

From the Guest Editor's Desk

Nepal English Language Teachers' Association is probably one of the most active and cohesive associations in the English language teaching world. NELTA international conferences provide a platform for syllabus designers, materials writers, practising teachers and researchers working at primary, secondary and tertiary levels. I had the privilege of delivering a keynote address and a couple of plenary addresses before the highly motivated, interested and disciplined audiences that NELTA conferences have always attracted. Now I feel doubly honoured to serve in the capacity of the Guest Editor for this year's *Journal of NELTA*.

Reading the articles in this volume was an intellectually satisfying and professionally educative experience. A majority of contributions to this volume are theoretical papers and research articles which have used research tools such as classroom research, observation, questionnaires, interviews, and journal writing. The researchers have made use of quantitative and qualitative data analysis procedures.

However, we find some practical papers and teaching articles as well in this collection. The journal includes about half a dozen brief articles which offer practical tips on the teaching of paragraph writing, poetry, communication skills, grammar, and reading. Thus NELTA proves, to use Shakespeare's words from *Othello*, that its dedicated team and the scholarly gathering it assembles is not a "bookish theoretic" and that the *Journal of NELTA* is not "mere prattle without practice".

The volume covers a wide range of topics such as reading, speaking and writing skills, communication skills, pedagogical methodology and instructional materials, continuous professional development, native and non-native speaker teachers, English for general purposes and English for specific purposes, face-to-face learning, online educational delivery, and blended learning, learning strategies, teacher beliefs/ views/ needs and practices, the use of technology in the English language teaching classroom, the use of learner's mother tongue as a resource to facilitate the teaching of English, the benefits of journal writing, the use of journal articles as teaching materials, and cooperative learning.

This issue of the *Journal of NELTA*, like any other NELTA publication, makes an academically and professionally enriching reading and is worth having in the bookshelves of institutional as well as individual libraries.

Professor Z N Patil
Guest Editor