

20th
Anniversary
CULI

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Policy

The PASAA Journal is the oldest professional journal in English teaching in Thailand. One issue is published annually. The journal aims to present information and ideas in the following areas :

- Issues in language teaching and learning
(theoretical and practical aspects)
- Curriculum design and development
(methods, materials and techniques)
- Testing and evaluation
- Teacher training
- Reviews
- Brief reports and summaries
- Research

Original submissions which are directly related to English teaching in Thailand are preferred. We also welcome manuscripts which contribute to the improvement of English language teaching in general.

No payment will be made for any contribution but authors will receive two copies of the journal in which their article appears.

Let me offer my most heartfelt congratulations to the Chulalongkorn University Language Institute on its 20th anniversary. I consider myself honored and fortunate to have been associated with CULI and its previous incarnations, the English Language Center and the Central Institute of English Language, for many years, and I have benefited greatly in many ways, both personally and professionally, from this long association. May CULI enjoy many more years of successful activities.

A bit of history about PASAA:

In 1971, when I returned to Thailand for my second stay, to work as a Ford Foundation Advisor to the then English Language Center, I was informed that one of my responsibilities would be to edit the Bulletin of the English Language Center (BELC), which until that time had been under the editorship of Mr. Michael Smithies, a very colorful and charismatic individual. Although I shared few of Michael's unique qualities and talents, I believe that I was able to maintain the high standards of quality that he had established for BELC.

In 1974, the name of the English Language Center was changed to the Central Institute of English Language, and since I felt that BCIEL didn't make much sense as a acronym, and had been wanting to expand the coverage of the journal for some time, to include a broader range of topics and issues in the field of applied linguistics, I suggested that we change the name. The problem, of course, was what to call it. After struggling for some time with a name that somehow incorporated who and what the institute was, and that made a pronounceable acronym, we were saved by a stroke of genius from M.L. Boonlua Debyasuvorn, the grand lady of Thai applied linguistics and language teaching. She came up with the idea of calling the journal ภาษาสังสรรค์ (Pasaa sang saan), which means Language Forum in English or *PASAA*, for short. Just as I have benefited from my association with ELC, CIEL and CULI, so I learned a great deal from my few years' editorship of *PASAA*. Now, when I see how the journal has evolved and grown over the years, I am proud to have been associated with it. I wish the journal and its editorial staff all the best for the future.

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Editor's Note

If PASAA were a vessel carrying knowledge and information to those who seek to broaden their scope and horizon, I am sure that the majority of PASAA's readers would concur that it has maintained its course and performed its duty reasonably well all these years.

PASAA's journey -- perhaps one could even call its odyssey -- started some twenty years ago, practically the same time as that of Chulalongkorn University Language Institute or CULI for short. During these formative and crucial years PASAA, as well as CULI, has been fortunate to have knowledgeable and visionary leaders who have captained the vessel safely to familiar harbors and new, unexplored shores. Like other distinguished journals of its kind, PASAA has served as a vehicle for passing on ideas, opinions, theories or maxims to its readers with the hope that interactions and actions are thus generated for the benefit of language learning and teaching, not exclusively for the English language, which not surprisingly has become the lingua franca of the international community, but rather for all languages. PASAA has served as an arena for those who wanted to share their research results, to test new methods and approaches, or simply to voice their concern about the state or trend of language learning and teaching. While maintaining neutrality throughout the winds of change that either whistled or whipped across the academic ocean, PASAA has never shied away from presenting controversial issues, nor has it been a cheerleader for so-called innovations. Granted that technological developments have convinced us that to be more user-friendly for reference purposes earlier issues of PASAA should also be made available in CD format - - and this is now realized, PASAA must not be a slave of fads and commercialism in disguise. PASAA must remain true to the mission it has set out to accomplish, that is, to contribute to the improvement of language learning and teaching.

This issue is special in that it celebrates CULI's 20th anniversary. On behalf of the editorial staff, I would like to take this opportunity to wish CULI, PASAA's North star, all the very best for the years to come. I would also like to thank present and past contributors for generously sharing knowledge and experience with PASAA's readers and thus help PASAA attain its goal.

Perched on the springboard for the third millennium, PASAA would like to invite you all to join PASAA and CULI on yet another journey of discovery.