

13th International and 49th Annual ELT@I Conference
In collaboration with
Career Point World School, Bilaspur, Chattisgarh

29th June, 30th June and 1st July 2018

REPORT

Day I, 29th June 2018

The three day 13th International and 49th Annual ELT@I Conference started off on the morning of 29th June 2018 with the Inaugural Ceremony. Prof. Sudhakar Marathe, Hyderabad-Pune was the President of the Inaugural Function with Prof. Rajendrasing Jadeja from Gujarat as the Keynote Speaker, Mr. Duncan Wilson, Director, Schools, British Council as the Guest of Honour, Prof. C.B.S. Chowhan, Patron, ELT@I Bilaspur Chapter as the Special Guest with Dr. G.A. Ghanshyam, National President, ELT@I; Dr. K. Elango, National Secretary, ELT@I and Mr. Surinder Singh Chawla, Director, CPWS were on the dais. The Conference Journal and Souvenir were released during the inaugural session and the Best Chapter Award presented to Greater Noida Chapter and Aligarh Chapter.

Prof. Jadeja in his Inaugural address on the topic of “Text, Task and Technology” emphasised the significant shift in ELT from ‘Texts’ to ‘Tasks’. The Inaugural ceremony also witnessed a ‘Homage’ being paid to three stalwarts of ELT: Dr. M. L. Tickoo, Ms. S. K. Ram and Mr. Shivaji Kushwaha. Dr. S. Mohanraj paid a rich tribute to Dr. Tickoo and Ms. Ram, while Dr. Mangai Wilson paid homage to Mr. Kushwaha.

The first plenary of the day was presented by Ms. Mina Patel of British Council. She gave a very interesting talk on “What does the Next Gen Learner Mean for Today’s Teacher?” The changing classroom demands and skills required were the focal point of her presentation wherein she also interacted with the audience and discussed the 21st century skills required by the employment market today.

ELT@I has always pioneered significant developments in the field of ELT and heralded positive advancements in the use of technology in the English language

classroom. The day also witnessed another remarkable beginning by ELT@I in collaboration with CUP to author textbooks for grades 1 to 8.

Post lunch a Panel Discussion was held on the topic “‘There we were, here we are’: A Journey from Chalkboard to Digital Lab”, which was moderated by Prof. S. Mohanraj. Panelists included Dr. K.J. Verghese, Dr. Sasisekaran, Dr. Ashok Sachdeva, Dr. Shabnam Das Manna and Dr. Prasanta Chakravarty. The highly enlightened discussion presented to the audience various new avenues of teaching transformation from traditional chalk and talk method to the use of new age technologies.

The second plenary of the day was by Prof. Sudhakar Marathe, entitled, “What is wrong with ELT in India Today? The Same Thing as Yesterday!”. The lacuna faced by ELT in India with reference to lack of good language skills of teachers was dealt with extensively by Prof. Marathe. He stressed on the fact that the inputs for students either from the teacher or the media are very poor and needs improvement. Teachers need to be trained and made efficient to perform as role models for the students to emulate.

The day ended with seven parallel workshops being conducted on various topics by ELT experts from across the country and BELTA: Dr. Sankara Kumar, Coimbatore; Ms. Radhika Gholkar, British Council; Dr. Savita Singh, Raipur; Dr. Praveen Sam, Chennai; Ms. Shaheen Sultana, Bangladesh; Dr. Alisha Ibkar, Aligarh; and Dr. Mohammed Tausif ur Rehman, IGNTU, Amarkantak. Topics such as “ How Language Assessment Works: Speaking” by Radhika Gholkar from British Council; “Exploring an Eclectic Approach to Academic Writing for the Bangladeshi Tertiary Level Learners” by Shaheen Sultana from BELTA; etc. were focused upon.

The Chapter Heads Meeting was held on the evening of the first day. 12 Chapters presented their Report through PowerPoint presentation stressing on the challenges faced by the Chapters and suggestions for improvement.

Day II, 30th June 2018

The second day of the conference had the first technical session of parallel paper presentations wherein the participants presented their papers. It was followed by

the third plenary of the conference by Prof. Amritavalli from Bengaluru on the topic titled, “Learning Opportunities and Learner-centred Classes”. She stressed on learner autonomy wherein the learner learns at his/her own pace. This makes the entire process of learning learner-centred and more capable of catering to the mixed abilities classroom.

