

Editorial



In this issue of Journal of NELTA, we publish 12 interesting and thought-provoking articles and research reports. Despite the Covid-19 pandemic and ensuing confusion of whether or not the Journal would be published this year, we have had a number of submissions from Africa, Australia, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Indonesia, India, Japan, the UK, and Nepal. These 12 articles, which are among the 25 percent of the submissions selected carefully from our rigorous peer-review processes, address a wide range of topics. Promoting critical thinking has become an important aspect of English language teaching. Iram Mehrin explores if and to what extent classroom activities on culture can work as effective incentives in promoting critical thinking in Bangladeshi tertiary level English language classes. Email communication between students and teachers has become a common practice. But is there a standard for writing emails? Are there rules students must follow for writing emails? Do the native English students and non-native students write emails differently? These are some of the questions Shama E Shahid explores in her article. Pointing out a dearth of research on such a practice, she examines the formal email writing conventions of non-native students under a regulated environment. Staying in Bangladesh, Arpita Haque looks into the influence of English on the local languages, especially Bangla. She finds out the attitudes of the English medium (EM) students and their

parents towards Bangla and English and explores the issue of the hegemony of English in relation to the Bangla language and culture.

Suman Laudari and Julia Prior's article is significant in that it provides insights into the teacher-educators' competency in the use of educational technology and how the lack of such competency potentially impacts the ICT practices of trainee-teachers. The article points out some valuable implications for various stakeholders of educational technology in contexts like Nepal. Tied to the ICT practices, especially in the existing pandemic situation is Karuna Nepal and Saban Kumar KC's article. COVID - 19 pandemic has thrust virtual teaching and learning. But are we exacerbating inequalities between well-resourced and under-resourced people, institutions, and geographical location? Karuna Nepal attempts to address this question in her very timely article.

Qualitative research is still at its initial stage in many contexts. Many researchers, particularly, novice researchers have to deal with numerous issues while analysing qualitative data. Saraswati Dawadi offers practical guidelines to ELT practitioners and/or early career researchers on how a thematic analysis approach is employed to interpret raw data. This article is a useful contribution to those who are engaged in qualitative research.

In addition, there are three articles that look into three different, nonetheless, important areas of classroom practices. Nani Babu Ghimire explores multiliteracies pedagogy practices in Nepal and finds answers to why teachers engage in a bilingual practice when they should be creating multilingual space for student learning. Similarly, ELT practitioners in many developing countries are catching up with critical pedagogy. Purna Kadel looks into the reasons why. He explores teachers' perception of the existing practices of critical pedagogy and investigates how they view its usefulness in the Nepalese ELT classrooms. Central to the effective implementation of classroom practices is teacher-language. Kamal Kumar Poudel takes a grounded approach – describe-analyse and evaluate, to study 'teacher English' of content teachers at a reputable institution in the Kathmandu Valley. He begins by diagnosing and analysing the actual state of their teacher English before analysing it in terms of the grounded theory and interpreting it by linking it to some of the relevant studies. As an outcome, he produces an intervention which he plans to implement in order to ameliorate the situation in the said institution.

There are two articles on grammar and its teaching. Prithvi Raj Bhatt explores the role of grammar in EFL as perceived by the secondary teachers of English, and finds out the ways in which they develop accuracy, fluency, and restructuring in their student language. J. Saravanan and B. Laxmikantham find out the difficulties in learning and using the preposition combinations. They analyse the causes of such errors, and recommend implications for students,

teachers and materials developers. Finally, in the Journal of NELTA Forum, Jagadish Poudel looks into the current North American theory of teaching philosophy to examine his own. He makes a statement of his own teaching philosophy, his evolving beliefs towards teaching writing, and his personal approach to teaching writing which are likely to inspire readers to explore and examine their own teaching philosophies.

This issue is the Silver Jubilee edition of the Journal of NELTA. In order to commemorate the occasion, a piece of history is provided here. As the reader would be aware, NELTA was formed in 1992. Though we intended to publish a journal, we did not have enough resources to do so at that time. Therefore, we started with the publication of the NELTA Newsletter. The first issue of the Newsletter appeared in 1993.



