
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 31 MAY 2011

Study finds small language gaps in children adopted from abroad

*(The Canadian Press)...*Eric Danek

A new study suggests babies adopted from abroad may not be able to master language to the same level as Canadian-born babies. The study followed adopted Chinese-born babies and found that when they are compared against Canadian-born peers from similar households, the adopted children fared worse in language development. In different tests, between one-third and half of the adopted children had slightly more trouble expressing themselves, and about one-quarter had a bit more trouble understanding language than their Canadian-born peers.

Western Graduates Head To China for Internships

*(The Wall Street Journal)...*Javier Espinoza

In a crowded job market, having work experience in China on your résumé can make a big difference. Recent graduates in industries from engineering to finance in both Europe and the U.S. are making their way to the country, hoping to land their first jobs faster and more easily than their competitors. Lesmes Gutiérrez, a 23-year-old engineering graduate of Loughborough University in the U.K., who had a two-week placement with Baoshang Bank in Beijing late last year, says potential employers are more impressed with those who can demonstrate a willingness to move out of their comfort zone. "It's quite a big step to go somewhere not knowing what to expect. The idea of going to China calls for awareness and the willingness to relocate," which could be appealing to employers, he says.

UK slashes number of trusted English language testers

*(Guardian)...*Max de Lotbiniere

UK immigration authorities have drastically cut the number of language assessment providers they deem suitable to offer tests to demonstrate the English skills of visa applicants. Last month the [UK Border Agency](#), which controls visa processing, unveiled its revised list of English language tests that will be accepted as part of visa applications to come to the UK to live, work and study.

Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center releases Spring 2011 Globe Magazine

(DLIFLC)

Welcome to the Spring edition of the Globe. In this edition we feature the strong leadership from the top as Dr. Clifford Stanley, Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, clearly articulates the need for a holistic approach to growing foreign language and culture competency in the United States.

Anger Over Protesters' Deaths Leads to Intensified Demonstrations by Mongolians

*(New York Times)...*Andrew Jacobs

Ethnic Mongolians seething over the killings of two Mongolians by Han Chinese drivers took their anger to the streets of this capital of Inner Mongolia on Monday in a rare expression of antigovernment sentiment here. Until now, the authorities have met the protests with a heavy-handed police response and highly publicized efforts to appease ethnic Mongolians, who make up less than 20 percent of the region's population of 24 million and have long complained that migration of Han Chinese is diluting their language and culture.

Qatar: Innovative Education Methods Bridging Relations

*(Global Arab Network)...*Ammar Shikhani

Speaking to Qatar News Agency (QNA), Qatar Foundation International's (QFI) Executive Director Maggie Mitchell Salem said, "Learning other languages can help bridge communities when two critical components are included – culture and youth exchanges, both real and virtual." Linking language to

people, history and society of the region, and having exchange programmes between young people in the West and those in Middle East would help in clearing misconceptions and build bridges, she said. Founded in 2007 and Washington-based the QFI is a non-profit organization which promotes education as a force that facilitates collaboration across geographical, social and cultural boundaries.

PREVIOUS NEWS

Lautenberg, Holt introduce foreign language education legislation

(Newsworks)...Shannon McDonald

With the intention to "improve U.S. competitiveness and national security, U.S. Sen. Frank Lautenberg and U.S. Rep. Rush Holt of New Jersey have introduced legislation to create a program of foreign language classes for K to 12 students. The Foreign Language Education Partnership Program Act would provide up to \$50 million in annual funding for model programs of sequenced foreign language instruction from K-12, with the goal of graduating high school students with an advanced level of proficiency, according to a joint statement released by Lautenberg's office. All languages are eligible for consideration, but the Secretary of Education would have the authority to prioritize languages based on national needs.

Pashto linguist awarded Bronze Star for selflessness

(DVIDS)...Sgt. Marcy Sanchez

Cpl. Zachary D. Byron, a Pashto linguist currently assigned to 1st Radio Battalion, was presented the Bronze Star and Purple Heart for actions while serving with 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment in November 2010. Byron's squad was caught in an enemy ambush in the vicinity Durzay, Afghanistan located in southern Helmand province. Byron, 23, was shot in the wrist and thigh as he tried to render aid on the injured Marine in front of him. As he fell in and out of consciousness from blood loss, he continued to translate enemy communications, allowing the squad to avert another assault. "I had a sense of loyalty to my job and my troops to make sure I didn't fail them," Byron said.

