
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 23 DECEMBER 2010

English's demise as the world's dominant language

British linguist Nicholas Ostler challenges the current popular view that English will remain the world's lingua franca forever.

World Language Report Raises Concerns for School Board

School Board members in West Hartford, CT say they want a continuing dialogue on the philosophy and mission of teaching foreign language in the elementary schools.

Linguistic Risk Taking vs. Academic Study

Being a linguistic risk taker can increase your functional fluency. This risk takers are out talking to people, making friends and living in the language but may continue to make many mistakes because they did not have the academic training. Is it better to say little and be right, or say a lot, be understood but use the wrong words/grammar in the foreign language?

Better to Use a Translator for Calls and E-Mails

What's the best way to communicate with a new business associate in China? Experienced China hands agree that using a skilled interpreter to make a call or to translate the text of an e-mail message into Chinese is ideal.

Failure to Communicate – Could the U.S. mission in Afghanistan fall apart simply because of bad translation?

U.S. troops rely on translators. Imagine filtering your use of English through a translator who didn't attend college, was never your buddy and didn't grow up with your American slang that we take for granted. The chances for error or insult multiply rapidly. Can we fail because of the failure to communicate?

PREVIOUS NEWS

GAPP to Regulate Foreign Language Use in Publications

China's General Administration and of Press and Publication (GAPP) recently released a public notice concerning increased regulation of foreign language print materials.

Lawmakers Vote to Allow Foreign-Language Schools in Armenia

Armenian lawmakers on Wednesday voted overwhelmingly to adopt a controversial bill essentially allowing teaching at schools in a language other than Armenian.

Imitation Easiest Way to Grasp a Foreign Language

A Dutch study finds that people who copy speech of another foreign language speaker have a better comprehension in learning the new language.

Cambridge's MLK School to introduce Mandarin immersion program

The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. School in Cambridge, MA will become the first public school in New England to operate a Mandarin Chinese immersion program when the initiative is deployed in September 2011.

Switching Channels – India should think beyond familiar ways of dealing with China

It would be inconceivable for school students in Ukraine not to be able to choose Russian as a foreign language or for schools in Slovakia not to have German as a choice. Should not Indians have the same choice for Chinese?

[IU establishes Swahili Flagship program for undergraduate education](#)

The College of Arts and Sciences at Indiana University Bloomington today announced the establishment of an undergraduate Swahili Flagship program, to be led by Alwiya Omar, clinical associate professor in the Department of Linguistics. The Swahili Flagship, with a three-year grant of \$600,000, will be IU's second such advanced language program, joining the [Chinese Flagship](#) that was begun in 2008. It will be only the second African Languages Flagship in the nation.

[Top Countries for Expat Families](#)

According to a recent survey by **HSBC Bank International**, children living abroad [benefit from better education, higher safety levels and improved health and well-being](#). These little ones are also more likely to learn a foreign language (84%), play more sports (47%) and spend additional time with their families (53%). The downside for families is that the cost of childcare and expense of raising kids is likely to increase with a move to another country.

[New Russian Flagship Center: University of Wisconsin-Madison](#)

UW-Madison Russian Flagship Program is an innovative new undergraduate program that offers highly motivated students in any major the opportunity to reach a professional level of competence ([ACTFL Superior/ILR 3](#)) in Russian. The Russian Flagship Program increases students' opportunities to delve into Russian language and culture through intensive courses, more advanced courses, and more individual time with instructors and native speakers.

[Female Engagement Team in Helmand Province](#)

Video of life as part of a Female Engagement Team within the Helmand province.

[After 4 Decades, Harvard Opens Door To ROTC](#)

(Boston Globe)...Tracy Jan

Harvard University will welcome ROTC back to campus now that Congress has repealed a ban on gays and lesbians serving openly in the military, university president Drew Faust said.

[Cherry Hill principal breaks down language barrier](#)

When Joyce Kilmer Elementary School Principal Kwame Morton tried to help a new family adjust on the first day of school this year, it made him think back to when he was playing professional basketball for a team on Venezuela's Margarita Island. "I felt really out of place," he recalled. "I could not get the words right and communicate. I went to a fast-food restaurant and couldn't even explain that I needed ketchup." The memory came rushing back in September, when he discovered the new family -- who spoke only Spanish -- sitting outside his office after the first day of school had ended. "They were there seeking help in filling out all the paperwork we sent home," he said. "It made me reflect on my time in Venezuela and I thought, "Wow. Maybe we need to do something to make school more inclusive for our diverse families."

[Science Fiction Meets Multicultural Communications](#)

Video of Word Lens in use. Word Lens is a real-time translating app for the iPhone.

[Word Lens iPhone app allows instant translation of foreign languages](#)

A new [iPhone](#) app called Word Lens has been developed that instantly translates printed words from one language to another with a built-in video camera, in real time! Just by pointing the phone's camera at signs in foreign languages the [iPhone](#) app instantly translates text right in front of you. The app works without an internet connection. The free-to-download app, which uses optical character recognition technology to translate words on the fly, gives you translation on the go: results appear immediately on your video screen when you need it, anywhere in the world.