NEWSLETTER

Oct. – Dec. 1993

Vol. 1 No. 1

QUARTERLY

Editorial

English, being one of the principal languages of education and the only language for international communication, enjoys great prestige in Nepalese society. However, in spite of the fact that it has been given great importance in the educational curriculum and that it has been taught for several decades in schools and campuses, the state of the affairs is far from satisfactory. No wonder, therefore, that an urgent need for making effective changes in English language teaching (ELT) is ubiquitously felt and unanimously voiced. It is in this context that the Nepal English Language Teachers' Association (NELTA), a purely academic and professional association of the people associated with ELT, has been formed. Membership currently stands at 110 (and is growing).

With a view to raising standards of ELT in the Kingdom, NELTA aims at:

- a. providing a forum for developing professional relationships among individuals, institutions and associations having similar goals
- b. fostering the exchange of ideas, resources, information and experience amongst people associated with ELT
- c. publishing English language learning and teaching materials, journal and periodicals.

A number of meetings and activities have been held since 21 August, 1992 when the historic first meeting of the association was held at the British Council comprising 12 participants from schools, campuses, language institutes, Tribhuvan University,

and the British Council. Teachers from outside the Valley were also represented. A constitution drafting committee was formed at the same meeting. A series of meetings were held in order to discuss and finalise the draft of the constitution submitted by the committee.

With the cooperation from the British Council and the American Language Centre, NELTA organised three training/workshops and an essay competition focusing on practical ideas for teaching English language in the Nepalese context.

We'd like to specially thank Mr. David Pottinger, Assistant Director of the British Council for being instrumental in the formation of the Association and holding a NELTA competition.

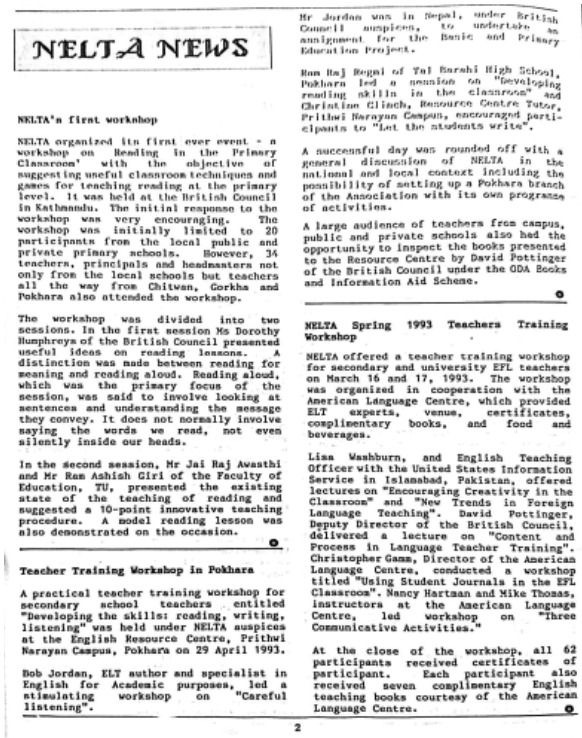
It has been a year since NELTA was first conceived and we are already busy preparing for the Association's first Annual Conference which is scheduled for 22-24 November. While we prepare for the national conference, we need support and encouragement from our members, friends, and well-wishers in order to make it a grand success. We hope that as many of you as possible will be able to attend.

We are thankful to the British Council and the American Language Centre for providing us venue to hold meetings, and necessary support.

NELTA membership is open to all who are involved in the teaching and learning of the English language. The organisation is committed to serve the interests of all English teachers at whatever level and from whatever type of institution. Information and applications forms are available at the British Council and the American Language Centre. They can also be received by writing directly to NELTA, GPO 640, Kathmandu, Nepal. ●

As it can be seen, the very first issue of the Newsletter provided a background of the formation of NELTA, its major aims, information about the historic first formal meeting of NELTA which formed a three member-constitution drafting committee, and the support we received from the British Council Kathmandu and American Language Center, Kathmandu. The page also reveals that NELTA did not have its own post box at that time. The British Council kindly let us use their post box services.

The Newsletter published news about ELT activities in the country (above) and organised competitions among NELTA members for short articles on practical teaching ideas. The winning entries were published in the Newsletter (below).



The Newsletter also published information about forthcoming events (cited below):

LOOKING AHEAD

The Newsletter also published information about forthcoming events (cited below):

✓ **First Annual Conference of NELTA**
Venue Nepal Administrative Staff College
Jawalakhal Lalitpur
Date 22-24 November 1993.

