
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 18 NOVEMBER 2010

Children Learning Languages faster than Adults: The Argument Continues in Vietnam

A student enters the University of Mainz, Germany, with no prior knowledge of two foreign languages. Six years later, he emerges, a fully qualified UN-level interpreter or translator. The program doesn't allow children. The Defense Language Institute and the Monterey Institute specialize in teaching category three languages, the most difficult, to complete beginner adults, raising them to fluency in one year.

Female Engagement Team Brief given to CLC 39A at the CTC-A

Dr. LisaRe Brooks, of the Human Terrain Analysis Team with the support by LTC Teresa Wolfgang, commander for the 404th Civil Affairs Battalion, gave a brief about Female Engagement Teams (FETs) to the Counterinsurgency Leader Course 39A (CLC 39A) at the Counterinsurgency Training Center Afghanistan (CTC-A). FETs are a culturally sensitive means of analyzing and effecting the silent fifty percent of the population that is relatively unstudied. FETs are NOT a feminist movement. FETs are geared towards studying Afghan women, figuring out how to improve their lives, and therefore improve the lives of the Afghan families.

Department of Defense Language Interpretation and Translation Enterprise (DLITE)

Headquarters, US Army Intelligence and Security Command (INSCOM), Fort Belvoir, VA intends to solicit proposals on behalf of the Contract Linguist Program Support Office, INSCOM, for Department of Defense Language Interpretation and Translation Enterprise (DLITE) acquisition. DLITE is to provide foreign language support services and capabilities needed to meet ongoing, new, and/or changing mission requirement.

Committee wants to end Hathaway Scholarship language requirement

High school students might choose not to speak or learn another language and still be eligible for a coveted Hathaway Scholarship. The Legislature's Joint Education Committee endorsed a bill Wednesday that would remove the foreign language requirement for all levels of the state-funded program designed to encourage students to attend Wyoming's seven community colleges and the University of Wyoming. Currently students working toward the two highest levels of the scholarship must take at least two years of the same foreign language, one year of which must be taken in high school. Students eligible for the third and fourth levels must demonstrate proficiency in a language according to state standards.

China intensifies its official push to eliminate the Uyghur language from instruction

As Chinese officials in East Turkestan intensify a campaign to rid the region's schools of Uyghur language instruction under the rubric of a "bilingual education" (Chinese: 双语教育) policy, Uyghur students, parents and teachers have expressed anger over the implementation of the policy. A move by educational officials in Toksun County, located in Turpan Prefecture near the city of Turpan in the eastern part of the region, is emblematic of the policy's effects on Uyghur teachers subject to layoffs after years of teaching. The firing of Uyghur teachers has highlighted grievances among the Uyghur population with respect to "bilingual education", which many feel constitutes an attack on Uyghurs' core identity, and is also tied to concerns that a recent push for development in the region will primarily benefit ethnic Han Chinese and not Uyghurs and other Turkic "minority" groups.

Cuts will hit Welsh language teaching

Cutting Swansea University Modern Languages Department by 50 per cent will hit the university's status as Wales' leading Welsh-medium foreign language provider. That was the message of a Statement of

Opinion put to the National Assembly today as university managers consulted on plans to reduce posts from 22 to 10.

Koreans now learning Spanish

Many South Koreans are now coming to the Philippines to learn Spanish. Jose Rodriguez, Instituto Cervantes-Manila director, said the number of South Koreans enrolled at the Spanish-language school in Manila has dramatically rose to almost 7,000 students. "The key is **economics**," he said. "There are plenty of opportunities brought by knowing how to speak Spanish. "Spanish is a tool for business, employment. Your chances in getting a job, and getting higher pay are greater, especially in the BPO (business process outsourcing) industry."

UK Government Cuts Undermining Language Education

The English Trust for European Education (ETEE), the foremost non-profit organisation for the diffusion of European multi-literacy, has written to the School Minister Nick Gibb, urging him to reconsider putting on hold the highly successful reciprocal arrangement that allows the British Council to organise a sandwich year abroad for foreign language trainee teachers in order to acquire advanced language skills.

