

FOREWORD

Among the most popular submissions to the ABAC Journal are those concerned with language learning. With increased globalization and the pervasiveness of electronic communications that know no national or cultural boundaries, the ability to clearly communicate outside of one's native language has become an often essential skill in academic life, business life, and in many other endeavors. For better or worse, English has become the lingua franca for many of these fields, and thus, basic competence in the language has become increasingly as much a necessity as knowledge of Latin was in earlier times. With this in mind, the current issue has a particular, though not exclusive, emphasis on this topic.

Two of the articles in the issue consider the use of textbooks in language instruction. Md. Kamrul Hasan and Mohd. Moniruzzaman Akhand reflect upon the limitations of the textbooks that are typically available for such courses. These textbooks are generally not geared to the local, or even the national situation and the most effective use of these materials demands that special strategies be used to bridge the gaps. The authors consider of these strategies and find that they make a positive educational contribution. San Shwe Baw, on the other hand, considers the activities used in a particular textbook. The close analysis of this aspect of a particular book has application more generally and provides a model for analyzing textbooks in this field.

A broader view is found in Charles John Edmond's, which presents the results of a conference considering how universities can help increase the effectiveness of language learning programs in Thailand. This is the first in a series of conferences which bring teachers and scholars together and this cooperation cannot fail but to improve the results of such programs, results which may have a significant impact on the economic climate of the nation.

The article by Caitlin Mchugh and Dr. Eileen N. Ariza considers the related issue of bilingual education: Should one of the languages be emphasized or should the education for such students be bilingual? Using a bilingual population of students in Central Mexico, the authors consider the effectiveness of this educational methodology for the development of writing capacities and use their results to outline a writing program that would be effective among such students.

Moving to a very different issue, we have Dr. Mohammed Belal Uddin's review essay of inter-organizational relationships on supply chains. Relying upon previously published articles, this review provides a state of the art description of such relationships, which play a critical role in the distribution of goods. The author suggests that both internal and external factors play a role in the development of such relationships.

As always, we thank our authors for their work and encourage our readers to share their research and thoughts with their fellow readers. We welcome scholarly articles on any subject of scholarly interest.

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