
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 12 OCTOBER 2011

Hearing Bilingual: How Babies Sort Out Language

(New York Times)...Perris Klass, M.D.

Once, experts feared that young children exposed to more than one language would suffer “language confusion,” which might delay their speech development. Today, parents often are urged to capitalize on that early knack for acquiring language. Upscale schools market themselves with promises of deep immersion in Spanish — or Mandarin — for everyone, starting in kindergarten or even before. As the relatively new science of bilingualism pushes back to the origins of speech and language, scientists are teasing out the earliest differences between brains exposed to one language and brains exposed to two.

Global Competence: The Knowledge and Skills Our Students Need

(Asia Society)...Anthony Jackson

In matters of national security, environmental sustainability, and economic development, what we do as a nation and in our everyday lives is inextricably intertwined with what governments, businesses, and individuals do beyond our borders. This new reality helps us more clearly define the role that education must play in preparing all students for success in an interconnected world. The United States have invested unprecedented resources in education, betting that our outmoded, factory-age system can be fundamentally transformed to prepare students for the rigors of a global economy. They have challenged states and school districts to set clearer, higher standards and assess student progress in more creative ways, prepare more productive teachers, and provide effective intervention in failing schools.

Raytheon Shows the Army a universal Translator App

(Wired)...Spencer Ackerman

Raytheon believes it has created technology the U.S. Army has long sought: an app that will allow its soldiers to communicate with locals. TransTalk knows about 80,000 words in Iraqi Arabic and 30,000 more in Afghanistan’s languages, such as Dari and Pashto. Users speak English into the device, and the app speaks back in the desired language.

Lindblom Arabic-language students in Qatar

(Chicago Tribune)...Noreen S. Ahmed-Ullah

A high school trip to [Qatar](#) has become more than just a cultural exchange for a group of Lindblom Math and Science Academy students. The 19 high schoolers — freshmen through seniors who are studying Arabic — are also looking at water conservation issues in [Doha](#) and are putting together a short film about their experience with the help of Alexandra Cousteau, the grand-daughter of legendary environmentalist Jacques Cousteau. Paid for by [Washington, D.C.](#)-based the Qatar Foundation International, the Lindblom students have been paired with students in Doha as they’ve visited a desalination plant, cleaned a beach, explored Qatar’s mangroves and conducted experiments looking at the dangers of ocean acidification.

A Balanced Approach to Bilingual Education

(Patch.com)...Jeffrey Ristine

Dual language immersion, sometimes called two-way immersion, was introduced in Canada more than 40 years ago and is widespread in the U.S. with at least 224 programs in California alone, according to the state [Department of Education](#). Spanish is the most popular second language statewide but other partner languages in California include Korean and Mandarin. In San Diego County, nine districts offer a two-way program in one or more schools; Chula Vista has a particularly active program.

Students who speak 145 languages pose diverse challenge for Palm Beach County schools

(Palm Beach Post News)...Jason Schultz

"De hond heeft mijn huiswerk opgegeten." That means "the dog ate my homework" to the 21 Palm Beach County School District students who speak Dutch as their primary language. "Tabestan madreseh tail ast." That means "school's out for summer" for the 49 students who speak Persian or Farsi, a language common in parts of Iran. Those are two of the 145 languages that district students from more than 200 countries reported as their primary language this year. Although about 96 percent of students speak one of three languages - English, Spanish or Haitian Creole - the school district uses an array of volunteers, pictures and dictionaries to serve children in languages that district officials sometimes can't pronounce, let alone speak.

PREVIOUS NEWS

Say what?

(The Economist)

WHERE in the world is the largest number of different languages spoken? Most linguists would probably plump for New Guinea, an island that has 830 recognised tongues scattered around its isolated, jungle-covered valleys. But a place on the other side of the world runs it close. The five boroughs of New York City are reckoned to be home to speakers of around 800 languages, many of them close to extinction. New York is also home, of course, to a lot of academic linguists, and three of them have got together to create an organisation called the Endangered Language Alliance (ELA), which is ferreting out speakers of unusual tongues from the city's huddled immigrant masses.

Money talks - in many different languages

(CNN)...Tim Hume

As English has cemented its position as the default language of global business, Anglophone interest in foreign languages has steadily waned. "We have taken a perverse pride in the fact that we do not speak foreign languages, and we just need to speak louder in English," British education secretary Michael Gove lamented to a newspaper last week. His government hopes to reverse a decline in the number of British students sitting a language GCSE - a drop from 444,700 to 273,000 over 12 years - by teaching foreign languages from the age of five. "But if the question is: 'Is learning a second language an advantage, and is that advantage going to increase?' The answer's got to be yes," he said. "Almost certainly, as the balance of economic power shifts, and as supply chains, sales and deals start happening outside of traditionally the most influential markets."

