Note from the Editor

The Editorial Committee of Thammasat University's *Journal of Studies in the English Language* is pleased to present the first issue of Volume 18 (January-June 2023). This issue includes two academic papers that discuss English literature and two empirical studies that analyze English text through text linguistics/corpus-based approaches. In addition to presenting these four papers, we would like to announce an update to the current Editorial Advisory Board, but first we wish to offer our sincerest thanks to all the members of the previous board for their commitment to our journal over the last several years. We are very grateful for their time and expertise, and wish them continued success in their academic and professional careers. From July 2023, our Editorial Board will consist of a more balanced representation of scholars from around the world, as well as more accurately reflecting our aims and scopes as we continue to pursue inclusion in the Scopus database. A full list of our new Editorial Advisory Board can be seen on the journal website.

Our first paper is from Lao Xin Qin, a Chinese graduate from Chiang Rai Rajabhat University, Thailand. Qin takes a functional approach to sentence analysis to explore how IELTS exam writers tie questions into reading passages by reformulating various sentence patterns and lexical patterns. By analyzing 12 academic reading texts and their accompanying questions, Qin shows how "being" and "doing/seeing" patterns account for the majority of sentence patterns in the sampled reading texts, where "other noun phrases" and "other prepositional phrases" make up the bulk of verb complements. The author then builds a convincing argument as to how exam writers can ensure better links between the language of reading passages and the questions they draft.

Our second paper is authored by Tanrada Lertlaksanaporn from Thammasat University, Thailand. In this literature-based paper, the author focuses on gender performativity in one of the earliest published works on gender transformation: Lili Elbe's 1933 *Man into Woman*. Drawing on Judith Butler's views of gender as performativity, Lertlaksanaporn examines how Einar Magnus Andreas Wegener, the birth name of Lili Elbe, the book's protagonist, performs gender through activities, behaviors, clothing, and sex reassignment surgery. The author concludes that, through the lens of gender performativity, becoming a woman for Lili is more than just undergoing sex reassignment surgery, as her successful transformation is also dependent on her embracing performativity and sharing this performance with the society of the time.

The third paper in this issue is authored by Mintra Tantikijrungruang, another scholar from Thammasat University, Thailand. This paper advances a new approach towards studying Grosseteste's scientific works. Specifically, the author applies phenomenology to discuss how Grosseteste's perception of mind and body shapes his experiences and experimentations. The author shows how the three components of mind/body/environment are interwoven, interdependent, and inseparable in Grosseteste's Neoplatonism beliefs, and that his mind and body consciously found its place in his practicing of science through theorization and his observations inspired by faith.

Our final paper is an empirical study looking at language choices in two newspapers: The *New York Time* and *China Daily*. By focusing on recent coverage of the Xinjian Cotton controversy in both newspapers, Xuying Chen shows how the language of appraisal (or evaluative stance) is used to construct similar, yet different representations of the same news event. Specifically, Chen argues that the *New York Times* applies more affect (emotional evaluations)

and appreciation (aesthetic evaluations), but less judgement (ethical evaluations) than the *China Daily*, resulting in more subjective and emotional positions in the former newspaper. The author concludes that such language choices help construct positive us-representations and negative them-representations in each respective newspaper.

Neil Bowen
Editor-in-Chief