Activities
Workshops, papers, demonstrations, panel discussions, exhibitions with the participation of local and foreign ELT experts including Prof. Alan Davies of the University of Edinburgh.

The Conference will focus on:

*** Issues in ELT**

- The place of ELT in the national education system
- The medium of instruction
- Locally produced materials, etc.

*** Practical applications**

- Classroom activities.
- Language skills
- Teacher training, etc.

*** General Assembly**
Notice is hereby given that the first General Assembly of NELTA will be held during the First Annual Conference, 22-24 November 1993.

The letters about conferences (cited below) and other seminars and workshops of NELTA were type-written, and/or hand-written and mostly hand-delivered. Only a limited number of letters were posted.



Nepal English Language Teachers' Association
P. O. Box 640, Kathmandu, Nepal

Date: 4/10/93

Ref. No. K17

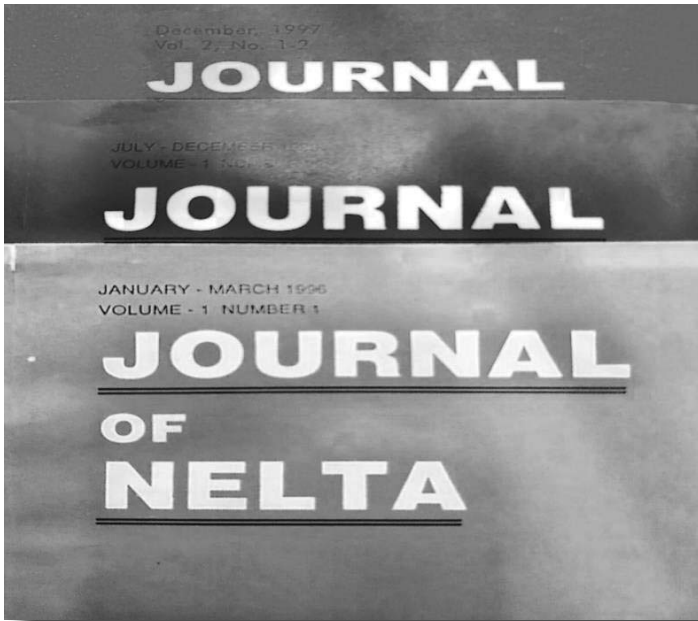
Dear Sir/Madam

It is our great pleasure to announce that NELTA is organising its first Annual Conference from November 22-24 1993. We should be grateful for your agreement to present a paper or lead a workshop/discussion during the conference.

The topics the Conference focus on include:

- a) **Issues in ELT**
 - The place of ELT in the national education system
 - The medium of instruction
 - Locally produced materials
- b) **Practical Applications**
 - Classroom Activities
 - Language Skills
 - Teacher training, etc.

As for the publication of the Journal of NELTA, it was only in 1996, NELTA started publishing the Journal. In the first year, it published two issues (see below), but limited to one publication owing resource constraints.



I am thankful to my predecessors and their respective teams for bringing the Journal to its current state. The Journal is now known as a quality journal around the region and beyond and its popularity is growing by the day. I commend their contribution and support of the past editors-in-chief, NELTA presidents and advisors who the Journal is indebted to for their contribution, and whose guidance, advice and wisdom have helped develop and establish the Journal as an academic Journal in the

region. On behalf of NELTA and the Journal of NELTA Editorial Team, I thank the following personalities for their chief-editorship.

- Ms. Jyoti Shrestha
- Mr. Chandika Prasad Bhatta
- Professor Govinda Raj Bhattarai
- Professor Jai Raj Awasthi
- Dr. Prithvi Narayan Shrestha
- Professor Vishnu Singh Rai

I also thank members of the editorial teams, and of reviewers' panel whose roles are often misunderstood and their contributions are rarely acknowledged. I also thank the current Central Executive Committee of NELTA, NELTA President Motikala Subba Dewan in particular, for her unfailing support and encouragement.

Journal of NELTA, with a view to making its processes more consistent, transparent and manageable, is set to make changes in its manuscript accumulation, peer-review and editorial processes. This will help the Journal establish itself further as a quality journal. We thank the growing readership of the Journal and wish everyone a very productive year ahead.

Happy reading
The Editorial Team