Cuomo Orders New York to Serve Immigrants in Six Languages

(FoxNews)...Fox News Latino

For years, New York's Latino lawmakers had pushed for bills calling on state agencies to provide translations and interpreters in foreign languages. But governor after governor rejected the idea, saying it would be too expensive. Now, however, Gov. Andrew Cuomo has launched a \$1.5 million initiative, in which state agencies will translate documents and provide interpreters in six languages for immigrants seeking public services.

U.S. government broadcaster expands use of social media in Middle East

(Nextgov)...Joseph Marks

As social media becomes a primary tool for communication, organization and subversion across the Middle East, the U.S. government's foreign broadcasting arm is increasingly relying on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube to communicate with its audience. The weekly program *Eye on Democracy*, which runs on the Arabic language [Alhurra station](#), has had a social media presence since it went on the air in 2006 and has done significant reporting on the Arab world's use of social media both before and after the Arab Spring uprisings in Egypt, Tunisia and elsewhere

How a Start-up Fights to Bring Local Language to Mobile Phones in Laos

(Penn Olson)...Willis Wee

Most of us have mobile phones in our preferred language. Now imagine trying to use a phone whose software is all in a foreign language. I believe most of you would feel lost. And that is exactly what most Lao people (the people of Laos) have been going through. There isn't any mobile phone that supports the Lao language today. But Allan Rasmussen and his team at XY Mobile are trying hard to change that fate.

Ex-Commander: US Started Afghan War Lacking Info

(Associated Press/Yahoo.com)...Robert Burns

The U.S. began the war in Afghanistan with a "frighteningly simplistic" view of the country and even 10 years later lacks knowledge that could help bring the conflict to a successful end, a former top commander said Thursday. "We didn't know enough and we still don't know enough," he said. "Most of us — me included — had a very superficial understanding of the situation and history, and we had a frighteningly simplistic view of recent history, the last 50 years." U.S. forces did not know the country's languages and did not make "an effective effort" to learn them, he said.

Forbes Insights Study Outlines the Importance of Multilingualism in Business

(Enhanced Online News)...Press Release

In an increasingly global economy, U.S. companies will perform better by hiring individuals who can communicate in foreign languages and by helping current employees develop language skills, according to a new study released by Forbes Insights (available at www.forbes.com/forbesinsights). "Language Study: Reducing the Impact of Language Barriers" is based on an exclusive survey of more than 100 executives at large U.S. businesses (annual revenues of more than \$500 million). This study was sponsored by Rosetta Stone Ltd. According to the study, more than half (65%) of companies surveyed face language barriers that contribute to inefficiency, ineffective collaboration and low productivity, among other factors.

ASU, Utah train future military officers in critical languages, culture

(ASU News)... Sarah Auffret

Improving critical language skills, regional expertise and cultural awareness of future military officers is the aim of a U.S. Department of Defense initiative under way at Arizona State University and the University of Utah. As part of "Project GO," the global officer effort, ASU has been training ROTC cadets in Persian, Russian, Tatar and Uzbek, and sending them to Central Asia and Russia every summer since 2008. Utah trains cadets in Arabic, Chinese, Hindi/Urdu, Korean, Pashto and Russian, and has recently opened programs for them in Jordan, Morocco, Russia and China.

Words in Motion

(Humanities & Social Sciences Online)...Carol Gluck & Anna Lowenhaupt Tsing

After years of exploration of the tools, media and technologies that informed and enabled globalizing processes it was only a matter of time until historians of globalization turned towards the most elementary and yet most complex of those tools – words. The volume under review sets out to explore, with the words of the editors, the power of words to "make worlds", to "do work in the world" as they "move across time and space" (p. 3). The fourteen chapters trace translingual, transcultural and transnational movements of words all over the globe and gauge the various impacts the words and their movements had on social and political action.

IU Bloomington chosen to establish nation's first Turkish Flagship program

(IU News Room)...Press Release

The Language Flagship, an initiative of the National Security Education Program within the U.S. Department of Defense, has chosen Indiana University Bloomington as the only location for its program in Turkish and other Turkic languages. The undergraduate Turkish Flagship program will be led by Kemal Silay, director of the Turkish Studies Program and chair of Ottoman and Modern Turkish Studies in the IU College of Arts and Sciences.

Language awards reward innovative learning and teaching

(BBC)

Eleven awards for excellence in language teaching have been made this year by the CfBT Education Trust. Successful projects received a European Language Label to reward innovative teaching and

learning. Trust director Kathryn Board said she hoped the awards would lead to a revival of language teaching. Sharon Tanner, project coordinator for DDE, said: "We hope it illustrates the value and importance of education for global citizenship and intercultural understanding."