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Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo

Cambridge University Press  
 The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 2RU, UK

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)  
 Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9780521612319](http://www.cambridge.org/9780521612319)

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First published 2006

Printed in the United Kingdom at the University Press, Cambridge

*Typeface* 9/11pt Sabon *System* QuarkXPress™

*A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library*

*Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data*

Senior, Rose M.

The experience of language teaching / Rose M. Senior. – 1st ed.

p. cm. – (Cambridge language teaching library)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 0-521-61231-4 – ISBN 0-521-84760-5

1. Language and languages–Study and teaching. I. Title. II. Series.

P51.S42 2006

418.0071–dc22

2005033655

ISBN–13 978-0-521-84760-5 hardback

ISBN–10 0-521-84760-5 hardback

ISBN–13 978-0-521-61231-9 paperback

ISBN–10 0-521-61231-4 paperback

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*To language teachers everywhere*

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## Acknowledgements

This book would not have been possible without the input and support of a number of people. First and foremost, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all the teachers who provided data for this book. In particular I would like to thank the teachers who participated in the second phase of the research, and who allowed me not only to interview them on a regular basis, but also to observe them teaching their lessons. I would also like to thank my colleagues at Curtin University who have surrounded and supported me over the years.

Certain individuals have been instrumental in helping me to refine my understanding of communicative language teaching. These include Zhichang Xu, with whom I spent many happy hours comparing and contrasting teaching approaches in Australia and China, and Paul Mercieca, who provided invaluable feedback on Chapters 2, 3 and 11. Vera Irurita cast her experienced eye over Chapter 1 and checked that I had provided an accurate representation of grounded theory development procedures, while Tony Marshall was kind enough to discuss the biological images in Chapter 12.

My most heartfelt thanks go to two people, without whom this book would not have come into being. The first is Michael Breen, who has unfailingly encouraged and supported me in my research. My work has benefitted greatly from Mike's critical input, always given with great generosity and sensitivity. The second person who has helped me to achieve my goal of writing this book is my husband Clive, who has supported me steadfastly in so many ways and with considerable patience and endurance. I could not have written this book without his good-humoured scepticism and consummate editorial skills.

## Preface

### *Why I've written this book*

I've written this book for a number of reasons. I've always wanted to share with others the wealth of insights that I've collected over the years through interviewing language teachers about their work. As my database has grown, so the pressure to share its contents with others has also built. Writing this book has given me the opportunity to synthesise and present the insights of language teachers in what I hope is an interesting and readable format.

Writing this book is also a way of expressing my sincere gratitude to all those teachers who have been so generous with their time, allowing me to interview them in depth. I feel I owe it to them to bring into the public domain their thoughts, feelings, practices and concerns – even though their identities remain hidden. I've found language teachers to be a dedicated, principled and articulate group of people – and I believe that their voices need to be more strongly heard.

I've enjoyed writing this book. Although the process of writing and rewriting text is enormously laborious and time-consuming, it can also be intensely satisfying and rewarding. This is particularly true when words can be found to express new concepts, when chapters begin to take shape, when sections fall into place – and when a coherent picture eventually starts to emerge.

I hope this book will make a useful contribution to the associated fields of classroom language teaching and classroom-based research. Living in the most isolated city in the world has, in a strange kind of way, been something of an advantage. Although in this electronic age physical distance is illusory rather than real, my physical isolation has enabled me to observe and to reflect upon current trends and debates in language teaching from a distance. This book marks the end of that isolation. I hope that the teacher insights presented here will contribute to current discussion and debate, and perhaps increase our understanding of what it means to be a language teacher.

Rose Senior  
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