

## Réamhbra / Introduction

As the journal of the Irish Association for Applied Linguistics (IRAAL), *Teanga* has covered a wide range of topics since its first appearance in 1979. Most volumes of *Teanga* have included papers from a variety of conferences, seminars, and special lectures; this general approach has reinforced the role of *Teanga* as the 'Irish Yearbook of Applied Linguistics'. At other times, however, there has been a special advantage in dedicating an issue of *Teanga* entirely to one theme. Thus, for example, *Teanga* 19 (2000) was devoted to the topic of 'Integrating Theory and Practice in LSP and LAP', while *Teanga* 13 (1993) focused on 'Adult Language Learning', and *Teanga* 12 (1992) dealt exclusively with the theme of 'Language and Gender'.

*Teanga* 21 (2002), which is appearing in 2004, concentrates on *Corpora, Varieties, and the Language Classroom*. This volume breaks new ground in a number of ways. Papers for *Teanga* 21 arise not from any IRAAL-sponsored activity, but from the first international conference on Inter-Varietal Applied Corpus Studies (IVACS), which was held at the University of Limerick in June, 2002. We are honoured that Fiona Farr of the University of Limerick and Anne O'Keeffe of Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick have acted as guest editors for this issue. The guest editor format provides an excellent opportunity to bring in new topical perspectives, and we anticipate that this edition will be the first of many such publications from IRAAL.

I therefore wish to thank the guest editors of *Teanga* 21 and their editorial team for making this volume possible. I also wish to thank the IRAAL Executive for their guidance in the development of *Teanga* and for authorizing the enhanced rate of publication that is needed to bring the journal back into regular annual production.

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