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## **DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE**

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### **CURRENT NEWS 02 DECEMBER 2011**

#### **For Afghan Woman, Justice Runs Into Unforgiving Wall Of Custom**

*(New York Times)*...Alissa J. Rubin

When the Afghan government announced Thursday that it would pardon a woman who had been imprisoned for adultery after she reported that she had been raped, the decision seemed a clear victory for the many women here whose lives have been ground down by the Afghan justice system. But when the announcement also made it clear that there was an expectation that the woman, Gulnaz, would agree to marry the man who raped her, the moment instead revealed the ways in which even efforts guided by the best intentions to redress violence against women here run up against the limits of change in a society where cultural practices are so powerful that few can resist them, not even the president. Gulnaz's case shows the power of cultural norms. On the one hand, the public campaign for the woman prompted the pardon, which ensures that she will be able to bring up her daughter outside prison. On the other hand, the fact that the only imaginable solution to the situation of a woman with an illegitimate child is to have her marry the father — even if he is a rapist — is testament to the rigid belief here that a woman is respectable only if she is embedded within a family.

#### **True untranslatability**

*(The Economist)*...Johnson

ROMAN JAKOBSON, a linguist, is credited with the notion that languages differ not so much in what they can express as what they *must* express. The common trope that language X has no word for Y is usually useless (it usually means language X uses several words instead of one for Y). But languages do differ significantly in what they force speakers to express, something Lera Boroditsky talks about often in support of the "[linguistic relativity](#)" hypothesis.

#### **Now's the time to press for Arabic**

*(Arab News)*...Abdul Hannan Tago

King Abdullah International Prize for Translation was launched five years ago, and recently, a grand ceremony took place in Beijing to distribute the prizes among this year's award winners. The prize has established itself in the category of top awards for translation at the international level through its success in attracting major universities, academic institutions, and the best translators from all over the world. This and other Saudi initiatives send across a clear message to the international community that the country is open for cultural exchange and dialogue in the interest of promoting understanding through languages and translations.

#### **Pak-Iran Gas Project: More job opportunities for Persian speaking Pakistanis**

*(Associated Press of Pakistan)*

Pak-Iran gas pipeline project will specifically bring employment opportunities for those Pakistanis who have knowledge of Persian language. Iranian government is planning to offer more relaxations to attract Pakistani students, considering demand of Persian-speaking workers after completion of Pak-Iran gas pipeline project. This was stated by Dr Ghahraman Solamani, Iranian Cultural Counsellor and Chairman Iran-Pakistan Institute of Persian Studies, Islamabad, in a meeting with Maj Gen Masood Hassan, Rector National University of Modern Languages (NUML) along with Head of Persian Language Department Dr Mehar Noor Muhammad Khan on Thursday.

#### **Law requires kids to take more Chamorro classes**

*(Kuum News)*...Krystal Paco

If you're a Chamorro language teacher or looking to become one, the Department of Education wants you. Thanks to Public Law 31-45, DOE is required to expand the language and culture curriculum for

Guam's native tongue, and as such the agency will need an additional 25 Chamorro language teachers within the next two years. The new law changes the middle school Chamorro language requirement from one to three years and the high school requirement from one to two years.

## **PREVIOUS NEWS**

### **Uncle Sam is looking for educators**

*(Washington Post)*...Derrick T. Dortch

The federal government may offer opportunities for some unemployed educators. The Department of Defense Education Activity is a fully operating school system that provides education to the children of military personnel and Department of Defense civilian personnel. It operates 194 schools in 14 districts in 12 foreign countries, seven states, Guam and Puerto Rico. Among the states are Alabama, Georgia, New York, North Carolina and South Carolina; the foreign countries include England, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Japan and South Korea. Under the Army's Training and Doctrine Command there is the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center, which focuses on foreign language training for the military, select DoD civilians and other government agencies. It has more than 1,700 instructors, and the center is hiring.

### **Hiring in the Humanities Is Expected to Increase, MLA Says**

*(The Chronicle of Higher Education)*

The Modern Language Association projects that job seekers in the humanities will have more jobs to apply to in 2011-12 than the year before. The number of ads placed for jobs in English and foreign-language instruction rose 5 percent, according to the association's Job Information List. Positions in English are expected to rise to 1,250 from 1,190, while the number of foreign-language jobs is expected to increase to 1,150 from 1,095. The improvement in the job market, which mirrors information recently reported by the MLA, obviously isn't enough to ease the angst of many scholars who are looking for work. The number of projected faculty positions is still about one-third below the peak they reached in 2007-8.

