
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

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Lack of linguists hampers government's mission, officials say

Employees who can speak a foreign language are becoming more critical to federal missions, but officials say gaps in language capabilities are hampering work domestically and abroad. As agencies expand their global reach, they are scrambling to shore up language skills. But fiscal constraints are forcing trade-offs with other operational responsibilities, according to David Maurer, director of the [Government Accountability Office's homeland security](#) and justice team. The Defense, Homeland Security and State departments in particular are lagging in language capacity, he told the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce and the District of Columbia in July.

New interpreters save Yorkshire police forces £300,000

Police forces in Yorkshire say a drive to sign-up more language interpreters could mean a saving of up to £300,000. West Yorkshire Police - together with the North Yorkshire and Humberside forces - have encouraged people with foreign language skills to register. It is hoped up to 60 new interpreters will help cut mileage and travel costs. Terry Bradford, one of those taking part, said: "It is a very serious role. That is why I was interested in having a go. It will just be so challenging."

Hayle school becomes busy airport

The hustle and bustle of a busy airport descended on a Hayle Community School last week, to help pupils improve their language skills. The school was transformed into an arrivals and departure lounge, an airport concourse and an aircraft cabin thanks to a partnership with Newquay Airport. All the school's Year 10 pupils spent the day worked on developing their speaking language skills in French, German or Spanish and developing their understanding of the importance of languages in the business world.

How to Teach a Child Bilingual Reading

Bilingualism comes with many benefits for children, including a better ability to deal with distractions and faster mental processing.^[1] Bilingual reading ability is an important part of raising bilingual children; yet, for bilingual families, getting a child to start reading in both languages naturally could be a challenge. To avoid having to resort to tutoring at a later age, use the window of opportunity that parents can take advantage of to teach bilingual reading at home. This article explains the technique to use early in your child's life, and it's one that's easy, fun and free.

It's time to mind our languages

THE Englishman's fear of foreign tongues reached crisis levels this school year. An international study put Britain joint bottom of 39 of developed countries when it came to learning languages. Everyone agrees we start learning too late. That's why primary schools are now supposed to teach a foreign language from 7 to 11.

New syllabus for 2011 prelims out

Introducing a level-playing field for aspirants of India's elite services -- IAS, IFS, IPS and others -- the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has come out with a new syllabus for the 2011 [preliminary examination](#), which, besides aptitude and other skills, will also test candidates on their knowledge of "environmental ecology, biodiversity and climate change". The aspirants will also be tested for English language comprehension skills. As of now, the English language test is part of qualifying papers without having any weightage in the civil services (Main) examination. But its introduction in the preliminary level could mean a brighter chance for all those whose English language skills are better, to qualify for the

Main.

[Microsoft Research Collaborates With Wikipedia to Enhance Multilingual Content](#)

Microsoft Research today announced the launch of the beta version of WikiBhasha, a multilingual content creation tool for Wikipedia. The WikiBhasha tool enables contributors to Wikipedia to find content from other Wikipedia articles, translate the content into other languages, and then either compose new articles or enhance existing articles in multilingual Wikipedias.

PREVIOUS NEWS

[LEAP program grows with second selection board](#)

The Air Force Language and Culture Center added 260 participants from more than 400 active-duty officer and cadet applicants to the Language Enabled Airman Program during its selection board in September, officials said here Oct. 15. The Air Force program has grown since its first board, when 192 U.S. Air Force Academy and ROTC cadets were selected to be among the first LEAP participants, officials added. "The program continues to see quality applicants interested in the career-long opportunity, as witnessed in the number of top (Academy) and ROTC graduate applications we reviewed," said Lt. Col. Paul Valenzuela, the chief of the Language, Region and Culture Program Office.

[Department of Defense Language Interpretation and Translation Enterprises \(DLITE\)](#)

The purpose of the DLITE contracts is to provide DoD Enterprise entities and other government agencies and organizations with world class foreign language and regional expertise competencies for and to manage to maximize the accession, development, maintenance, enhancement, and employment of these critical skills appropriate to the Government's mission needs in an efficient and cost-effective manner. This is a hybrid Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) contract with multiple types of pricing structures available.

