



## **EDITORIAL**

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### **Dear JALDA Reader**

In an interview with JALDA, Wendy Steiner (2021) raises questions about ‘applied literature,’ a subject JALDA claims to cover alongside ‘applied linguistics.’ Before that, Farshid Sadatsharifi (2019), an Iranian scholar working on ‘applied literature’ in the context of Persian Literature, had partly answered such questions by stating that “... once in the academic context, literature is driven into a set of enclaves that are diminutive and far from everyday ordinary life” (p.3). For him, applied literature as part of literary studies sets literature free from the confinement of academic context and brings literature into everyday life. Examples for applied literature are the employment of language used in great literary works in the advertising industry, journalism, oratory and the like, which can lead to a systematic handling of each case for the sake of bridging the gap between literature and everyday life. (Other examples for applied literature by Sadatsharifi can be found in his interview with JALDA.)

One might argue that literature has undoubtedly everyday uses because literary works are written and published and read by people all over the world. This is a significant point that should be considered by both those working on literature and those working on applied literature. Although not ‘natural,’ what happens beyond the confinement of academic context in the ‘real’ world is of enormous value to those in academic contexts who are employed and paid to, partly at least, solve problems and improve peoples’ lives. The fact that there are people such as Sadatsharifi concerned about applied literature in academic contexts implies that the problem is inside university, not outside it. Life goes on outside universities with ‘literature for people’ alongside many other things. But some academics have realized that the relationship between knowledge and the ‘real’ world does not seem agreeable, although there are movements in literary studies that claim for their affinity to and connection with ‘reality.’ This topic, like any topic in today’s

multifarious views of things, requires essential debates and discussions to make the topic fruitfully operational. Hereby those interested in the topic are courteously invited to contribute to it through JALDA. (We are recently receiving relevant articles, which is a promise for a clearer future.) Meanwhile, one suggestion is intended here to be used as an entrance to the field: Let's replace the top-down theory-oriented approaches to literature, a common activity in humanities and social sciences, with bottom-up approaches, a strategy to observe the 'real' world. The realizations of bottom-up approaches in the discipline of linguistics can be, say, corpus linguistics, in applied linguistics, which applies the findings in linguistics to different real world issues, again corpus linguistics as well as systematic study of context-bound issues in foreign language learning and teaching (FLLT) as suggested by Dakowska (2018), and in literature, the role it might play in the 'real' world and how literary texts might be read for contextual purposes. Theories within the confines of universities should give way to life world elements to enter universities so that the gap between universities and the real world could be overcome by two way bridges. (See Behin, *Applied Literature: Literature and Life World* (Forthcoming)).

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