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Bimonthly Review of the English Department, Cadi Ayyad University at Beni Mellal. Editor: Khalid Chaouch.

EDITORIAL

Two Questions about a Privilege

Question N° 1: What is a privilege?

Answer: Studying English is a privilege!

Having a degree in English Studies opens up many perspectives of professional, cultural, and social integration.

In our country, English language is growing to be the lot of a privileged class of people: researchers, businessmen and even policy-makers. It is taking more and more importance in Moroccan literary, scientific and economic life.

At the international level, English Language is the *lingua franca* of nations and peoples. International conferences, highly rated magazines, and big organizations have made their choice and opted for English. Through this language, one can communicate with a great number of people all over the world.

English is also the main language of Internauts (Internet users). You, as an English-speaking person, can navigate in the Web more easily and more efficiently than those who are not acquainted with this language.

This, of course, is not to underestimate the importance of our national language, which is at the same time the language of many African and Asian countries.

In brief, we want our students to have a positive view of their English studies. As long as they are on this 'battlefield' – that is the campus –, it is more adequate to think about the ways of landing a fine diploma. As for getting a job, that's the next challenge on another 'battlefield.' But at least you will surely be privileged 'soldiers' (candidates).

Question N°2: What is the price of such a privilege?

Answer: Simply two things: sweat and perseverance.

Pen Circle.

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Guidelines
on Learning English

These guidelines are not golden rules or orders to be observed and carried out to the letter. They are just a set of general 'tips' that may help mark out the ground for any learner of English. They are, indeed, helpful for a university student ... outside the classes.

READ

Generally, in reading we use our mind, our eyes and at times our speaking ability. In reading English for learning purposes, we are recommended to make additional efforts. It is better to read in a loud [not very loud!] voice so as to acquire the ability of speaking English, to assess one's pronunciation, and to inure oneself with the turns of the English sentence, structure and style. Using a good dictionary is highly recommended for the acquisition of a fair and abundant vocabulary. By the word 'good' we mean one that gives both the different meanings of a given entry and the phonetic transcription of each word.

LISTEN

Here lies another important rule. Like any language, English requires good listening. Listening to native speakers helps you give a brush to your pronunciation. There is, in fact, a wide range of radio programs that are given in English (either British or American). Such programs have proved to be efficient means of learning English accent and pronunciation. Yet, it is perhaps better to avoid English-speaking programs that are not given by native speakers; otherwise, one may involuntarily adopt their 'imperfect' accent.

WATCH

One of the advantages of media explosion is the opportunity it gives to English learners to see many TV programs and films in English. Some teachers used to hanker after films and programs in English for their students. Now, such visual aids are available to many students at home (though we know there are many exceptions). Nevertheless, If you happen to watch a film

in its original version (English) with subtitles (in Arabic or French) make your best to avoid the written translation so as to concentrate on the English dialogue.

WRITE

There are a lot of books on writing skills; a lot of 'COMPOSITION' courses are given to improve the ability of students to write good English. But if you don't sit down, take a pen and a paper (or a computer), and jot down your ideas in black and white, you will never be able to learn good writing. What seems to be a difficult strain, at the beginning, becomes a hobby, a personal means of expression, at the end. It is only by practice that we make out both our mistakes and our potentialities; we discover to look for the right word, the right structure and the right meaning. Even when you grow into being a GREAT writer (why not?), you will have to be corrected by a more skilled colleague!

SPEAK

You may know how to read a text; you may understand an English program or TV film. This is not enough. If you don't SPEAK English, never pretend that you are a University student. The purpose of your academic engagement is to speak English fluently. One of the means that simplify such a task is work hard to develop your speaking abilities. Composing sentences in English during your daily chat is important. (This has nothing to do with the importance of your original language.) You may commit mistakes... funny mistakes, but these are sweet ones because they show your determination to learn.

TRAVEL

Travelling to an English-speaking country is not granted to many Moroccan learners of English (either student or not!). But it goes without saying that this has proven to be an efficient means of acquiring the native accent. Some countries arrange exchange programs and trips, enabling thus some of their students to practice English in daily life. We hope our academic system and government authorities will be able to consider such programs, at least for the excelling students.

The Poet's Corner

This corner is devoted to all kinds of attempts by all students in poetry or poetic criticism. Such writings should be printed, otherwise written in handwriting as clear as possible, and submitted to the Department office. Attempts, either published or not, will not be returned.

Liberty Spinster

Statue of immigrants
Down from your pinnacle!
Shake off indifference!
Light your torch
To clear your polluted sky
So you may breathe!
Aerate the countless cells
Millions of souls are smothered in!

Move your Republican arm
Along the Avenues and smite down
Manhattan's slanders
Of your once-sacred name!

Rush down to the harbor
Then on to Kennedy Airport
To stop the genocide loads
Destined to annihilate ex-dreamers of you!

