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Department of General & Applied Linguistics

Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences

The University of Waikato

Private Bag 3105

Hamilton, New Zealand

Phone: +64-7-838 4932

Fax: +64 -7-838 4788

Email: linguistics@waikato.ac.nz

<http://www.waikato.ac.nz/wfass/go/appl>

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Foreword

It is again with pleasure that I am introducing the *Working Papers in Applied Linguistics* from the Department of General and Applied Linguistics, University of Waikato, Hamilton, New Zealand. Volume 9 contains a collection of “best” assignments written by students in the two programmes in our Department, the Postgraduate Diploma in Second Language Teaching (PGDipSLT) and the MA (Applied) in Applied Linguistics. In addition, we are very pleased to include an assignment from our new undergraduate paper, *An Introduction to Skills Based Second Language Teaching and Learning*. All assignments were written as part of formal paper requirements during the 2006 academic year.

Students develop their ideas in many different areas within our Applied Linguistics papers, and this collection contains a variety of topic themes ranging from the role of vocabulary knowledge, to the linguistics features of morphology and how then can be used for teaching, from text book and language programme evaluation, to classroom observation and validity and reliability in reading assessments, from an analysis of letters to the editor to the initial design and development of a research project and a review of the Interaction and Output hypotheses. As in every year, Volume 9 contains only a fraction of the excellent academic work that our students produce each year, but it provides a sampling of different themes and perspectives in the teaching and learning of languages.

Assignments are arranged by paper number beginning with the undergraduate paper, the Postgraduate Diploma in Second Language Teaching, followed by assignments from the MA (Applied) in Applied Linguistics. On behalf of the Department, I wish to thank all of the dedicated student authors whose work appears here and wish them every success in their future careers.

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Lucy Campbell,
Editor, Volume 9, *Working Papers in Applied Linguistics*
University of Waikato, Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences
Department of General & Applied Linguistics
Private Bag 3105, Hamilton, New Zealand
Phone: 64 (7) 858 5124
Fax: 64 (7) 838 4788
Email: lucy@waikato.ac.nz

Department of General & Applied Linguistics
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