
FOREWORD

This issue offers the refereed proceedings of the sixteenth Annual Research Symposium, part of the 43rd Annual TESL Ontario Conference held in Toronto in November 2015. The two themes that provided the focus of the Research Symposium were as follows:

- English in the Workplace
- Formulaic language: a promising way to think about vocabulary building

As in previous years, the themes covered topical issues that directly affect the classrooms and practice of ESL professionals in varied ways. Teachers who encounter problems and challenges related to these themes on a daily basis in their classrooms look for background information and practical ideas that will help them meet their learners' needs and the needs of their own professional development. In organizing the Research Symposium around topical themes and in publishing the proceedings, TESL Ontario offers ESL professionals relevant information on recent research and new initiatives that inform both classroom practice and the development of the profession.

Following past practice, the different themes were selected in consultation with members of TESL Ontario. Symposium presenters were invited to submit a written version of their oral presentation after the Research Symposium. Selected reviewers, subject experts on the review topic, commented on the manuscripts for final inclusion in the proceedings. Those papers included in these proceedings offer readers theoretical, research and practical insights on pedagogical challenges that classroom teachers, administrators, and other ESL professionals deal with on an on-going basis as they endeavour to provide learners with optimal learning conditions. We are confident that readers will find the selected papers interesting and relevant to their teaching and professional development. We hope teachers and researchers will feel inspired by the ideas presented, and that teachers will launch their own inquiries into an aspect of their teaching context, then report their insights at future TESL Ontario conferences.

We also wish to thank all the presenters who participated in the different topics of the Symposium for their dedication to their work and for sharing their expertise and insights. Without them, we could not have organized the Symposium and compiled these proceedings. Finally, we thank the many individuals who contributed in one way or another to the success of the Research Symposium. We particularly wish to thank the editor of Contact magazine, Brett Reynolds, and TESL Ontario's administrative office, and conference staff for supporting us in organizing and preparing the Research Symposium and for the opportunity to assemble this refereed Research Symposium issue of Contact. Without their continued support, our work would have been considerably more difficult and markedly less pleasant.

Hedy McGarrell, David Wood
Co-editors