Grabbed by the merciless claws
Of your heaven's scrapers
I suffocate amidst drugged mobs
Warding off bankruptcy heart attacks
By chewing each other's skin
And stabbing each other's back
In daylight full assurance
While deafening doomsday sirens zoom
Through panicked alleys
To pick nervous broken down bodies.

Mohamed ABOU-TALEB

Human Rights

The world talks of human rights,
But we see only human lies.
Science, trade and policies
Are the guardians of human yokes.
They lurk in the dark and decide
A conspiracy against human rights.
Secrecy surrounds us and leaves us
Whirl in circles wide and open.
When DOLLY and ANDI were born,
When mad cow disease and GM food
Swarm our lives without our consent
When green gas emissions and depleted
[uranium
Are forced on our bodies and minds,
When *dot com* and globalization
Rule the world with cash
We have no right left unspoilt.

Hayat DIYEN

Mohamed Abu Taleb, who died in 2000, was said to be the first Moroccan teacher of English. As for Hayat Diyen, she is a professor at the English Dept., Faculty of Letters (Oujda).

The two poems are taken from *Moroccan Literature in English*, a selection from the **First Forum for Moroccan Creative Writers in English**, organised by the English Department (Oujda) in collaboration with the British Council.

(Publications de la Faculté des Lettres N° 47, Série : Colloques et séminaires N° 14, pp. 25, 74.)

Pungent Quotations

In this column, we present a choice of quotations by a prominent personality in art, literature, politics, history, philosophy, etc. Any suggestion or contribution is cordially welcome.

Sir Noël (Pierce) COWARD¹ ... says:

“Though we all disguise our feelings pretty [well,
What we mean by ‘Very good’ is ‘Go to [hell’ ...”

“I believe that since my life began
The most I have had is just
A talent to amuse.”

“I don’t know what London’s coming to – the
higher the buildings the lower the morals.”

“I belong to a generation of men, most of
which aren’t here any more, and we all did the
same thing for the same reason, no matter what
we thought about politics.”

“But why, oh why, do the wrong people
[travel,
When the right people stay at home?”

“There was a saying, much quoted in the war
years, that if an Englishman told you he was a
secret agent it was a lie, and that if an
American told you the same it was true.”

“Learn lines and don’t bump into the
furniture.” [Advice to a young actor.]

“There’s always something fishy about the
French.”

“Mad dogs and Englishmen go out in the
midday sun.”

Sources:

J. M. & M. J. Cohen, *The Penguin Dictionary of Quotations*. Harmondsworth, Middlesex: Penguin Books Ltd., 1960, p. 121

-----, *The Penguin Dictionary of Modern Quotations*. Harmondsworth, Middlesex: Penguin Books Ltd., 1980 (2ed edition), pp. 88-89.

*** CULTURAL NEWS ***

‘Open Doors’

The English Department at the Faculty of Letters, Beni Mellal, organized, on October 8, 2002, an ‘Open Doors’ day for the benefit of First-Year students who joined the Department for the first time. This academic manifestation that the Department has been organizing since the academic year 1999-2000 is intended to inform new students about the conditions of studies, different courses, syllabus, etc. It is also meant to help the indecisive to make a final decision about the right Department to go to. The number of students who attended was 51. Professors who participated to this event were: A. Boudlal, N. Bourima, K. Chaouch, M. M. Mamaoui, M. Rakii, and M. S. Syad. This is an occasion to tell both Professors and students: Thank You All!

Statistics on the English Department

- Beni Mellal -

Academic Year:

2002-2003

Levels	Number of ‘New’ Students	Number of repeaters	Total
1st Year	230	161	391
2nd Year	115	46	161
3rd Year	31	18	49
4th Year (Literature)	14	24	38
4th Year (Linguistics)	16	05	21
Totals:	406	254	660

(These statistics are subject to change after October 4th)

Teaching Staff:

17 professors

Linguistic option: 8

Literature option: 9

These statistics are subject to change next year (!!)

¹ English playwright, actor and song writer (1899 - 1973)

Creative Pens

**‘Al-Halka’
between spectacle
and disappearance**

‘Al-Halka’ is said to be a reference for many artists and researchers, since it is a part of a very old tradition. It is, in fact, as old as the nation itself, that’s why we find amateurs of this form of art in different places of the country and among different kinds of people.

Al-Halka offered several ways of entertainments and was, consequently, a great refuge for members of our society before the emergence of theatre and cinema in our country. Thanks to its tales, accounts, poems, songs, ballads, and corporal expressions, *Al-Halka* could preserve a prominent place in memory and reality as a distinguished type of Moroccan popular culture.

This form of art favoured the emergence of famous personalities who showed their high talents, like: Khlifa, the myth of *Al-Halka*, Oued Kard, Oussat, Boughattat, and others.

Al-Halka was till a late time a nice phenomenon that decorates our towns. But in more recent years, there has been a kind of gradual elimination of this part of memory, especially in big cities. This has been done in favour of newly erected awkward buildings. In this way, *Al-Halka* is disappearing and at the same time taking with it a nice way of entertaining and educating people.

