

2008 will be rightly remembered in time to come as the year in which not just one but three major contributions to leadership and management in the particular context of language training organisations were published. This review deals primarily with Christison and Murray and Coombes et al; White et al has been reviewed earlier. Each of the books has, perhaps inevitably, some similarities to the other two but also some significant differences. All three complement each other in interesting ways and provide a considerable resource for those with an interest in this subject area.

Both Christison and Murray and Coombes et al are the result of considerable collaboration between several editors and a substantial number of subject experts in the different fields represented at in each book; this feature is indicative in itself of a major achievement: to have been able to produce coherent and substantial books that can draw on expertise in different parts of the world and in different areas of language teaching management. Both books are supported by substantial bibliographies to provide direction towards further reading. Both books under review have a strong North American focus.

Christison and Murray introduces a wide range of recent management thinking about leadership in general and strives valiantly to relate this to the context in which education, especially language teaching and training, operates. A substantial part of the book is devoted to the skills that are needed by an effective and successful leader in this field. A particular merit that will be appreciated by many is the inclusion of a number of substantial activities, tasks and exercises to encourage the reader to relate the general principles to the particular context in which (s)he works.

Coombes et al in Part 1 provides a model of the theoretical concepts and models that are current in this broad subject area. The next two parts deal with the skills required by an effective leader, drawing on real world and practical guidance that can help in areas such as time management and presentation skills as well as meeting management and handling conferences. Part 4 considers leadership aspects of managing in functional areas of a language training organisation. Finally, in Part 5 some of the issues raised in the earlier chapters are related to take the particular environment of those working in public schools in North America.

Both books can be recommended to experienced managers and administrators in the field as well as those who aspire to a career in leadership and management in language training organisations, schools, colleges and universities.

Arthur McKeown, University of Ulster

*Leadership in English Language Education - Theoretical Foundations and Practical Skills for Changing Times*, edited by MaryAnn Christison, Denise E. Murray, Routledge, London, 2008, 288 pages, £26.99, ISBN: 978-0-8058-6311-6

*Leadership in English Language Teaching and Learning*, by Christine Coombe (Editor), Mary Lou McCloskey (Editor), Lauren Stephenson (Editor), Neil J. Anderson (Editor), Jun Liu (Preface), University of Michigan Press, Ann Arbor, 2008, 248 pages, £31.50, ISBN: 978-0472032594

*From Teacher to Manager: Managing Language Teaching Organizations*, by Ron White, Andrew Hockley, Melissa S. Laughner, Julie van der Horst Jansen, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2008, 294, £25.00, ISBN: 978-0521709095