

language teaching

Editorial

Welcome back to **language teaching**, which is now appearing several months behind schedule following the tragic death of the previous editor, Valerie Kinsella (see obituary overleaf). I am pleased to introduce myself as the new Editor and to tell you that the journal will be back on track by the end of 1997, giving you another five issues to look forward to this year! We have an excellent range of authoritative survey articles planned. The April and October issues also now feature a new, specially commissioned section on the modern languages projects of the Council of Europe, whose work is of relevance and interest to a worldwide audience. We are also reviewing the journal's abstracting service in order to enhance further the high standards of quality and coverage it already provides, and we welcome readers' comments.

Each issue of the journal contains a collection of abstracts which reflect wide-ranging international research reported in some 200 periodicals from around the world. Many of the abstracts are written by a team of specialist abstractors. Where author abstracts are used, they may be edited in keeping with the journal's policy to present arguments and findings in non-evaluative fashion. Most of the original articles may be consulted at the CILT library in London (see facing page). Photocopies of articles

may be obtained through the International Photocopying Service of the British Library Lending Division, Boston Spa, Wetherby, West Yorkshire, UK, LS23 7BQ.

How to use the journal

The abstracts are divided into four main subject areas, with further sub-categories: *Language learning and teaching – theory and practice* (e.g. psychology of learning, teaching methods, testing, materials and syllabus design, teacher training); *Teaching particular languages*; *Research in the supporting sciences* (pragmatics, psycholinguistics, sociolinguistics); and *Language description and use*.

Abstracts are arranged alphabetically by author's name within each category, with author affiliation given where known. The title of the article is given in the original language, with an English translation where necessary. Views expressed are those of the author and not of the abstractor or editor.

Subject and author indexes appear in each issue, and are accumulated annually in the October issue. A full list of the periodicals scanned appears in each January issue.

State of the art (survey) articles

Recent titles: Intercultural communication; Business English; Needs analysis; Project evaluation; Narrative analysis; Self-managed learning; Contrastive studies; Pragmatics Part 1: Co-operation, Part 2: Politeness; Language planning and policy making in Europe; A cross-cultural view of learning styles.

Forthcoming topics: Residence abroad within language study; The role of instruction in second language acquisition; Vocabulary; Developments in teacher training in Eastern and Central Europe 1990–1996; Motivation in language learning.

In the next issue: Marie Gilroy and Brian Parkinson on the teaching of literature.

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The subscription price (excluding VAT) of Volume 29, 1996, is £59.00 net (US \$102.00 in USA, Canada and Mexico) for institutions: £29.00 (US \$53.00 in USA, Canada and Mexico) for individuals when ordering direct from the Press and certifying that the journal is for their personal use. Single parts cost £17.00 (US \$28.00 in USA, Canada and Mexico) plus postage.

Four issues of language teaching (ISSN 0261-4448) (published in January, April, July and October) form a volume. A complete volume may be purchased at the subscription price (which includes postage) if payment is made before publication of the volume is complete.

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Obituary: Valerie Kinsella

It was with great sorrow that we learned of the death of Valerie Kinsella through a riding accident on 20 March 1996.

Valerie worked with the British Council from 1969 to 1975. She served as Editor of *Language Teaching* from 1978 until the time of her death. Valerie's role in the compilation of the journal was both extensive and in many ways imperceptible to the reader, but those who worked with her valued her professionalism and her personal integrity. Her natural modesty underpinned a thorough and discriminating approach to her work on the journal,

but through her friendliness and courtesy encouraged those working with her – abstractors, translators, contributors of articles – to feel integral components of the team. She combined her very valuable work with a love of travel and language learning, of horse riding, and an active family life: it is to the members of her family that we extend our condolences. Valerie leaves behind her a very strong memory of a generous and respected colleague who made a valued contribution to the world of language teaching.

Jenny Pugsley