

EDITORIAL

Dear *IJLTR* readers

January 2018 marks the 5th birthday anniversary of *IJLTR*. I am very delighted to catch up with you again on the start of our sixth year of activity. Like you, I have witnessed five full years of success story of the journal and I feel proud of the achievements you have all brought to *IJLTR*. The latest development in the journal is its brand new website (ijltr.urmia.ac.ir) and a fully online submission system. The new website was launched with the publication of our October 2017 Special Issue on *Idiomacity in Language Teaching Research* (edited by Prof. John Lontos, University of South Florida) and the online submission was opened to contributors in November 2017. This has resulted in an increased submission rate (we have received 80+ submissions in two months) and a decreased acceptance rate (currently less than 10 percent). Indeed there is now a fierce competition among both Iranian and non-Iranian scholars to get published in *IJLTR* and for space considerations, unfortunately many good manuscripts have to be rejected after initial screening and/or final review process. The increased number of submissions also means that accepted papers need to wait longer in a queue before they are assigned into an issue (which may take up to two years after their acceptance). All this attests the high quality of our publication, which was recently recognised as Iran's top journal in Applied Linguistics at the 15th International TELLSI Conference, held in Roudehen Islamic Azad University in November 2017.

To accommodate the higher publication demands, we have decided to add one more paper to each issue beginning with January 2018. All our previous issues so far contained seven regular articles (and 2-3 book reviews); this issue (and those to appear in the future) will host eight regular papers. More than 60 per cent of the papers in the current issue are (co)-authored by researchers working at non-Iranian universities and this is a move towards internationalization of our journal. The range of topics included in this issue are varied and include such diverse subjects as reflective practice, meta-talk and task types, textualization and readability in academic discourse, MA TESOL dissertations and thesis supervision issues in Iran and Ethiopia, CALF in pair interactions, teacher professional development in Thailand, and group dynamic assessment. The book reviews focus on teaching literature and ethics in applied linguistics research. Like its predecessors, January 2018 issue of *IJLTR* features an interview with another leading applied linguist: Prof. Kathleen Bailey.

The timely production of this issue (as always) is no doubt due to the generous attempts of the dedicated journal team as well as the contributors themselves and valuable journal reviewers who have all made sure that they stick to strict deadlines. The support we receive from you, our readers, has been enormous ensuring that we are moving in the right direction. Whether you are enjoying Yalda festival in Iran (the longest night of the year) or Christmas and New Christian Year break anywhere else, it is my heartfelt hope that you will find some time to both relax and learn browsing our surprise pack of papers. To learn more about who the contributors to this issue are and what their research contribution is to our field, you are only one click away from table of contents of the current issue available at: http://ijltr.urmia.ac.ir/?_action=current&_is=

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Current %20Issue. I trust that you will find something enjoyable here and I look forward to your continued support and future contributions. If you are planning to contribute for our next Special Issue on *Assessment for Teaching* (to be edited by Prof. Dan Douglas, Iowa State University), make a note of the deadline in your calendar, which is 1 March 2018. May the New Year bring you and us all health, prosperity and joy, and more!

Karim Sadeghi

Founding Editor-in-chief

21 December 2017 (Yalda Night)