

### From the Editors

The Mextesol Journal has undergone a few changes since the last issue. We have six new members of the Editorial Board and two Associate Editor positions have been created.

We start this issue with two articles in Spanish. The first one, by Adriana Medellín, presents an overview of issues concerning vocabulary learning and teaching. It makes us reflect on the complexity of the concept of *word* and the different aspects involved in "knowing" a word. This article emphasizes the importance of explicit instruction of vocabulary strategies and presents a wide collection of teaching techniques.

In the second article Manuel Villa Ramos, José Luis Ramírez Romero and Rocio Tapia Meneses present some internet applications and activities of various types which promote the use of video in the EFL classroom to develop linguistic and paralinguistic aspects of language use. A highlight of this article is that it presents up-to-date web sites where video materials can be found for free!

Next we have included an article from a far-away land. We can easily see that the EFL field in Mexico shares some of the global experiences of the Native Speaker/Non-Native Speaker dichotomy. Author Zhenghui Rao gives us an inside view of how foreign native-speaking EFL teachers in China can improve their practice in China—and we can reflect on what parallels can be drawn between the situation in China and our own situation in Mexico.

Another article in this issue which emphasizes the use of media technology for learning purposes is Leigh Thelmadatter's. This article discusses the importance of contact with social situations where the students can use language genuinely and the difficulties of achieving this in the traditional classroom. Leigh presents a whole range of alternatives for the student to create a 'virtual world' to adapt and integrate into in order for learning to take place.

We also have an article which can help us in our teaching; making what we would like the students to learn easier to comprehend through the use of graphic organizers. Josefina Santana Villegas explores the different kinds of graphic organizers there are and provides excellent examples of their use.

Finally, we have an interesting and perhaps provocative opinion article by Paul Davies, a founding member of Mextesol and a long-time observer and participant in the ELT field in Mexico. The title of his article, "ELT in Mexican Higher Education should be mainly ESP, not EGP" is meant to move us to reflect on the roles of English for General Purposes and English for Specific Purposes in our institutions of higher education.

We hope that you will find these articles useful for you and that they will help you to improve your teaching practice.

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