



Editorial Comment

Angela J. Fawcett

It is a very great pleasure to publish the 7th issue of this new journal, the Asia Pacific Journal of Developmental Differences, which is published by the Dyslexia Association of Singapore. The response to the previous issues has been extremely gratifying, and we intend to maintain these high standards in this issue and forthcoming issues. We have now amassed an even stronger editorial board, and I am grateful for the support of the academics and professionals involved. Once again this year, we are proud to note that the 2016 Pisa results demonstrate that standards in the region remain high, outstandingly so in Singapore.

In this issue we present seven articles, the majority of which are drawn from the Asian context. This issue of the journal includes a series of interesting experimental studies, after the initial review paper.

The first article from Professor Kevin Chung from Hong Kong, presents a review of dyslexia and the impact that it has in the Chinese language. This article is particularly relevant for the Asian context, and helped me to understand for the first time the differences grammatically between Chinese and English. These must impact heavily on

Chinese speakers in their written English, particularly for those who are dyslexic and struggling with the complexities of English.

An interesting experimental study on prospective memory in dyslexic adults, in comparison with controls is provided by Dr James Smith-Spark, who was a former PhD student of mine at Sheffield University. This is a particularly insightful study, highlighting one of the major issues for dyslexics across the age range, that impacts on the organisational skills of dyslexic adults. A brilliant accompaniment to this academic article, is the qualitative study by Neil Alexander-Passe on the impact of being married to a dyslexic. Read these two articles together and they provide an outstanding insight into the difficulties that dyslexia can create for adults and their families, an issue that has not yet been fully recognised across Asia, despite the sterling help provided for children at school age.

In the next section, Professor John Everatt from New Zealand and colleagues consider the impact of locus of control on anxiety and self-esteem in a large group of Arabic speaking students who show deficits in a reading, spelling and maths. The authors demonstrate that those with

multiple deficits show increased anxiety, whereas poor spelling seems to be more specifically linked to low self-esteem, and that those with balanced locus of control show the predicted link between self-esteem and achievement. The implications for different languages and cultures make an impressive contribution to the literature in the area.

Maintaining the self-esteem theme, a paper from Dr Amanda Kelland from the University of South Wales, Newport and Sharen Ong from DAS shows how the use of visual images by adolescents with dyslexia allows them to express their feelings about their dyslexia more coherently and openly. Edmen Leong from DAS presents another experimental study on the use of visual images as an aid in structuring reading comprehension, avoiding the over-dependence on print or memory that impacts on achievement for most dyslexics. Finally, Dr Suvarna Rekha Chinta from the IIIT Cognitive Science Lab, Hyderabad, India, presents a controlled study of dyslexic and normal achievers eye movements while reading English, Hindi and Teluga. The results show that dyslexic readers made longer saccades, longer fixations, more regressions and longer reading times, with highly significant changes in fixation duration for English, but not the Indian languages.

In conclusion, this is a particularly strong set of articles, all with implications for the Asia Pacific context, and we hope that you will enjoy this issue and continue to contribute your articles for review.

We wish you all the best for 2017