### **Program seeks to boost U. language offerings**

*(Brown Daily Herald)*...Hannah Kerman

Interested in Swahili? Armenian? Well, the Brown Language Society is interested in you. Next semester, the society will be piloting the Brown Student Language Exchange program, which is designed to support and foster student interest in languages outside those offered by the University. The new exchange program, an entirely student-run initiative, will allow participants to experience languages and cultures in informal 90-minute crash courses led by student discussion leaders. "We really want to pique student interest in other languages and cultures," Friedman said. The University already offers about 30 languages to the student body, but the exchange will allow students to interact with languages farther off the beaten path by both informing students about available resources and creating new programming.

### **Study Finds Rosetta Stone TOTALe Effective for Elementary-School-Age Children**

*(Market Watch)*...Press Release

Rosetta Stone Inc., a leading provider of technology-based language-learning solutions, today unveiled a study of the pedagogical implications and learning outcomes for elementary-school-age children who use the Rosetta Stone(R) TOTALe(R) software solution. The study examined the effects of TOTALe as a stand-alone system on the second-language development of third, fourth, fifth and sixth graders learning Mandarin Chinese and Spanish. The scientific research was commissioned to address the effectiveness of educational technology on children learning a second language.

### **English Lessons for China Airline After Unauthorized Take Off**

*(Wall Street Journal)*...Brian Spegele

How do you say "Oops" in Chinese? China Eastern Airlines is pledging to improve the English-language skills of its crew following an incident in the Japanese city of Osaka where a Shanghai-bound China Eastern flight took off apparently without permission from the tower, in what may have been a simple case of broken communication between the pilot and controllers. Exact details of what happened at

Osaka's airport on Monday remain unclear, but Shanghai-based China Eastern is already promising to improve pilots' English, the state-run Xinhua news agency reported. China's civil aviation authority said in 2007 that [less than one-tenth](#) of its pilots met international standards for English proficiency.

### **'Language Gene' May Influence Learning Too**

*(Discovery News)*...Marianne English

The [FOXP2 gene](#), a front-runner to explain the evolution of language in humans, may have rewired the brain to allow more advanced learning, according to [preliminary research](#) presented at the Society for Neuroscience annual meeting this month. Science writer [Ed Yong points out](#) that FOXP2's place in human evolution may have more to do with building basic neural connections in the brain rather than regulating language alone. Overall, it seems that FOXP2 acts as one piece to the larger puzzle of language development. In fact, the gene is thought to control other genes that shape an organism's ability to learn certain motor skills.

### **Labour backs English baccalaureate to boost languages study**

*(Guardian)*...Jeevan Vasagar & Jessica Shepherd

Stephen Twigg, who was appointed shadow education secretary last month, gave qualified praise to the measure, which he said might reverse the decline in children studying languages. In 2003 the Labour government decided to make languages optional after 14, a change that was introduced from September 2004. Language study has waned steadily since then. This year there were 154,000 entries for GCSE French, compared with more than 300,000 in 2004.

### **Degrees of separation: UNC's foreign language consortium needs a classroom environment**

*(Daily Tarheel)*...Editorial Board

At first glance, offering popular language courses such as French, German and Spanish online may sound like just another desperate attempt to cut back on expenses. But executive committee chairwoman of the UNC Faculty Assembly Sandie Gravett, who works closely with the UNC Foreign Language Assembly, said the move to online courses is about "enhancing language instruction throughout the UNC system," not finding another way to save money.

### **Bilingual education key to Australia's future in Asian century**

*(Radio Australia)*

The learning of foreign languages has been an issue of much debate in Australia.

Some people argue that Australia in the Asian century may be disadvantaged because future generations are not picking up regional languages, particularly Mandarin and Indonesian. Now it seems that more and more Australian parents are placing importance on their children speaking a second language. And bilingual immersion programs could be the key.

### **Bilingual Ed Starts Early in St. Louis**

*(CBS St. Louis)*...Stephanie Ebbs

Almost every aspect of these students' school day is in Spanish. Only one flight of stairs away, another class is doing the same thing in French. Everything from class work to art class is in a foreign language to completely immerse children in a bilingual environment. Interest in charter schools has gone up in recent years because of the poor quality of public schools in the Kansas City and St. Louis areas.