

# SPELT eBulletin

February – March 2025





#### **Dear SPELTers and Friends of SPELT**

Happy Ramadan!

It's our great pleasure to bring to you the Feb-Mar 2025 ebulletin to you full of promising opportunities for learning and continuous professional development.

Do watch out in particular for 1) the webinar on Magic AI for Schools, and 2) the micro-learning opportunity to enhance your AI skills. We hope that attending these sessions will enable you to start using AI for increased efficiency and productivity in your work, but also for personalizing learning for your learners.

Look forward to seeing you there!

Best

#### **Dr Fauzia Shamim**

Vice President, Society of Pakistan English Language Teachers (2023-2026).

Asia TEFL Pakistan Representative (2019-)

#### **SPELT Goes to FPS (Foundation Public School DHA)**



Upholding its commitment to community outreach, SPELT hosted its 484th Monthly Free Academic Session on 15th February 2025 at FPS OLDC, led by expert trainer and SPELT President, Mr. Mohsin Tejani.

The session focused on "Writing to Engage: Strategies for Inspiring Young Minds."

Foundation Public school ensured full faculty participation, with Ms. Shabnam Nathani and her team efficiently managing logistics. Over 100 FPS, HSS, and SPELT members engaged in the interactive session, benefiting from the robust & interactive workshop so deftly presented by Mr. Tejani with the ease of an experienced mentor.

The session fostered goodwill and collaboration, with FPS demonstrating commitment through institutional support and an interest in SPELT webinars and annual conferences.



#### The following two quotes reflect the positive feedback from the participants:

Mrs. Sadaf Khurram, Principal: "It was a pleasure to host this session in collaboration with SPELT, where teachers from the community got a chance to learn and grow in their field. Such efforts will surely add value to classroom learning, and I am grateful that SPELT takes these initiatives to enhance students' engagement and learning."

Ms. Taghrid Ahmed, SPELT's active Member: "Mr. Tejani's session was interactive and insightful. Through hands-on activities, participants explored techniques to help students develop writing skills with confidence and enthusiasm. His dynamic approach to teaching the genre 'creative non-fiction' and practical strategies on creating collaborative writing with AI made the session both enjoyable and highly beneficial. A truly inspiring workshop that empowered educators to nurture young writers effectively!"



#### Mr. Tejani concluded with a lively Q&A, discussing SPELT's mission and future plans.

Gul Jaffri, Associate Chair of SPELT's Outreach Professional Council, thanked FPS leadership and the organizing staff, recognizing Mrs. Mohammad's collaboration and interest in holding the Academic session as a collaborative initiative and her invitation to repeat these workshops in some Head Start campuses as well. She thanked SPELT staff and representatives, Ms. Sadia Jamil, Ms. Sobia Ahsan, Ms. Fariha Khalil, and Ms. Taghrid Ahmed, among others, for helping out with the



session's arrangements. She invited the participants to become regular active members of SPELT and benefit from a national and international teacher network.

Sabiha Mohammad, Founder Director FPS, and Mrs. Farah Durrani, Head of Academics FPS, also spoke and praised the initiative of engaging FPS as a Learning Partner and promised greater participation by the other FPS & HSS branches in SPELT programmes.

Abbas Hussain, in his very witty and creative style and great depth of intellect, spoke briefly on the raison d'etre of SPELT and why teachers should become a member of the SPELT.

Thank you, FPS. Looking forward to future collaborations!

#### **Feedback from Participants**

It was an extremely engaging and interactive session. Truly inspirational

It was really engaging and interactive. Had an amazing time

It was an informative, interactive and engaging session.

The session was very informative

It was an informative session with interesting writing prompts that we can apply in the class.

Informative session!

The session was quite informative for all, especially for the new teachers in my observation. Thank you for sharing your experience with all.

The session was very enriching. It taught me about different prompts that I can use in my class to encourage my children to write.

It was engaging and fun. A good refresher with quite a few ideas for us to use in our classrooms.

Session is very informative. Many queries about class management were clear and also get to know about social and emotional learning power. I hope it will be helpful for teachers as well as for students.

It was a very informative session, learnt new techniques

It was an enlightening session and there was not a dull moment in that entire session.

It was highly engaging and informative. Learned about creative nonfiction writing.

It was fun learning experience

It was a good session.

The session was wonderful with immense information on the subject. Hope to connect on different topic again.

I am thankful for having me and my other colleagues to this amazing workshop. I am a pre-primary teacher/Montessori Directress... at very first foundational level how I can engage their minds to write? This is the main point I learned from today's workshop.

This is really presentable and describe me new ideas for my teaching lecture

The first main take away was the discussion about the Myths related to AI tools and threats to the need of the English teachers in future ..

It was an insightful session. I really loved the writing prompt activities

good to know what the reality is about this latest

phenomenon...

og away a new genre ' creative non-fiction'' was a bo

Taking away a new genre ' creative non-fiction'' was a bonus from Mr Tejani.