Official: Ukraine cops only barely pass on English skills

More than 38,000 Ukrainian police need to be capable of conducting a simple conversation in English to communicate with an estimated one million international visitors expected for the high-profile tournament, organizers have said.

Business Language Policy

As part of [International Education Week 2010](#), APEC has expanded on several themes of the seminar on "[Language Education: An Essential for a Global Economy](#)," to provide a guide for students and instructors interested in the critical importance of business language for strengthening business relations in a global context. These themes include [Business in the 21st Century](#); [Cross Cultural Awareness for 21st Century Business](#); [Language for 21st Century Business](#); [Business Language Learning](#); and Business Language Policy.

PREVIOUS NEWS

Ganbei!! China Embraces English Language

In an effort to promote internationalism, China is learning [English](#). In the next five years, all state employees younger than 40 will be required to master at least 1,000 English phrases, and all schools will begin teaching English in [kindergarten](#). The government also is funding extensive teacher training programs to find new models for language learning and develop new textbooks.

Science and Teacher Training Are On ELL Chief's Agenda

Rosalinda B. Barrera, the new director of the U.S. Department of Education's office of English-language acquisition, plans to use the "bully pulpit" of her office to draw national attention to the need for English-learners to receive high-quality science instruction.

Mobiles ring changes for oral Irish exam

STUDENTS could be allowed to use mobile phones as part of the Junior Certificate Irish test to how well they can speak the language. Instead of sitting down formally with an examiner, they would instead speak Irish into the phones and be marked on what they said. A pilot study called FON found that students were much more relaxed recording conversation into phones than facing adult examiners.

Chinese language classes for Danish kids

Danish children need to start learning Chinese, since China could soon become one of Denmark's biggest export markets, according to education minister Tina Nedergaard. The minister's views are supported by companies, councils and even the opposition, who all agree that Chinese should become an official school subject at the same level as French and German.

[UAlbany faculty senate blasts language cuts](#)

The University at Albany faculty senate voted on three resolutions that condemned the school's decision to phase out five majors. The senate vote does not have any binding authority, but it will be considered by UAlbany President [George Philip](#) before the final decision to suspend admissions to the French, Russian, Italian, classics and theater departments, spokesman [Karl Luntta](#) said. "The vote is advisory to the president," he said. "All comments are important to us."

[Foreign Language Classes for Adults Grow in Popularity](#)

Dozens of adults in our area are going back to school -- not to learn a new trade or job but a new language. It's a growing trend among local businesses to have their employees become bilingual for work. "Bano, bano, crenotare, crenotare," a class recites. It's an Italian class -- basic Italian -- for adults offered at St. Norbert College in De Pere. Nearly 100 people are learning a dozen different languages right now -- some for fun or to learn family heritage, but a growing number of students, like Andrew Bomstad, are doing it for work.

[Your brain on culture](#)

When an American thinks about whether he is honest, his brain activity looks very different than when he thinks about whether another person is honest, even a close relative. That's not true for Chinese people. When a Chinese man evaluates whether he is honest, his brain activity looks almost identical to when he is thinking about whether his mother is honest. That finding — that American and Chinese brains function differently when considering traits of themselves versus traits of others (*Neuroimage*, Vol. 34, No. 3) — supports behavioral studies that have found that people from collectivist cultures, such as China, think of themselves as deeply connected to other people in their lives, while Americans adhere to a strong sense of individuality.

[College Board to revive its AP test in Italian](#)

The College Board announced on Wednesday the revival of the Advanced Placement test in Italian, setting the stage for a renaissance in the study of the language of Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci in U.S. high schools. The program will be reinstated in fall 2011; the first tests will be given in spring 2012. The [College Board](#) eliminated AP Italian in a broader purge of four poorly enrolled AP tests in 2008 and 2009, the first substantial retrenchment in AP's five decades. Tests in Italian, Latin literature, French literature and computer science AB each attracted only a few thousand students a year, compared with hundreds of thousands in such popular subjects as U.S. history and English literature.

