

Commentary Section

A Thought on Publication Trends in MEXTESOL JOURNAL, 1994-1999

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I would like to thank Chris Hall for his superb analysis of the articles that have appeared in the MEXTESOL Journal in the last five years (Hall, 2000). The years of working with the Journal were arduous and, in reality, the hardest part was always finding sufficient publishable articles. That is one reason the tradition of soliciting papers from plenary speakers was originally instituted. It always amazed me that it was easier to get articles from outside Mexico than from within. In fact, many of the international articles came, and apparently continue to come, unsolicited from countries such as Venezuela, Lebanon and Pakistan. I really wonder if the problem is *malinchismo* as Chris suggests or a lack of self-confidence. I know the international articles were selected for the Journal, not because they were superior to any locally grown equivalents, but rather to counteract a paucity of national production. Sometimes importation occurs, not because the consumer wants a foreign product, but because the national equivalent is non-existent. I believe many classroom teachers don't think they have anything to offer, very false premises since they are the ones who are most in touch with the reality of classroom experience. If they would just decide to communicate what they know, in English or Spanish, we would all be richer for that knowledge.

For many years I tried begging, threatening and just plain old asking for articles. I mentored and suggested. I guided and, occasionally, rewrote. But I never found a way to increase production. Now with more universities interested in our field, more articles should be coming out. Masters level students and COTE students should see the Journal as a place to try out their wings. I hope this is our future. But then, if it is, I worry about the results of relying on university sources. Will these academic sources change the Journal? Will we lose the classroom centeredness we have had for years and become another place to publish research results? Will our readership like this change? If we don't have a place to find "teaching tips" and "what to do next Monday", where should we look?

Reference

Hall, Christopher (2000). *Publication Trends in MEXTESOL JOURNAL, 1994-1999*. MEXTESOL Journal, 23, (4), 51-68.