[Meeting on vernacular languages allows elaboration of linguistic action plan: Angola](#)

The general director of the Vernacular Languages Institute, José Pedro, stated in Uíge City that the IV National Meeting on Vernacular Languages will allow the elaboration of a Linguist Action Plan for Angola. While speaking at the opening of the event, happening until the 21st of October, he explained that since one of the objectives of the event is to update data on the sociolinguist situation of Angola, it will enable the institute to materialise such goal. José Pedro stressed that the document to be elaborated answers the demand of Africa Linguistic Plan of Action, as well as secures independence and cultural development of Angola, aimed at promoting national unity, developing vernacular languages and overcome some language barriers.

[NYU courses to be made freely available online](#)

NYU has launched a pilot Open Education program that will make taped lectures available to the public. The ambitious project cites Pennsylvania's university system, which is considering making foreign language courses online only.

[Spanish taught to younger students](#)

Un condado de Virginia Occidental enseña a los niños español y otros idiomas. You may not understand that, but Ohio County elementary school students might. It means a West Virginia county now teaches students Spanish and other languages. While that may sound commonplace, Ohio County has taken it to a new level. That county's elementary schools are now in their fifth year of a stepped-up foreign language program. The school system started the program in fall 2006 in the county's kindergarten classrooms. Since then, the school system has added another grade level each year. "What we wanted to do is follow our kindergarten students who had it the first time," deputy superintendent Dianna Vargo said. Next year the program will expand to include fifth-graders, completing the school system's goal of kindergarten-through-12th grade foreign language education.

Young minds receptive to foreign language: US children must learn earlier in order to further globalization

With the increasing globalization of our society, knowing a foreign language is essential to any career path, and for future generations of children growing up in America, it will be even more so. A major problem in public education today is the lack of foreign language requirements for students. For the most part, foreign languages aren't taught in public schools until high school and sometimes middle school, and this makes no sense. Most of these requirements are so small - as in only two years of a language - that they aren't enough for any student to become even close to fluent in a language. Many educational systems all over the world require students to take multiple languages and for many years, leaving them with a greater understanding not only of another country's language but also of its culture and how to interact with its people.

Company Develops Medical Language Translation Application

An Indianapolis-based company has developed a mobile phone application that could help first responders bridge any possible language gaps with accident victims. The Auri Group says its DuoChart application provides English-to-Spanish translations for medical terms and is also designed to help medical professionals in clinics and hospitals.

Merkel says German multicultural society has failed

Attempts to build a multicultural society in Germany have "utterly failed", Chancellor Angela Merkel says. She said the so-called "multikulti" concept - where people would "live side-by-side" happily - did not work, and immigrants needed to do more to integrate - including learning German. The comments come amid rising anti-immigration feeling in Germany. A recent survey suggested more than 30% of people believed the country was "overrun by foreigners". The study - by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation think-tank - also showed that roughly the same number thought that some 16 million of Germany's immigrants or people with foreign origins had come to the country for its social benefits.

LMS to offer Spanish immersion

Lancaster Mennonite School wants to join two Lancaster County schools in teaching students in both English and Spanish. LMS plans to pilot a Spanish immersion program next fall at its Locust Grove campus. Students in first grade would learn reading and writing in Spanish and get math, physical education, art and music instruction in English. The program would be open to native speakers of both languages, but it would be designed primarily for English speakers. If it proves successful, LMS would add additional immersion classes to a new grade each year, through grade six.

National IQ test two-hour special returns to Channel Nine next month

The two-hour special on Nine next month, hosted by Eddie McGuire and Livinia Nixon, will test viewers on a range of categories including language skills, memory and arithmetic.

Differentiated Instruction in Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL)

Presentation on defining and providing rationale for differentiated instruction in CLIL; explaining how to identify and expand students' learning strategies; and exploring ways to differentiate instruction for diverse learners.

South Asian Languages and Civilizations

The South Asia Language Resource Center is a collaborative effort funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education's International Education and Graduate Programs Service. The Language Resource Center at the University of Chicago is one of fifteen nationwide that exist to improve the capacity to teach and learn foreign languages effectively. SALRC primarily focuses on the needs concerning South Asian language pedagogy in American universities.

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.

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.