[Campuses Report Early Indication That Study Abroad is Rising](#)

A new survey by the Institute of International Education (IIE) and the Forum on Education Abroad has found that study abroad by U.S. college students was on the rise in 2009/10, after experiencing a slight downturn the previous year. After reporting decades of steady growth, reaching a high of 262,416 students studying abroad in 2007/08, IIE's *Open Doors* report showed that study abroad by U.S. students had decreased by just less than 1 percent for the 2008/09 academic year, when 260,327 students studied abroad for academic credit at their home institution.

[The World Beyond Reach](#)

Throughout my career, I have observed that the advanced study of languages is not universally valued in the American educational system. Even so, I was stunned by the announcement this fall that the State University of New York at Albany will eliminate major, minor, and graduate programs in French, Italian, Russian, and the classics (the German program was already reduced), along with theater. When financial exigencies hit, decisions to cut services and programs (and not just academic ones) must be made, but the Albany plan is astoundingly draconian: No European languages except Spanish will be taught beyond the early semesters, and 10 tenure-line faculty members will be let go.

[Cuts To University's Humanities Program Draw Outcry](#)

Public colleges and universities across the country are under the gun as state budgets face huge shortfalls. Universities are now ending low-enrollment programs and increasing class size. The State

University of New York has had to cut \$640 million from its budget, and the president of its Albany campus recently announced the suspension of five humanities programs, including French, Italian, Russian, classics and theater. "None of us accepted that it was something that a university could do and still call itself a university," Wills said. "This is not a university if you only have one non-English European language program left standing."

Central students walk to raise money for Language Lab

At Central Catholic High School, students take French and Spanish classes, but the language lab is so small it makes recording and listening inefficient. On Friday, the 1,340 students and 100 faculty members will walk 2.5 miles through downtown Lawrence with the goal of raising the \$120,000 needed to build a digital language learning laboratory.

New women's affairs director sets goals for Paktika

The Paktika Provincial Reconstruction Team's female engagement team conducted their first meeting with Hala Hushawa, Paktika's new director of women's affairs, here Nov. 7. Through questions, explanations and laughter, members of the FET established a relationship with Hushawa and learned how the PRT can assist her in meeting the needs of Paktika's females.

Brig. Gen. Belinda Pinckney: Why Diversity Is Critical to Engagement

Nine years after 9/11 and nearly as many years into simultaneous wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, the battlefields the United States faces today are "in our backyard," leading to significant security challenges for the country. Pinckney said there are three major issues that endanger the nation's ability to meet those challenges: shortages in language and cultural skills, poor education levels and inadequate health and healthcare, particularly mental healthcare.

Excellence and Innovation in Language Learning Act (H.R. 6036)

The Asia Society and the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages is inviting school district superintendents to support the *Excellence and Innovation in Language Learning Act (H.R. 6036)*. This legislation would allow every young American student to become proficient in a second language, in addition to English, within a generation. A sample copy of a letter of support is available by clicking [here](#). In addition, a summary of H.R. 6036 is available [here](#).

Language politics and policy in the United States: implications for the immigration debate

Is there a role for language policy in immigration policy? This article examines recent attempts to legislate language in light of historical and contemporary debates about immigration and immigrant assimilation. It chronicles U.S. language politics and policy, and then appraises national language and official English bills recently introduced in Congress in view of data on language usage and preferences, suggesting ways that the current resurgence of a national debate about language could and should impact the larger debate about immigration. Abstract Is there a role for language policy in immigration policy? This article examines recent attempts to legislate language in light of historical and contemporary debates about immigration and immigrant assimilation. It chronicles U.S. language politics and policy, and then appraises national language and official English bills recently introduced in Congress in view of data on language usage and preferences, suggesting ways that the current resurgence of a national debate about language could and should impact the larger debate about immigration.

First US Sikh soldier completes training with faith intact

Thanks to his Punjabi and Hindi language skills, 26-year old Simran Preet Singh Lamba has become the first Sikh soldier in the US army in two decades to complete basic training without giving up articles of his faith. Recruited in 2009 through the Military Accessions Vital to the National Interest (MAVNI) programme for his language skills, Lamba Wednesday completed basic training keeping his turban and unshorn hair at Fort Jackson outside Columbia. "I am thrilled to serve with my fellow soldiers and serve the United States of America," said Lamba, who has become a US citizen.