

Editorial

This is the Volume 15, Number 1 of the OUSL Journal, the Journal of The Open University of Sri Lanka, which is published biannually. The articles published in this Volume include research based on English Language Teaching, Chemistry, Psychology, Law, Health Sciences, and Education.

The paper titled *Inclusivity and Diversity in ELT Material: Critical Textual Analysis as a Pedagogical Tool* explores the ways in which critical discourse analysis (CDA) can be used to make language instruction more inclusive. Mainstream education largely focuses on completing the curriculum and preparing students for standardized examinations. As a result, there is less effort expended on creating awareness on diversity, equity, and exploring ways in which educational contexts could be made inclusive spaces where all learners and educators feel accepted and safe. Textbooks that students study and internalize reproduce power structures that exist in society. As the focus of instruction is often to prepare students to perform well at exams, the content in textbooks is often not questioned. As a result, instruction in schools normalize the discourses and content present in textbooks. This paper draws in from theories of CDA and provides educators a critical lens through which they can scrutinize textbooks and find theoretically sound ways of making them inclusive. The paper discusses some of the key tenets of CDA and how teachers can use CDA as an analytical tool that helps them to scrutinize textbooks and rethink instruction in ways that help all learners to fully engage in the teaching-learning process irrespective of their sociocultural backgrounds.

Light-emitting materials with tunable luminescence properties are of interest due to their wide-ranging applications as chemical sensors, biological labels, organic optoelectronics and phosphorescent organic light-emitting diodes (PhOLEDs). Phosphorescent organometallic complexes, containing iridium, ruthenium, rhenium, copper and platinum, have also been of interest in applications in the above-mentioned areas. It was found that cyclometallated platinum(II) complexes, containing tridentate



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NCN or NNC ligands are slightly superior for luminescence quantum yield when compared to cyclometallated platinum(II) complexes with bidentate CN ligands. In the research study *Synthesis of Cyclometallated Pt(II) Complexes of a Bulky Bipyridine Ligand*, the author has used a sterically demanding polyphenylene derivative with a bipyridyl unit to prepare several cyclometallated platinum(II) complexes. Synthesis of this pyridyl-centered polyphenylene, 3,4,5,6-tetraphenyl-2,2'-bipyridine and its coordination chemistry with rhodium and palladium had been reported previously. The objective of this study was to explore the chemistry of this ligand with platinum(II) centers in order to prepare possible photoactive luminescent complexes. This bulky ligand containing four phenyl groups was converted into a quite insoluble cyclometallated terdentate complex [(CNN)PtCl]. It was made more soluble by replacing the chloride ligand to produce the corresponding trifluoroacetate and acetylide. Introduction of a neutral ligand such as pyridine or phosphine generated more soluble salts of the type [(CNN)Pt(L')]PF₆ where L' = PPh₃, 4-dimethylaminopyridine. A binuclear complex, bridging two (CNN)Pt units with bis(diphenylphosphino)methane was also prepared. All complexes were characterized by a combination of elemental analysis, Infra-Red, Mass and Nuclear Magnetic Resonance spectroscopy. Two of the key complexes were characterized by X-ray crystallography.

Emotions play an important role in human life. The aim of paper titled *Emotional Experiences and Expressions of Individuals in the Sri Lankan Context: The Roles of Gender, Culture and Religion*, was to explore the emotional experiences and expressions of individuals, the variation in emotional expressions in different social relationships, and individuals' perceptions about the cultural and religious appropriateness of expressing certain emotions. In this study, the researchers examined how often individuals experience basic emotions and some secondary emotions, to what extent they think that they can express these emotions, the appropriateness of expressing basic emotions to individuals in various relationships, and the appropriateness of feeling and expressing basic emotions according to their cultural

and religious backgrounds. Findings of this study suggested significant gender differences in experiencing and expressing emotions and provided further evidence for previous findings in relation to the gender difference in experiencing certain emotions. In addition, there were significant relationships between feeling and expressing some basic emotions. It was found that individuals tended to choose what is appropriate and inappropriate in relation to their relationships with other members in the social environment. Findings also revealed that individuals accepted the experience and expression of some emotions according to their cultural and religious backgrounds suggesting that both cultural and religious backgrounds influence individuals' emotional experiences and expressions. Emotion has a biological base; however, it seems that individuals' emotional experience is influenced by the socio-cultural environment in which they live. Culture shapes the way individuals experience and express emotions in different social situations. Present findings strengthen the evidence of the influence of some socio-cultural factors on emotional experience and expressions of individuals and thereby emphasizing the importance of utilizing a cultural approach in understanding emotional experience and expressions of individuals in a given culture.

