

PREFACE

We are happy to publish the second number of Volume 38, although with some delay due to personal circumstances.

Our articles span all education levels, from the home to university, in contexts as diverse as Burundi and Zimbabwe.

The first article by **Maseko** deals with family language policy, specifically the decisions taken by parents and the ways in which children subvert these decisions. That children have agency in this regard and that they have a keen sense of the status of different languages is clear from the article. As Maseko points out, what may seem contradictory actions are seldom arbitrary and are informed by their context inside and outside the home.

In a discussion of the use of writing frames at primary school level, **Burger** links assessment for learning with the teaching of writing and finds that the writing frames as described in the CAPS document for English First Additional Language teaching in the Intermediate Phase (Grades 4 – 6) do not scaffold the development of writing skills sufficiently.

From the development of writing proficiency we move to oral proficiency development with **Mthembu's** contribution on high school teachers' perceptions of how they teach this skill. Comparing what teachers say they do (in interviews) to what actually happens in class (by means of observations), Mthembu concludes that although teachers have the requisite knowledge of curriculum requirements, they lack the practical training to translate this knowledge into practice.

The final contribution takes us to Burundi, where **Nizonkiza** and **Van de Poel** administered the *Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)* to higher education students over four years. In addition, students had to complete a questionnaire about their perceived language proficiency and the role of English in facilitating the entry of Burundi in the East African Community. In light of the results they suggest the development of English language courses and assessments that would support the language proficiency development of higher education students so that they can enter the job market in the East African Community and in so doing, benefit their country.

We hope you enjoy this diverse range of articles!

C van der Walt