English to the World: Teaching grammar made easy


Reviewed by David Cole, University of Tasmania

The author sets up this slim but readable volume in terms of a ‘CLT framework’. This acronym refers to the Communicative Language Teaching context, which incorporates the teaching of grammar as both an implicit and explicit activity. In the first chapter, Geyser goes on to explain the correct teaching of grammar in the CLT environment. The points that are made with respect to correct grammatical instruction include: that young learners should be taught grammar differently to older learners, as they pick up rules in a less rigid manner, and that expert English learners will react differently to the teaching of complex grammar rules than novice English learners, as they will have a greater ability to incorporate the rules into their more sophisticated repertoires of English language usage. The first chapter positions the book with respect to CLT, and makes grammar a focused yet flexible part of this potential environment for ELT.

The second and third chapters of this book present a range of clear ideas for teaching and testing English grammar. The author articulates the classroom strategies in a straightforward manner, so that the English teacher may use this book as a ready-to-go resource for generating grammar teaching ideas. The teaching applications are practical and designed to be included in fast and interactive English teaching and learning scenarios. Geyser makes the point that his strategies for teaching and testing are not isolated drill and repetition exercises, but should be matched with the student's needs and the communicative focus of the sessions. The last chapter presents useful ELT resources in the shape of web sites and books.

Overall, this is a worthwhile publication that presents some good ideas for teaching grammar. It also importantly integrates these ideas into a positive communicative context, whilst discussing the theory and framework that upholds such as language teaching and learning position.

David R Cole.