



Editorial ELTA Journal

Dear colleagues,

The latest ELTA Journal issue focuses on several topics which we believe to be very current and engaging.

To start with, we share with you an extremely well executed research in the domain of teaching vocabulary. Zorana Vasiljević writes about **Learning Vocabulary in Semantic Sets: Myths about myths**. The author tries to shed new light on a significant issue concerning vocabulary presentation and teaching. Namely, there are several trends in this field: grouping the words thematically, doing this semantically or grouping them according to their similarity in form. The results of the immediate and delayed tests given to research participants were both in favor of grouping the words semantically. This finding is important and immediately applicable.

In the paper entitled **Cultural elements in textbooks for learning English as a foreign language in higher grades of primary schools in Serbia** Radmila Marković gives us a detailed comparison of two textbook series used in the higher grades of Serbian elementary schools. She explores to which extent these textbooks contain elements of different cultures. Also, she explains what the role of a teacher using these textbooks and wanting to introduce the different cultures to students is. The conclusions the author draws concerning the strategies and attitudes of a Serbian and an English publisher are very interesting. Radmila provides teachers and educators with valuable tools and strategies which can be used when evaluating other textbooks.

Following in a similar direction, and moving from the general to the more concrete, next we have a paper by Vranka Vagić-Anastasia which talks about using poetry in ELT and thus including the abovementioned elements of culture. The paper bears the following title: **Utilizing Mexican-American poetry to promote Intercultural Communicative Competence A paradigm**. After an elaborate and comprehensive talk about the place of culture, and then poetry in a language classroom, a description of a lesson is given. The lesson is based on a poem by Pat More, entitled "Fences". We believe this topic to be strikingly important in the view of recent migrant crisis in Europe, the States, as well as elsewhere in the world.

Živorad Ninković explores the **Effectiveness of Communicative Language Teaching in Business English**. He conducts research in which he collects the comments of 25 students (B1 and B2 level) of business English who were exposed to CLT. He also compares the answers of the two groups. The author cautiously concludes that the communicative competences of both groups improved. The value

of this paper lies in the fact that the research participants were in the position to use the things they learned almost instantly in their line of work, so their feedback about the approach is of vital importance. Furthermore, Živorad provides a novice in the field a concise definition of what CLT is, places it in the domain of teaching business English and explains how grammar and vocabulary can be taught communicatively.

Following the latest trends in ELT, Timea Németh and Theodora Tseligka share the **Initial Results of a Virtual Exchange Project Between Greece and Hungary to Improve Medical Students' Intercultural and English Language Competence**. The authors designed a Medical Culture Questionnaire (MCQ) to which their students gave answers. The questionnaire consisted of three kinds of questions, word association, sentence completion and reaction to a particular situation. It is very engaging to read about the responses of people belonging to different cultures, their associations when for example words like 'doctor' or 'pain' are mentioned, or their reactions to situations where a patient refuses medical care and opts for alternative medicine. In this day and age, when globalization is inevitable, we as teachers have to take a stand and teach our students that things are not necessarily as they are but as we perceive them to be. Only by sharing our experiences, thoughts and opinions can we become better at what we study and do.

We constantly try to keep our readership au courant with the latest issues and trends in our line of work. We sincerely hope that, like those before it, this ELTA Journal issue succeeded in accomplishing this goal.

Last but not least, we would like to pay our respects to our former editor-in-chief, Maja Jerković. Having her as our leader and guide was invaluable. She was so selfless and offered her help and advice even after stepping down as editor-in-chief. Maja, we would have been lost without you. It was a pleasure working with you.

With best wishes,

ELTA Journal editorial team