

---

---

## **DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE**

---

---

### **CURRENT NEWS 18 OCTOBER 2010**

#### **New colonel takes command of Air Force Intel Group**

During the ceremony Meyer expressed appreciation to his wife Sherry for her loyalty and support. Then he turned to the group's Airmen and spoke to them. "This is an honor that few people will receive in their lifetime," said Meyer. "About 15 years ago, I sat in a classroom at DLI [Defense Language Institute] alongside Arabic linguists and I was floored at the amount of intelligence and maturity that I saw displayed in that classroom. You are literally a national treasure...You are the most brightest and motivated linguists and analysts in our government, not just our Air Force...My wife and I are here to serve and I am thrilled and honored to be amongst you as your new commander." He was an Air Force National Defense Fellow assigned to the Office of the Director of National Intelligence for academic year 2008-2009. During his fellowship, his research focused on cultural intelligence, information operations, and social networking tools for public diplomacy.

#### **Linguistics conference examines the myriad roles of human language**

Faculty in Penn's Department of Linguistics study topics as varied as mathematical linguistics, philosophy of language and speech perception and have an array of academic backgrounds, from psychology to computer science. It's this message of convergence that is at the heart of the Department's upcoming conference, the 41st Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistic Society (NELS), Oct. 22 through 24, here at Penn. Speaking at the conference will be two giants of the linguistics field: Penn alum Noam Chomsky, a professor of linguistics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), and William Labov, professor of linguistics at Penn, who first came to the University in 1971.

#### **Lanka seeks Indian strategy on language gap**

India is willing to help Sri Lanka emulate its three-language education policy teaching Tamil in Sinhala dominated areas and Sinhalese to the Tamils in the island nation. Under India's three language formula, school children across India learn English, their mother tongue and a third language that depends on the most widely spoken language in their state. Minister Prof. G.L. Peiris during his tour of India had discussions in this respect with Indian Minister Kapil Sibal. A government veteran explained that the fundamental idea behind the three-language policy is to ensure that every child studies in his mother tongue and one national language, while also learning the basics of a third language that will help understand other cultures of the country.

#### **Global Language Online Support System (GLOSS)**

The Global Language Online Support System (GLOSS) online language lessons are developed for independent learners to provide them with the learning/teaching tools for improving their foreign language skills. Reading and listening lessons are based on authentic materials (articles, TV reports, radio broadcasts, etc.) and consist of 4 to 6 activities. The motivating tasks are accompanied with in-depth feedback that provide learners with thorough explanations and tutoring just like an attentive and experienced teacher would do. With more than 4,000 lessons, GLOSS is a valuable resource in maintaining and improving language ability of the learners. For more information, visit: <http://gloss.dliflc.edu/>.

#### **National Middle East Language Resource Center: Announcing hebrewCorpus**

We are pleased to announce *hebrewCorpus*, a new corpus that is available for free online. This corpus presents a variety of searchable texts in Hebrew. Sources include the Tanach, the Mishnah, nine Israeli newspapers, some early and modern fiction, subtitles from movies, transcribed interviews from the Corpus of Spoken Israeli Hebrew, academic journals, sessions of the Knesset, Wikipedia, and a few

others. All of these texts add up to over 150 million words. These texts are not tagged, since the morphological ambiguity of Hebrew makes doing so problematic, but the program does use part of speech filters that try to predict the part of speech based on structure and affixes. The program also uses regular expressions, which greatly enhance the searchability of the texts. Detailed instructions and a tutorial for the corpus are provided on the site. To begin using the corpus, go to <http://hebrewcorpus.nmelrc.org>. Click on register for free, and add your name and e-mail address to begin searching. You can also log in as a guest, but this is problematic since many users may log in as guest at the same time.

### **[How Can I Improve My Listening Skills in a Foreign Language?](#)**

If you want to improve your listening skills in a foreign language, this article is for you. I'm going to show you three simple, yet very effective and powerful ways to quickly notice a great improvement. Try these methods. Here they are: 1) watch movies; 2) listen to podcasts; and 3) speak with native speakers.

### **[Scientists refine their language skills](#)**

Yubo Chai and Cheng Jiang are a part of the research team at the Hormel Institute that's studying the effects of chemicals in foods like green tea on cancer prevention. Chai is a post-doctoral fellow and Jiang is a senior research associate. Both of them come from China. While Chinese is their native language, the language that the world scientific community speaks and writes is English, so the institute's researchers have to know how to write it and speak it fluently. That's where Dr. Fred Bogott, a semi-retired physician, comes in. In a meeting room on the institute's second floor early Tuesday, the researchers gathered around a table while Bogott manned the interactive computer screen on the wall. Today's lesson: to practice pronunciation using Thomas Edison's biography. Fine-tuning their English grammar skills enables researchers to make more presentations and get more papers published, which, in turn, helps when it's time to apply for research grants. "If you don't publish papers, you don't have a job," Bogott said.

## **[PREVIOUS NEWS](#)**

### **[Can bilingualism improve your brain's multitasking power? Je ne sais pas](#)**

Should parents raise their children bilingually – teaching them two languages from a very young age? It's a thorny subject, but as UCLA linguist Jared Diamond writes in an editorial in the journal [Science](#), knowing more than one language could improve your multitasking skills from infancy and delay the onset of Alzheimer's in old age.

