

ALAN MALEY

Plenary Talk Three Pathways to Teacher Growth

I shall first examine the notion of 'growth' itself: what it is, and why it is desirable for teachers, and what its place might be in a society obsessed by measurement.

I shall then suggest that Extensive Reading, Creative Writing and the use of 'Wisdom' stories are three potentially powerful stimuli for teacher growth.

I shall rehearse the arguments for teachers to read more copiously and more widely, both in terms of enhanced language proficiency and greater world knowledge and experience.

I shall then describe how creative writing for teachers can benefit them. In this section I shall draw upon feedback from an Asian Teacher-Writer group which I have been running for the past 7 years.

Finally, I will attempt to show how some stories, both ancient and modern, can spark divergent thinking about professional and personal growth.

Workshop The Power of Creative Writing

I will first offer a rationale for developing the creative writing of poetry and stories both with students and with teachers, demonstrating through sample materials and anecdotal evidence just how powerful it can be. I will refer to its capacity for language development, its potential to draw on affect and 'playfulness', the way it can foster risk-taking and with it self-exploration, its capacity to enhance positive motivation. I shall also point up the mutual effect reading and writing have upon each other.

We shall then try out a number of simple yet effective techniques for generating both poems and stories. These will include stem poems, poems from objects, metaphor poems, syllabic poems, etc. And ways to develop plot, character, setting, dialogue and point of view in stories.

I will end by reviewing some of the useful practically-oriented publications and resources in this field.



Bio

Alan has been involved with ELT for 45 years. From 1962-88 he worked for the British Council in Yugoslavia, Ghana, Italy, France, China and India. After resigning from the Council in 1988, he worked as Director-General of the Bell Educational Trust in Cambridge, until 1993. From 1993-98, he was Senior Fellow at the National University of Singapore. In 1999 he moved to Bangkok to set up a new MA programme at Assumption University, where he stayed till 2003. Currently, he is a freelance writer and consultant, and Visiting Professor at Leeds Metropolitan University. He has published over 30 books, including *Literature, Teaching Advanced Learners* (both with OUP), *Drama Techniques* (CUP) and *The Language Teacher's Voice* (Macmillan). He has written numerous journal articles, and is a regular reviewer for the ELTJ. He is currently writing a regular column for *English Teaching Professional*, entitled 'Over the Wall.' His interests include creative approaches to teaching language, extensive reading, creative writing, literature and materials development.

**10th METU ELT
Convention**



**22-23 May 2009
Ankara**