It was a great learning opportunity for English Language teachers to learn new ways and techniques about making writing fun, interesting and clear for young learners. The session also cleared the doubts and confusions about AI that we teachers have now-a-days.

Highly grateful for knowledge and sharing of experience from respected Mr. Tejani and appreciate SPELT for such a wonderful session with a hope for further events!



### 1.5- Hour Webinar

Years of Empowering Teachers

## **SPELT Ramazan Special 2025**

TARGET AUDIENCE: All Teachers, Coordinators, Principals and Heads

# Leveraging Artificial Intelligence to Revolutionize Classroom Pedagogy and Assessment: An Exploration of Magic School Al

This online workshop, tailored for educators, administrators, and educational leaders, aims to explore the transformative potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in educational settings. The session will explore the practical applications of AI tools in enhancing pedagogical methodologies and revolutionizing assessment practices, with a particular emphasis on "Magic School AI".

This activity-based workshop will offer participants a hands-on experience with Magic School AI and its diverse components. Participants will discover how Magic School AI can tailor learning experiences to individual student needs, providing customized educational support and targeted interventions. The session will demonstrate how Magic School AI can automate routine tasks, offer valuable insights into student performance, and enable teachers to personalized instruction Participants will engagement. explore Al-powered assessment tools within Magic School AI, which facilitate efficient and objective evaluations, extending beyond traditional methods to provide a deeper understanding of student learning and progress. Discussions will focus on the ethical implications of integrating AI in education, including data privacy, bias, and responsible AI implementation.

Through interactive activities and demonstrations, participants will acquire a practical understanding of how AI, specifically Magic School AI, can be integrated into daily teaching practices to create a more engaging, personalized, and effective educational environment. The workshop will provide actionable strategies and resources to empower educators to embrace the future of education.

Wafa Mansoor Buriro is an Assistant Professor and Bachelors & Masters Programs' Coordinator at the Department of English, Sindh Madressatul Islam University (SMIU), Karachi. He also serves as the Managing Editor of the Sindh Journal of Linguistics, member of Board of Studies, and member of Board of Faculty at SMIU, contributing actively to academic leadership and research.



Click here to register



March 22, 2025 3:00pm to 4:30pm

Fee: PKR 800/

E-Certificate will be provided

Limited seats on first come, first served basis



# ACD Session No: 485 FREE ACADEMIC SESSION FOR TEACHERS

### **Providing (MIS) Education to All**

Manifesto 15, issued in 2015, provides a comprehensive response to ongoing debates about education. This fundamental document outlines a vision for evolving learning, advocating for an education system designed to foster individual and community success. It not only offers guidance on effective teaching methods but also implicitly addresses prevalent misconceptions within the educational landscape.

Teachers who attend this workshop may consider creating and signing a MANIFESTO 25 for Pakistan. Possibilities for placing such a document online will be explored. Here's an outline of the session:

1. Introduction to Manifesto 15

- 3. Suggest a Manifesto for Pakistan
- 2. Discuss the need for a Manifesto in Pakistan
- 4. An Implementation Plan

Join us in exploring the insights and implications of this transformative document



**Shahina Hussain** is a visionary educationist who works with all education stakeholders. For decades, she has been involved in teaching, teacher training, curriculum development, item reviewing, education research, textbook authoring, and textbook consultancy. She has conducted workshops and presented her research at international conferences.

Throughout her career, Shahina Hussain has displayed leadership skills. She is adept at bringing a positive perspective and thoughtful student and teacher leadership to collaborative teamwork, empowering students and team members to produce the desired results.

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Time

Join Zoom Meeting

Saturday, March 22, 2025

12:00 to 1:00pm

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3543926299? pwd=HtFJVcTWzm0qlYPctj017ZLftm7sL2.

1&omn=82353265221

Meeting ID: 354 392 6299

Passcode: ACD-485

Sobia Begum

Associate Chair,
Professional Development Council
(2024-26)
sobyaahsanali@gmail.com

Click here to register

#### **HEAD OFFICE**

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#### SPELT 40TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

There was an overload of stimulation. Imagine five venues in which full days of symposia, panel discussions, keynotes, talks, workshops take place at four different venues in the city of Karachi on Saturday November 16th and on one day at Habib University on November 17th.

Imagine 650 teachers attending all these combined. Imagine the energy, the enthusiasm, the motivation, the inspiration that they have felt and have spoken, on all the Facebook posts, Instagram, photographs, selfies and one-minute recordings that they have made for the various schools. That we had international speakers such as Alan Mackenzie, John Baker, Zhou Fein, was a given. That we had nationally famous speakers from outside of Karachi, Tina Hameed, Shabana Chaudhary, was wonderful. That we had people from all over Sindh assembling in this gathering was also wonderful. An amazing first in the conference was the Happy Home School's venue for the World Café.

Perhaps the greatest takeaway from the conference was that there is hope in the young. There is hope in the energy of young students as they manage and navigate an uncertain future deluged with distractions throughout their studies. The newspaper coverage, the coverage over the television channels, the media partners, the other kinds of support in cash and kind that we received from various organizations is also worth noting.

