



# 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

## 1984-2019

*35 years of empowering teachers*



### ***FROM THE SPELT DESK***

SPELT as an organization for professional development of English language teachers has always aspired to open new horizons for its members, and for teachers in Pakistan in general. This year's 35th SPELT annual 'travelling Conference' is a live evidence of this endeavour. Experts from many countries across the world, and different cities of Pakistan gathered to share their experiences with conference attendees. Besides classroom issues, and tips and activities, they widened the boundaries of knowledge by sharing classroom research and talking about World Englishes. Hywel Coleman SPELT's keynote speaker opened a new window by talking about the language in our environment using which learners can be made aware of language use. Presenters also deliberated about innovations in language teaching in the changing educational scenario and the use and impact of technology which can be harnessed for

effective language instruction.

As 2019 was SPELT's 35th conference, SPELT has also marked it by publishing a book entitled "An introduction to Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) in EFL Contexts: Ruqaiya Hasan Memorial SFL Papers"; this is a collection of sixteen articles, already published in the SPELT Quarterly Journal during the last three decades or so. The articles share the rich experience of linguists around the globe, working in this field, with special reference to EFL contexts. Experts from UK, USA, Australia, Hong Kong and Pakistan have hailed this book as a "must read" for teachers interested in effective teaching and learning of language.

You might like to ask: what is SFL? SFL looks upon language as a 'meaning potential' in which functionality of language in context as a source of communication is the focal point. Therefore, it provides a framework in which grammar

in context takes a fresh look at language. This way of looking at language to see how it works, has been found very useful for classroom pedagogy.

This book is also a landmark as SPELT pays homage to Prof. Dr Ruqaiya Hasan, who was a life member, and patron of SPELT since its inception. Indeed, SPELTers are proud to own Hasan's heritage, who made a mark in the SFL field and is recognized around the world for her contribution. So, this is a new field of enquiry for SPELTers to widen their vistas of knowledge.

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## SPELT Working Committee Updates

### Conference Committee

#### Karachi Conference:

**35th SPELT International Conference, October 26-27, 2019**

“**Innovations in ELT: Future Directions**” was the theme of 35th SPELT International travelling Conference 2019 held in Karachi on 26-27 October 2019 at Iqra University, Main Campus. The conference was held on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2019 in Lahore, and 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> November 2019 in Abbottabad, whereas due to restless political conditions at Islamabad, the SPELT Islamabad Conference was postponed.



In Karachi, the two-day event was attended by approximately 800 participants, despite the political disturbances in the city. The participants came from different private and public schools, colleges, universities and other organizations from Karachi and other cities of Pakistan. Six international presenters from the USA, UK, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Italy participated in this international event along with more than 70 national presenters. Prof Hywel Coleman, from the University of Leeds, UK, was the keynote speaker. This year, 100 sessions were



held in the form of plenary, workshops, papers, webinars in different strands including the Research SIG strand, Urdu and other languages strand. Moreover, national as well as international presenters participated in panel discussions and colloquia. The rich variety of topics was highly appreciated by the attendees of the conference.

SPELT would like to express special thanks to all those who worked day and night to make this event a success, especially the office staff, the Conference Committee, the Working Committee members and all the wonderful volunteers. Our special thanks to all the sponsors for their

generous support. We also thank the family members for their cooperation.

## Workshop Committee

Every month, we organize amazing workshops for teachers. For updates regarding upcoming workshops, keep visiting our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/headofficespelt>

### **Topic: Teaching English to the Digital Generation**

#### **Facilitator: Dr. Pir Sohail Sarhandi**

Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2019.

Time: 10:00 a.m-1:00 p.m.

Fee for Members: Rs. 2300

Fee for Non-members: Rs. 2800

Venue: SPELT House, 101, first floor, Plot No. C-28, Kh-e-Ittehad, Lane 12

For registration, please contact the SPELT Head office at **03351233626**

## Academic Committee

### **Free Academic Session**

#### **November' 2019**

Topic: "Use Effective Strategies to teach English Literature"

Date: 30<sup>th</sup> November' 2019, Saturday.

Time: 3:00-5:00 pm

Venue: SPELT House, 101, first floor, Plot No. C-28, Kh-e-Ittehad, Lane 12,

Phase II, Ext. D.H.A. Karachi.

Facilitator: Ms. Sana Tahir



## SPELT Abbottabad Chapter

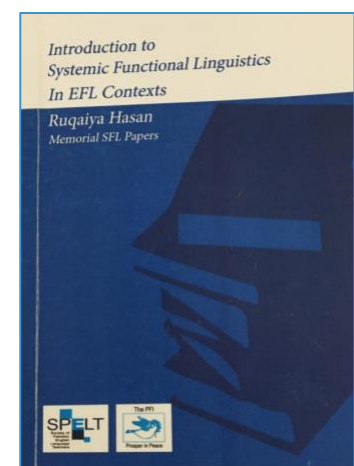
### 35th Annual ELT Conference – Abbottabad Chapter 6th & 7th November 2019

The venue of the conference was Modernage Girls College. Paramount Publishers and Oxford University Press were the sponsors of the event. During the two days, ELT experts from different colleges and universities of Pakistan conducted plenary sessions, workshops and gave presentations on language teaching related topics. The theme of the conference was ‘Innovations in ELT: Future Directions’. Prof Zakia Sarwar, a founder member and Honorary Executive Director, SPELT Pakistan, was the keynote speaker and also the Guest of Honour. Ms. Sumeera Wahid, Co-Principal of Modernage Public School & College welcomed all participants and presenters to the venue, whereas Programme Coordinator and Conference Coordinator of SPELT Abbottabad Chapter briefed the audience about the purpose and conduct of the event. This two-day activity was attended by a large number of ELT educationists, teachers and students.



## Teacher Resources

“Rich in ideas for language teaching , this book stresses that: language instruction requires knowledge about language and the understanding that both oral and written language are different; instruction should include a variety of experiences with oral and written language , as well as prepare learners for difficult language and literacy demanded in schools before they carry them out; and assessment should be connected with curriculum and instruction”. *Dr Gail Forey, University of Bath , UK.*



## My Story Begins Here!

*(Spelers share their stories of professional and personal development with SPELT)*

### Dr. Fauzia Shamim



**Founding SPELT – taking a problem-solving approach:** I felt an urgent need to share and discuss my successes and challenges with like-minded people in a supportive learning environment. While discussing this with some colleagues I met at an ELT conference in 1983, the first of its kind in Pakistan, it became clear that a platform was needed for teachers to discuss, debate and dialogue, to change the curriculum, pedagogy and assessment methods in

ELT. Also, in order for new ELT ideas to germinate and grow, we needed to engage extensively in teacher education activities, and national and international networking. Subsequently the Society of Pakistan English Language Teachers (SPELT) was formed in 1984 to provide English language teachers in Pakistan the much-needed platform for professional and personal growth and development (for details see [www.spelt.org.pk](http://www.spelt.org.pk)). SPELT also helped develop my leadership skills and I feel proud to have represented it at national and international forums. SPELT is 35 years old today and faces several challenges to continue to empower English language teachers in Pakistan (Shamim and Sarwar, 2018). Despite these challenges, my work in SPELT has strengthened further my belief in learning with and from colleagues in a supportive environment.

Excerpt from: Maley. A. (2019). *Developing expertise through experience*. London: The British Council. Available at: <https://englishagenda.britishcouncil.org/continuing-professional-development/teacher-educator-framework/taking-responsibility-own-professional-development/developing-expertise-through-experience>



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FREE QUARTERLY JOURNAL  
AND MUCH MORE!!!*