The paper, *The Need for Reforming the Sale of Goods Ordinance of Sri Lanka: A Comparative Analysis*, is a comparative analysis on the Sale of Goods Ordinance, No. 11 of 1896 which governs the sale of goods in Sri Lanka. The author followed the traditional black letter approach of socio-legal research. The Sri Lankan Ordinance is a copy paste of the English Sale of Goods Ordinance of 1893. Although the English law related to sale of goods has been amended with the modern-day developments, the Sri Lankan Ordinance has remained the same even after a century and more. The static nature of the Sri Lankan SGO has led to several crucial problems. The research discusses the nature of selling goods, geographical limits related to sale of goods and finally the methods by which sales are concluded. Even though the remedies are there to protect the parties under the SGO, there are loopholes which need to be addressed by amendments to the SGO. Therefore, the

research discusses the remedies introduced to the parties by addressing the identified loopholes. In all the above situations, this research offers many statutes currently used in Sri Lanka such as Electronic Transactions Act, No. 19 of 2006, Consumer Affairs Authority Act, No. 9 of 2003 etc. for comparative purposes and at the same time, discusses and compares the laws related to sales of goods in the UK with those of Sri Lanka. Finally, the research in its conclusion offers suitable recommendations to the laws related to sales of goods in Sri Lanka and emphasizes that the Sri Lankan law related to sale of goods should be amended to reflect the latest needs in the commercial world.

Bacterial infections are one of the main causes of human diseases. Especially, catheter-associated urinary tract infections caused by biofilm producing bacteria are the most commonly reported hospital-acquired infections. Biofilm is defined as accumulation of the microbial organisms that is permanently attached to biotic and abiotic surface and generally enclosed in self-produced extracellular polysaccharide substances. Indwelling urinary catheters support to increase therapeutic results of patients, however, these devices are more prone to colonization by biofilm bacteria. Catheterized urinary tract provides ideal conditions for the development of biofilm populations. Moreover, Biofilm on urinary catheters results in persistent infections that are resistant to antimicrobial therapy. If the infection is not treated, it may consequently lead to bacteraemia, bacterial vaginosis, chronic renal infection, acute pyelonephritis, bladder cancer and in certain cases death.

Nowadays mortality rates are increasing and there is an urgent requirement to develop strategies to prevent and eradicate biofilm production on urinary catheters. The knowledge of biofilm formation on catheters and antibiotic resistance profile of bacterial species are most important to find new techniques in therapeutic use. However, several studies indicate that microbial studies alone will not eradicate catheter-associated urinary tract infection. Antifouling and biocidal coatings on the catheters are currently being investigated and it has been proved that herbal products also express anti-biofilm activity. Therefore, considering the magnitude

of catheter-associated urinary tract infection, research related to catheter associated biofilm detection would be an urgent requirement in the developing countries such as Sri Lanka. Detection of biofilm formation and to find strategies to control the biofilm formation are the most important areas for future therapeutic use. The findings of the research article *The Role of Bacterial Biofilms in Infections and Effective Prevention Strategies for Biofilm Formation in Urinary Catheters*, will contribute to generate new findings for the Sri Lankan 'healthcare' community.

Over the decades, the importance of Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) and Education in Sri Lanka has been recognized. There are policies formulated for many aspects including education, care and development of children. Yet, the policies regarding the care, education and development of the children who are under the age five have received less focus. Even though there are available policies, they contain ambiguities and depict shortcomings in the planning process of the policies. The study titled *A Critical Evaluation of the Ownership and Responsibilities of Early Childhood Care, Development and Education in Sri Lanka*, uses available policy documents and tries to critically evaluate the shortcomings and ambiguities in the policies. Furthermore, it presents the limitations in the policy planning regarding the early childhood care, development, and education in Sri Lanka. The main purpose of the study is to present the discrepancies in these available policies and to present areas in which policies should be more focused and planned.

The editorial team welcomes your suggestions to further improve this journal. We are also looking forward to publishing your current research findings in our next issue.

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