

FOREWORD

The ABAC Journal has an especially varied collection of articles in this issue. This is in keeping with its policy to provide its readers with a generalist overview of the world of scholarship. A too narrow perspective is a common danger in a world of increasing specialization and while that specialization is disproportionately given the complexity of modern scholarship it is prudent from time to time to step back from one's area of expertise to see what is happening in another part of the scholarly world. The ABAC Journal is intended to provide an opportunity for such a stepping back.

From the world of education, comes an article by Dr. Eileen N. Ariza and Dr. Alexis O. Miranda concerning the learning of a new language by international migrants. Studying foreign students learning English in the United States, the authors provide evidence that a number of our assumptions about the second-language learning process are incorrect. For example, it did not turn out to be invariably true that students who began studying English in the United States at an early age mastered the language better than those who began studying the language after coming to the United States after high school. Combining their research and practical skills and experience, the authors provide a fascinating glimpse into the complexities of second language learning.

A very different perspective on language is found in Ian Slater's study of vowel sounds in Australian English. Yet, as with the Dr. Ariza's and Dr. Miranda's paper, the author comes to his subject as a teacher of English as a second language, though in Thailand rather than any English-speaking country. Recognizing that he did not speak the standard American or British form of language, the author made a close study of Australian English and he systematically presents his findings to the reader in a non-technical manner. Moreover, the author is interested in the origin of the dialect as well as its particular features.

Dr. Nadim Jahangir, Muzahid Akbar, and Noorjahan Begum studied job satisfaction in Bangladesh, examining, among others, the factor of procedural justice. That human beings value being treated in a just manner has been supported by a good deal of research, and the present study applies this insight to the work environment.

However abstract the topics seem, all of the previous authors have rooted their studies in a practical area. The most pragmatic of our articles is that of Andy Pilling, who writes from the perspective of the world of business. As communications advances we find more and more that our collaborators do not occupy the same space as we do. This can be very efficient but it raises the question of how a cooperative team that is located in one physical place differs from one that is scattered in various locations. The author seeks to provide an answer to this and a number of other related questions.

We are sure that these articles are of considerable interest to our readers and hope that at least one of them sets off a spark in every reader. If so, you only need to wait for the next issue until another such spark, in the form of this Journal, is presented to you with a whole new collection of fascinating subjects.

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