

Réamhtra / Introduction

This issue of *Teanga* marks a transition in more ways than one. The Irish Association for Applied Linguistics (IRAAL) was founded in 1975 in co-operation with the Association Internationale de Linguistique Appliquée (AILA)/International Association of Applied Linguistics and with the help of the newly-founded Institiúid Teangeolaíochta Éireann (ITÉ). For many years, ITÉ provided both administrative support and a physical base for IRAAL activities such as meetings and publications. In 2004, ITÉ was dissolved and IRAAL lost this much-valued connection. By that time, though, IRAAL had entered the electronic era with the establishment of a new website (www.iraal.ie), where members and others with an interest in applied linguistics in Ireland can readily make contact with IRAAL and the IRAAL Committee. Thus while it was regrettable that the valued relationship between IRAAL and ITÉ came to an end, it was fortunate that IRAAL has now become able to participate in other ways within the international network of applied linguistics.

This transition coincides with that of the appointment of a new editor for *Teanga*. The first issue of *Teanga* appeared in 1979, under the editorship of Dónall P. Ó Baoill, who worked for 25 years in the ITÉ before becoming Professor of Irish in Queen's University Belfast in 1999. Under his guidance, *Teanga* saw many changes, evolving from an irregularly-published, A4-sized journal that relied on camera-ready copy in a variety of typefaces and formats into an annual journal which maintained a high standard of editorial consistency and quality. *Teanga* 19, co-edited with Mary Ruane of University College Dublin, represented a dramatic change of format for *Teanga*, and the present volume continues with a change of layout and a cover design that incorporates the new IRAAL logo.

Teanga 20 reflects its development at a time of transition. The papers date roughly from the years 2001 and 2002, though they may contain elements that date from slightly earlier, as well as revisions and editorial updatings from 2004. Since *Teanga* 19 was published in 2000, it seemed appropriate to date *Teanga* 20 from 2001-02, and to plan for a period of intensive publication thereafter which will bring *Teanga* back into annual production. It is also planned to activate a new, international Editorial Board for *Teanga* which will cover the many disciplines that contribute to applied linguistics today. The Editorial Board, together with new procedures for peer

reviewing of editorial submissions, will help to continue the high standards that *Teanga* has always aspired to achieve. In order to help with this goal, readers are encouraged to contact the Editor with suggestions for the further development of the journal.

Any new editor of a well-established journal is indebted to a great many people, and I think it appropriate to mention them here. Foremost of course is my predecessor, Dónall Ó Baoill, who has established a high standard to be reached by any incoming editor. Breffni O'Rourke has been instrumental in helping with the cover design and the incorporation of the IRAAL website graphics. The IRAAL Committee as a whole, and in particular the President, Muiris Ó Laoire, has been most supportive of the process of launching the 'new-look' *Teanga*. *Go raibh míle maith agaibh!*

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