An interesting fact about the founding members of SPELT was that the seven members who were there in the first meeting 40 years ago were also present in this conference, six of them physically and one of them virtually from United States.

It is a telling comment about the camaraderie and relationship building that SPELT fosters. The founding members seen in the 40th conference: Amberina Kazi, Farida Faizullah, Anisa Mumtaz, Fauzia Shamim, Fatima Shahabdin, Zakia Sarwar and Abbas Husain. All of them were present and received the regard and love from the younger teachers as mentors and seniors that they looked up to and who Inshallah will continue to offer their guidance in the coming years. As for the topics that were discussed, certainly, Al Artificial Intelligence and the issues that emerged from the intrusion of Al in teaching learning processes was center stage in all venues on the first day and on the second day as well.

An interesting insight that emerged was all modern technological inventions have put some people out of jobs, but as long as those jobs belong to the labor classes, there was only an occasional noise in the media. But now that AI and modern technologies are challenging the jobs of teachers, opinion makers, editors, journalists, the people who play with language and shape the minds of people, it has become a point of contention. It is interesting that we think that the machines will take over human effort. But let us be very honest. Human beings too have not always been noble in their relationships with others: bigotry, slavery, racism, war and just straight killing have also been done by some human beings unto other human beings. So, to just think that all AI needs to be channeled into useful lines and that all human beings, by definition, are endangered, is a naive viewpoint.

It is true that the new challenges proposed by AI are unlike anything we have ever seen before. And while this sentence might have been said about the printing press and the coming of television at their appropriate times, we know that we mean something very powerful and different. A presenter in the program showed the Mona Lisa talking to Leonardo da Vinci. AI can manage to show us such fiction!

The conference offered much food for thought, and we hope that the conversations instigated by the conference, will continue to shape the lives and work of teachers in their classrooms all over the city, and indeed all over the country.

SPELT is here giving a broad message: please, trust the teachers when you plan the change, because it is on/with them that you hope to implement the change. Do not marginalize them. Do not think that they are inept, incapable, unworthy. Know that if people can take time out and attend this conference in such rich numbers, all is not lost in the educational scenario of Pakistan.

#### **ABBAS HUSAIN**

Chair Outreach Professional Council SPELT

(Received December 2024)





#### Exciting Announcement: 41st SPELT International Conference – 2025

Mark your calendars for the 41st International SPELT Conference in 2025! Join us for two days of enriching discussions, interactive workshops, and cutting-edge insights, including the evolving role of AI in education.

#### Dates: 15th & 16th November 2025

Who Should Attend: Teachers and educators passionate about innovation in learning.

Celebrate the power of education and the educators leading the change.

Stay tuned for registration and schedule details.

See you there!

#### **Global ELT News**



#### Dear Presidents and the entire Asia TEFL family

I am pleased to inform you that the 2025 Asia TEFL webinar series kicks off on March 22, 2025.

Dr Ruanni Tupas from University College London shares insights into the design of English language teacher education through a decolonial lens, making this presentation of significant interest to ELT practitioners across Asia and beyond. Anyone working in the area of pre-service or in-service teacher education, and classroom practitioners keen on charting their professional development journey should join us at this webinar. Dr Joanna Joseph Jeyaraj moderates this session.

Asian Association of Teachers of English as a Foreign Language (AsiaTEFL) https://www.asiatefl.org/main/main.php

#### **Celebrating SPELT's 40th Year of Empowering Teachers**



A Special gift to English Language & other teachers: Free training through a wonderful eLearning Application. AI won't replace educators, but educators using AI will!

Why this microlearning: This microlearning event is beginner friendly. It has three short lessons.

Click the link below and start this exciting journey: <u>Microlearning: Introduction to AI-Powered Large Language Models in ELT</u>

About presenter: Hanif, Muhammad, a proud SPELT COTE/ICELT Alumni (1999-2000), is a Toronto-based software & AI project manager & engineer.

#### Join SPELT to reap many more benefits...

To join SPELT as a new member or renew your membership, please download the membership form from the link: <a href="https://forms.gle/69dNXszTETcNTLDX6">https://forms.gle/69dNXszTETcNTLDX6</a>. Please fill the form, submit the fees online and send the picture of your bank receipt to <a href="mailto:speltheadoffice@gmail.com">speltheadoffice@gmail.com</a>. To join the SPELT Facebook group, please visit the link:

<u>https://www.facebook.com/groups/235003087675238/</u> You will be asked for your SPELT membership number, before your request is accepted.

#### **About Membership Subscription and Dues**

Individual	Institutional	Life	3 Years	
Membership	Membership	Membership	Membership	
PKR 1500	PKR 5000	PKR 15000	PKR 4000	

International Package for 3 years
US\$ 125/
US\$ 60/

FACEBOOK LINKEDIN INSTAGRAM YOUTUBE

Follow this link to join SPELT WhatsApp group:

https://chat.whatsapp.com/JgjLAJDdcRW9NIsgeho8Av