

FOREWORD

The present issue of *BELLS — Barcelona Language and Literature Studies —* (1999) is the second monographic volume in the *Bells: English Language and Linguistics* series. It contains two different sections.

The first part is a collection of articles and papers on autonomous learning contributed by speakers at the 6th International Conference on Developing Autonomous Learning, held in Barcelona in September 1997. This work group, which started as the Nordic Conference on Developing Autonomous Learning, first met at Køge, Denmark in 1986. The subsequent venues were Helsinki, Finland, 1987; Bergen, Norway, 1989; Karlstad, Sweden, 1991; and Copenhagen, Denmark, in 1995. 1997 was the first time the conference moved away from its origins in northern Europe, where it will convene again in 2000 (Helsinki).

The Conference on Developing Autonomous Learning is a highly interactive meeting, usually attended by a previously negotiated and limited number of people working in the area of learner autonomy worldwide, with input sessions preceded and followed by intensive group work, shared discussion and specialised group gatherings to negotiate new research projects in this area. The 6th edition, for which I had the honour to serve as co-ordinator, was held at the University of Barcelona from the 3rd to the 6th of September, 1997.

The second part of *BELLS 1999:10* contains a selection of articles by teachers and researchers in the area of the teaching and learning of English as a foreign language both in language schools and in other educational settings.

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Editor