
A word from the editors

We are delighted to have the privilege of being the editors of the very first issue of the OLBI Working Papers. This publication continues the reflection begun at the first two CCERBAL conferences.

This first issue offers you six articles — two in French and four in English. These articles feature three facets of teaching or learning native, foreign and second languages. The first two articles deal with the integration of students into either the public school or the university systems. Sylvie Lamoureux focuses on how language planning policies in Ontario affect the choice of language for postsecondary education available to adolescents. Mary Maguire looks at multilingual children in Montreal region schools to highlight the need to recognize and value literacy in heritage languages. Both authors stress that the successful integration of students from different language communities will require good communication between the educators and policy makers.

The next two articles illustrate two foreign language learning experiences — one virtual, the other real. Stephen Carey describes a model for on-line training in English as an “other” language (EOL). The goal of these activities is to improve the foreign students’ academic English literacy in preparation for entrance into the globalized university system. Vera Regan investigates the sociolinguistic situation of Irish students in an immersion setting in France and compares it to that of immersion students in Canada. She concludes that the immersion experience should continue beyond the classroom.

The last two articles focus on immersion at the university level in Canada. Helene Knoerr is interested in the role of the university language teacher charged with developing both language competency and academic success for non-francophones taking in discipline courses in French. Alysse Weinberg and Sandra Burger analyze students’ perceptions of the linguistic activities offered in the language support courses which complement their content courses.

Happy Reading!

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