### **[How testing improves memory](#)**

Quick — learn these Swahili words: *wingu* means cloud, a *lulu* is a pearl and *zabibu* means grape. Covering up the words and quizzing yourself is a better learning strategy than repeatedly reading the words, psychologists reported in the Oct. 15 *Science*. Self-testing strengthens the memory by creating keywords as clues for retrieving the word pairs later on. Scholars have long known the value of self-quizzing: "Exercise in repeatedly recalling a thing strengthens the memory," Aristotle wrote more than 2,000 years ago. But psychologists weren't sure why.

### **[Advanced foreign language classes dwindling](#)**

Offering foreign language programs has become a challenge as North Kitsap and Kingston high schools struggle with shrinking budgets. North Kitsap High and Kingston High offer three full language programs, half the amount offered by North Kitsap High a few years ago. "Colleges definitely smile on students who have stuck with learning a new language," said North Kitsap High Spanish teacher Michael Carnegie.

### **[Welcome to the UM Language Resource Center's Language Partner website](#)**

The purpose of this site is to provide a means for people at the University of Michigan, as well as people from the greater Ann Arbor area, to find others in the community who are interested in a foreign language conversation exchange. For instance, if you are a native speaker of English, but want to learn Chinese,

you could find someone here who is a native speaker of Chinese, and interested in learning English. This site is to be used as a resource to facilitate language practice and conversation only. Neither the Language Resource Center nor the University of Michigan endorses ANY participant in and/or from this site. Please participate at your own discretion and use good judgment before meeting any stranger.

### **Foreign language skill: Its importance in Indian tourism**

According to the Ministry of Tourism (MoT), Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) during the month of January 2010 were 4.91 lakhs as against 4.22 lakhs in January 2009 showing a growth of 16.4 per cent. The foreign exchange earnings (FEE) from tourism were ` 5,593 crores during the month of January 2010 as compared to ` 4,598 crores in January 2009. The top 15 countries for FTAs in India during 2009 are USA, UK, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Canada, France, Germany, Australia, Malaysia, Japan, the Russian Federation, China, Singapore, Nepal and Italy respectively. Generally, in the tourism sector, English is considered to be the most important medium of communication. But tourists will feel at home in another foreign country if they can communicate in their mother tongue. It will help them to be more confident and feel safe as well. Thus apart from English, there is a need for staff having knowledge of other foreign languages. The foreign language skill is invaluable when communicating with people of another country.

### **Babylon2Go translation app hits Android Market**

I am sure that there are lots of times when Android users are traveling or going about their day and they run across a word that then don't know be it in English or in a foreign language. There is also a lot of content online that we run across that needs translated. A new translation tool for Android users called [Babylon2Go](#) has landed on the Android market for download. The app is Android native and can be downloaded free. The app supports over 75 different languages. It has a large dictionary database as well so you can get meanings for words in your own language or others. You can grab the app right now and save yourself a trip to the Babylon website or others for translations.

### **No Korean diplomat can speak Farsi, Italian**

Despite the government's efforts to upgrade its diplomatic corps, foreign language skills of Korea's diplomats are steadily declining. And in some Korean missions abroad, such as Tehran and the Vatican, not one envoy can speak the local language. But according to Foreign Ministry records obtained by Grand National Party Representative Kim Hyo-jae yesterday, scores for the Test of English Proficiency developed by Seoul National University have been falling every year for ministry employees who are required to take the test yearly. In 26 countries, such as Iran, Thailand, Kuwait and the Vatican, no Foreign Ministry workers can speak the local language. An English oral proficiency test taken by civil servants above the fifth-grade rank has shown the average falling from 68.64 percent in 2008 to 65.11 percent last year. This year the average bottomed out at 64.37 percent.

### **13 Tongues, Three Years**

Elizabeth Gilbert ate, prayed and loved her way to best-sellerdom. Julie Powell cooked her way through Julia Child's oeuvre. And now Ellen Jovin, her book deal still in the aspirational phase, hopes to study her way to fame and fortune. Learning languages, that is. Italian, Chinese, German, Russian, French, Korean, Arabic; 13 languages in all over the course of three years, and lingering no more than three months on any particular one. She's 15 months into it.

### **Arabic sparks new passions**

Ever since the 9/11 terrorist attacks in 2001, there has been a nationwide surge in college-student enrollment in Arabic and study abroad in the Middle East. According to a study by the Institute of International Education, the number of American students spending their junior year in Arabic-speaking countries has increased six-fold, from 562 in 2002 to 3,399 in 2007. Khalil Barhoum, the coordinator of Middle Eastern and African Languages and Literatures at Stanford, notes that according to a recent survey conducted by the Modern Language Association, "Arabic enrollment at the university level has more than doubled nationally between 2004 and 2008, and so has the number of institutions offering programs over the same period, with 23,974 students currently enrolled in 466 programs around the country."

### **A state university retreats from language study**

The State University of New York at Albany has generated a stir in the higher education industry with its announcement this month that nearly all of its foreign language offerings will be discontinued, along with the theater department, because of budget cuts.

#### **Language classes decrease for spring**

As students plan their schedules with the newly released spring 2011 semester course offerings, they may notice changes to class sizes and availability. The most noticeable changes are in foreign language sections, where many departments are offering fewer courses or none at all. No courses in Portuguese, Japanese or Swahili will be offered this spring. Emily Batinski, chair of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, said there is hope for the languages to be restored to campus, but no one is sure when.

#### **U.S., China online education firms to merge**

Online education companies Eleutian Technology and Idapted Ltd said on Wednesday that they will merge, bringing together the U.S. and Chinese companies in the fast-growing \$100 billion market for online English instruction.