

Dr. Merrill Swain



Dr. Merrill Swain is Professor Emeritus in the Department of Curriculum, Teaching and Learning at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education of the University of Toronto. She has taught and conducted research at OISE/UT for 40 years. Her interests include bilingual education (particularly French immersion education) and second language learning, teaching and testing. Her present research focuses on the role of collaborative dialogue and “linguaging” in second language learning within a Vygotskian sociocultural theory of mind framework.

Dr. Swain was President of the American Association for Applied Linguistics in 1998-99, and a Vice President of the Executive Board of the International Association of Applied Linguistics (AILA) from 1999-2005. She is recipient of the 2003 Robert Roy Award which is given to “an outstanding Canadian second language educator who has been active in the second language professional community in teaching, research, and writing, and is dedicated to the improvement of second language teaching and learning in Canada”. She is also the recipient of the American Association for Applied Linguistics’ 2004 Distinguished Scholarship and Service Award, and of the 2007 *Language Learning* Distinguished Visiting Scholar Award at the Beijing Foreign Studies University.

Dr. Swain’s most recent book, co-authored with Linda Steinman and Penny Kinnear is *Sociocultural Theory and Second Language Education: An Introduction through Narratives* (Multilingual Matters). Other recent books include: *Researching Pedagogic Tasks: Second Language Learning, Teaching and Testing* (Longman’s) co-edited with Martin Bygate and Peter Skehan; and *Immersion Education: International Perspectives* (CUP) co-edited with Keith Johnson. Dr. Swain is author of over 120 articles published in refereed journals, as well as author of over 90 book chapters. She has given talks and workshops in many parts of the world, most recently in Australia, Brazil, China, Korea, Japan, Hong Kong, Ireland, New Zealand, Spain, the UK and the USA. Dr. Swain is a member of 10 Editorial Advisory Boards of journals in Applied Linguistics. She has supervised over 60 Ph.D. theses and been a member of an additional 61 Ph.D. theses committees. Merrill received an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Vaasa in Finland in May of this year.