

Sub theme:

The speaking and listening challenge

The listening and speaking challenge by Dr Bimali Indrarathne

Abstract

‘The listening and speaking challenge’ by Dr Bimali Indrarathne initiates the sub theme of listening and speaking. She argues that teaching listening and speaking has been an important topic in the English Language Teaching (ELT) field in Sri Lanka recently because there has been criticism on not giving the necessary emphasis to teaching listening and speaking in school.

Recently, steps have been taken to introduce listening and speaking assessment in the Sri Lankan schools. Thus, this topic received emphasis as one of the conference themes. She sees teaching listening and speaking in Sri Lanka as a challenge. It is questionable if the teachers have had necessary training on teaching and assessing listening and speaking, if necessary physical resources (e.g. recording devices, players etc.) are widely available in schools and if modern teaching materials are available. However, this is also the best time to consider the content of listening and speaking instruction.

In this paper, she discusses the current global trends on teaching pronunciation, listening and speaking which can be considered when planning the content of school curriculum in the new initiative to introduce listening and speaking assessment in Sri Lanka.