

Professor Averil Coxhead abstract, Wednesday, 10 March, 09:00 UK time: *Researching vocabulary in another language: Lessons from trades, Talanoa and Tongan*

Research in vocabulary studies moves in somewhat mysterious ways. Well-laid plans can change trajectory quickly in any situation, let alone a global pandemic. This talk is inspired in part by the words of Allen Curnow, a New Zealand poet. He wrote, 'Simply by sailing in a new direction, you could enlarge the world'. I plan to focus on two recent pieces of research that have influenced and/or changed my approaches to methodology and expanded my lexical horizons. The first comes from the Language in Trades Education (LATTE) project, which involved collecting spoken and written corpora in four trades from a polytechnic in Wellington, New Zealand. This corpus collection was like no other and the study opened my eyes to teaching and learning in new contexts, including ways to manage classroom learning based on a Samoan system. The second piece of research came from the LATTE project and it focused on translating technical vocabulary in English to Tongan, using a Pasifika methodology called Talanoa. This research challenged my Western approaches to research and caused me to slow down (in a very good way) and focus on some of the less tangible elements of the project. The talk will end with some implications for my own research and perhaps for the field more generally.

Registration:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScDiHlbj9KZZvfUHTuJR1VV3IOdSmwJV_1JnqOmCn8uF8Mzyw/viewform

Biography: Averil is a Professor in Applied Linguistics in the School of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies. She teaches courses on second language learning in undergraduate TESOL and the MA in Applied Linguistics/TESOL programmes. Averil has taught in New Zealand, England, Estonia, Hungary and Romania. Her current research includes specialised vocabulary in the trades, at university and secondary school. One element of Averil's research involves developing and evaluating word lists.