

Prof. Jack C. Richards

Biodata

Professor Jack Richards is an applied linguist, teacher educator, and textbook author, who has held senior positions in universities in New Zealand, Hawaii, and Hong Kong and is currently based in Sydney Australia where he is an honorary professor at the University of Sydney. He also teaches part of each year at the Regional Language Centre in Singapore and in 2013 will be a distinguished visiting professor at the City University of Hong Kong.. He holds a Ph.D from Laval, University, Quebec.



Professor Richards has written many books and articles on language teaching methodology and teacher training, as well as many widely used classroom texts. He has active interests in music and the arts also supports a number of scholarship programs, is a sponsor of numerous musical activities and commissions from contemporary New Zealand composers, and with Creative New Zealand jointly sponsors the Composer in Residence Program at Victoria University, Wellington. He hosts a series of summer concerts at his New Zealand residence in support of the Gisborne International Music Competition. Professor Richards was recently be awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Literature by Victoria University, Wellington, for his services to education and the arts.

website: www.professorjackrichards.com

Abstract

Creativity in Language Teaching

The concept of effective teaching draws on many different qualities that teachers bring to their classes – reflecting the knowledge, skills and understanding they have built up from their professional education and from their experience of teaching. One quality among the many that characterize effective teachers is the ability to bring a creative disposition to teaching. In second language teaching creativity has also been linked to levels of attainment in language learning. Many of the language tasks favoured by contemporary language teaching methods are believed to release creativity in learners – particularly those involving student-centred, interaction-based, and open-ended elements, and are therefore ideally suited to fostering creative thinking and behaviour on the part of learners. In order to better understand the nature of creative teaching, the notion of creativity will be explored from three different perspectives:

1. *the qualities creative teachers possess.*
2. *how teachers apply creativity in their teaching.*
3. *how creativity can be supported in the school.*

Examples will be based on accounts of how creative teachers' conceptualize their approaches to teaching.