Foreign attachés experience modern language learning at DLIFLC

(DLIFLC)

Approximately 25 foreign attachés from all around the world toured the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center (DLIFLC) on Tuesday, May 17. The visit was part of the attachés' annual spring tour that this year focused on Navy-Marine Corps and Joint Commands in the western United States. The senior foreign military officers, most of who work in their respective embassies in Washington, were exposed to major cultural, industrial, governmental, and historical aspects of the United States during their travels.

State eliminates some Regents examinations

(Times Beacon Record)...Elana Glowatz

To save the state money, high school students will no longer take foreign language Regents examinations nor any Regents examinations in January, the Board of Regents decided recently. According to the New York State Education Department, cutting out Regents exams in January will save \$1.4 million and eliminating foreign language exams for Italian, French and Spanish will save \$700,000 — exams in German, Hebrew and Latin have already been cut.

District looks into expanding languages

(phillyBurbs)...Amanda Cregan

The school board is hoping to begin Spanish language classes for kindergarten through fifth-grade students, but there are not enough funds to start the program. Parents and school officials want to give young students an early jump on learning a foreign language, said board President Larry Fieber. But with testing standards, it can be difficult to build another class into an already full day, he said. The elementary schools once had a foreign language offering, but with only one class a week, students were not

immersed in the new language. "We found the effectiveness is not what it could have been," he said. "For an elementary program, it's got to be offered multiple times a week."

Academy Graduates Put Air Force in Good Standing, Donley Says

(American Forces Press Service)...Lisa Daniel

The 1,021 graduates are among 3,300 newly commissioned Air Force officers, who add to about 28,000 new enlisted members, Donley said. It's important for officers and enlisted airmen to work together, he said. More than 20 percent of academy graduates minored in a foreign language.

Opinion: How and Why the Humanities Lost Touch

(The Chronicle of Higher Education)...Frank Donoghue

Let me start at the top. Higher education lost touch with the humanities in 1970, if not before. That was the last year in which a majority of U.S. college students graduated with majors in traditional liberal-arts subjects (of which the humanities form the core): philosophy, history, English, foreign languages, etc. So students have been fleeing the humanities as a discipline worth studying for at least two generations. Professor Nussbaum expresses the hope that we make students into "complete citizens" and not "little machines." But the overwhelming evidence is that more and more students *want* to become "little machines," or at least little money-making machines. This tendency is corroborated by the survey that UCLA has administered to an enormous number of incoming freshmen since 1966, asking them, among other things, what was most important to them. In the 1971 survey, the top three answers were "to help others who are in difficulty" (68.5%), to become an authority in my field (66%), and "to keep up to date on politics" (57.8%), all values consistent with being a good citizen. In 2001, the same survey found that "being very well off financially" (a distant fifth in 1971) topped the list at 73%. Help others in difficulty had slipped to 61.5%, while "keep up to date with political affairs" had dropped all the way to 28.1%.

US Intelligence Crunches Metaphors to Understand Foreign Language

(Gizmodo)...Andrew Tarantola

The Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Activity, a small arm of the US intelligence community, is distributing \$20 million grants to computer scientists who can parse a language and determine a culture's relationship with a certain concept. It's called, The Metaphor Program.

Foreign language for college may be ended

(Irish Times)...Sean Flynn

THE FOREIGN language requirement for students entering third-level colleges could be abolished, Minister for Education Ruairi Quinn has said. The Minister has said the language requirement "may need reconsideration in the light of the economic imperative to encourage more students to study the physical sciences in senior cycle." He has also hinted at radical changes in languages policies in second-level schools, with a stronger emphasis on languages such as Chinese and Russian which are seen as key to economic growth. At present, French accounts for about 70 per cent of all foreign-language teaching at second level.

Opinion: Taken in isolation

(Russia Beyond the Headlines)...Svetlana Babaeva

After decades of espousing a doctrine of multiculturalism and national diversity, Western societies are discovering that they have stifled themselves with their own ideals.

Pentagon Library

Pentagon Library now offers **Mango Languages** to all Library Patrons via the [Library Intranet](#). Mango offers web based training for 22 languages and ESL. A login profile is available to track your learning progress.

Mendon-Upton's Spanish immersion program graduates first class

(Milford Daily News)...Julie Balise

Ashley Hill says she has an edge when looking for a new job: her ability to speak both English and Spanish fluently. Hill was not raised bilingual, though. She learned her second language in Mendon-Upton Regional School District's Spanish immersion program, which will be graduating its first class next month. Hill's journey through learning Spanish actually began 13 years ago, when then-Spanish teacher

Joan Scribner did a presentation for parents of the Class of 2011 as their children entered kindergarten. Scribner was co-founding the Spanish immersion program in Mendon-Upton after researching similar methods in Maryland and Holliston, where a French immersion program was already under way.