From the Editor

This is a very special issue. We have two invited papers, a refereed paper, an informative report on a new teacher training degree program and another interview with one of our founders.

The first invited paper, *Free Voluntary Reading: It Works for First Language, Second Language and Foreign Language acquisition*, is by Stephen Krashen perhaps one of the most controversial and influential men in our field. This is a written version of his entertaining and informative plenary delivered at the last national convention in Zacatecas in October, 1996. The plenary and the article deal with a useful and enjoyable technique to increase “comprehensible input” for foreign language learners.

Our second invited paper, *The TEFL Pendulum and the Teachers’ Unrest: How Can we Find a Balance?*, is, in part, a comment on Krashen’s ideas and on other ideas presented at the Zacatecas convention. Manuel Luna, a well-known name in Mexican, ELT, presents his opinions about the state of TESOL today in Mexico.

In our third article, *The Limits and Possibilities of Current ESL Theory and Practice*, by Ghazi M. Ghaith from the American University of Beirut, Lebanon, is a clear critique of writing theory--especially, “writing as a process”. One of the referees of the article (which are read anonymously) commented “I enjoyed reading this article and found it interesting for all English teachers whether they teach writing or not....To me this is a fascinating topic and the writer has written an informative article of the limitations of process writing.” This article also includes a very comprehensive bibliography on writing theory.

The next article is one of what we hope will be a trend in the future. In order to inform our readers of how they can get those all important “papers, degrees, etc.” that are needed to teach nowadays or in order to help them become better professionals, we will try to occasionally inform you of innovative degree programs in Mexico designed for the in-service teacher. These articles can also give other institutions suggestions for the development of similar programs in different geographical areas of the country. The

present article deals with a new open program at the ENEP-Acatlán (Escuela Nacional de Estudios Profesionales) near Mexico City.

Our final article is an interview with Ruth Maria Flores Maldonado, another of our founding members. Ms. Flores was a public school teacher when MEXTESOL was formed and her point of view is a bit different from those published previously.

You might notice that this issue has no book reviews.... Well, what can you do to help remedy this situation? You could write one...please.

We hope you enjoy this issue.

The Editor