The plenary was followed by a Symposium that was moderated by Prof. Sudhakar Marathe and had five panellists: Dr. P. N. Ramani, Prof. Meera Marathe, Dr. Abha Pandey, Dr. Jyoti Patil and Dr. Ravi Dubey.

The fourth plenary on the topic, “Literature as a Source and Resource”, was by Dr. T. Vijay Kumar from Osmania University, Hyderabad. Prof. Kumar vouches for the use of literature as a ‘source of value education and a resource for language teaching’. He stressed on the joy of learning as the ‘key’ objective of education.

The publishers’ Interface saw Orell present its language teaching software that aid in the teaching learning of English language.

The next technical session included four parallel Featured Speaker presentations: Prof. Mohanraj, Prof. Manmath Kundu, Prof. Meera Marathe and Dr. Anita Sharma on the topics, “Curriculum Development: Cares and Mores for Today and Tomorrow”; “English in the Challenged Areas”, “Catch ‘em Young - All Pluses except the Circumstances” and “Rethinking Concerns of Teaching English: As an International Language in India” respectively.

The day ended with the last technical session: Parallel Workshops held by seven ELT experts from across the country: Dr. Sasisekaran, Erode; Mr. Soumen Daschoudhury and Mr. Girish Mulani, British Council; Dr. Xavier Pradheep Sing, Chennai; Dr. Kirti Kapur, NCERT, Delhi; Dr. Thiruvengkatasami, Chennai; Dr. Vaibhav Sabnis from Dhule and Dr. Prakash R. H. from Raichur. Topics ranged from “Effective Way of Teaching Speaking in a Typical Indian ELT Classroom” to “Embedding Formative Assessment in ESL Instruction using Nearpod” to “Want to See, Who you really Are”

Day III, 01st July 2018

The third and final day of the conference began with parallel paper presentations and which was followed by the fifth Plenary presented by Prof. James Aubrey, Denver, USA. The title of his presentation was “Evolving English” that shed light on the various sub-disciplines of English like linguistics, creative writing, cinema studies, etc. Prof. Aubrey stressed on the inclusion of film and media studies under the purview of English department curriculum.

The next session of the day was a Debate between teachers and learners entitled, “As there are NexGen Learners are there NexGen Teachers?”. The panel of teachers included Dr. Sankara Kumar, Coimbatore; Dr. Thiruvankatasami, Chennai and Dr. Prasenjit Panda, GGV, Bilaspur. The students’ panel comprised of Mr. Vikas Chandani, Ms. Shweta Parpani and Ms. Heena Dayalani from Bilaspur.

Another interesting session that followed was “Media/Corporate: Employability” which was moderated by Dr. Shravan Kumar, Joint Secretary of ELT@I. The panellists were Ms. Shilpi Kedia of Shambhavi Foundation and Mr. Saleem Qazi, Legal Adviser, The Hitavada. The session was full of interactions and all the participants enjoyed the deliberations.

After lunch a session called “Lightning Talk”, started with Prof. Rajendrasing Jadeja, as the moderator and Dr. Praveen Sam, Dr. Xavier Pradheep Singh, Dr. Kirti Kapur, Ms. Shaheen Sultana, Dr. Anita Sharma, Ms. Sarbani Banerjee and Dr. Mohammed Tausif ur Rahman as the panellists. Each of the participants presented their views about issues related to ELT and their own experiences. The session was a very interesting and engaging one that the audience enjoyed fully.

The day concluded with the formal Valedictory ceremony, which was presided over by Prof. Rajindersing Jadeja, Prof. S. Mohanraj as Special Guest, Dr. P.N. Ramani, National Vice President-ELT@I, Dr. Shravan Kumar, National Joint Secretary ELT@I, Mr. Kiran Chawla, Director, CPWS and Dr. Perna Hiradhar, Principal, CPWS were on the dais. Two Best Presenters’ Award was awarded to Dr. Xavier Pradheep Singh and Dr. Shabnam Das Manna.

The Conference concluded successfully and was a witness to about 400 delegates and eminent ELT experts from across the country and abroad. Various

topics and scholarly discussions and deliberations made the first ever mega academic event in Central India and the International Conference of English in Chhattisgarh a fruitful one.