Translated by **Sedik KERBACH**
3rd year student (2001-03)
(from ‘Al-Ittihad al-Ichiraki,’
N° 6679, Nov. 23rd, 2001.)

**Anglo-Saxon Euphemisms
on
Envy, Jealousy & Pride**

TO BE CONSUMED: to be obsessed, in this case with jealousy. This word denotes the belief that one could be EATEN UP or devoured by such hostile feelings as rage or jealousy. Envy itself is from the Latin word *invidere*, meaning, literally, ‘to look upon maliciously or with an evil eye.’ EATING ONE’S HEART OUT, frequently used today to designate both feelings of sorrow and of jealousy, was first used in 1879. Today, in America, the taunt of one who wishes to point out his enviable position is: “EAT OUT YOUR HEART!”

GREEN: pale with envy. In *The Merchant of Venice*, Shakespeare refers to “green-eyed jealousy.”

TO HAVE A LONG NOSE: to be jealous or envious. TO MAKE A PERSON’S NOSE SWELL and TO HAVE A LONG NOSE have been colloquialisms for provoking or feeling jealousy since 1740.

TO PUT ON AIRS: to assume a haughty or affected manner.

TO TAKE A BACK SEAT TO NO ONE: to refuse to defer to anyone; to be proud or haughty. “Back seat” originally indicated a seat towards the rear of a hall or vehicle, hence a position of relative obscurity or inferiority.

DANDY / DANDISH: conceited; foolishly proud of or concerned with appearances.

TO PUT ON (THE) DOG: to assume pretentious airs.

TO GASCONADE: to boast. The men of Gascony were notorious for their pride.

HIGH AND MIGHTY: This phrase formerly indicated dignity, but it is now a colloquial term for “arrogant” or “imperious”.

INFLATED: proud, puffed up, self-important. The image of a proud person as one INFLATED with air or wind comes originally from an early medieval work, the *Psychomachia* by Prudentius, in which pride is personified as a woman who wears a high-crested headdress, sits on a tall horse, and has a cloak puffed out with the wind.

**Men give names
to all
the animals**

The answers to the 20 clues below are hidden in the animal names at the end of each line. To find them cross off some of the letters in each animal's name, reading from left to right.

Example:

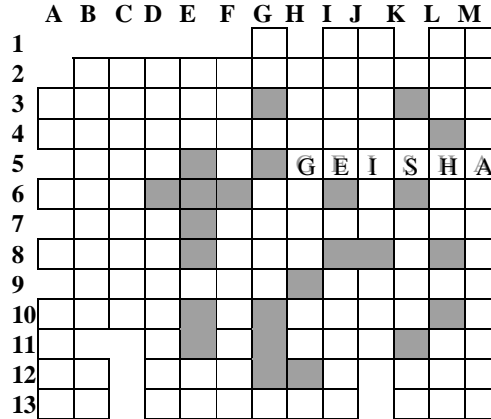
- German river.. **RHINE**.. RHINOCEROS

- 1. a pet..... CATTLE
- 2. us..... EWE
- 3. Yes..... DONKEY
- 4. tube for water..... HORSE
- 5. an insect..... ELEPHANT
- 6. to spoil MARE
- 7. grain of a cereal..... GOAT
- 8. a fixed look..... GAZELLE
- 9. frozen water..... MICE
- 10. female pronoun..... SHEEP
- 11. boat built by Noah..... SHARK
- 12. single..... LIONESS
- 13. to guide..... LEOPARD
- 14. the deep SEAL
- 15. eavesdropping organ..... BEAR
- 16. sniffing organ..... MONGOOSE
- 17. period..... EAGLE
- 18. to tempt..... VULTURE
- 19. Not very poor..... OSTRICH
- 20. seek to marry..... WOODPECKER

CROSSWORDS (N° 14)

1- nasal letters – District of Columbia.
2- outstanding work of art or literature. 3- hue – frozen water – the short form of 'not'. 4- a lot of people have been seeking such rights. 5- one journey around a running track – special Japanese

woman. 6- at the end of e-mail address – Old English – Find it in 'rummy' 7- An Arab gulf country – vertical or erect. 8- (it) strikes – find it in 'kidney'. 9- A man who always says 'yes' – Paper folded in half to make two leaves of a book. 10- female horse – story performed on stage. 11- Moroccan title for certain Berber tribes – 'I feel so I ...' 12- knockout – long stick used in billiards – French soul. 13- find it in 'era' – older persons – movable cover (of a pan).



A- short for China – microphone. **B-** river in eastern Morocco – conjunction used to join alternatives. **C-** University to which one belongs (Latin expression!) **D-** used with water as a cleaning agent – most important feature of a thing. **E-** large cask – find it in 'lull'. **F-** makes an error – not armed. **G-** conjunction used to join alternatives (once again!) – unrestricted, not closed. **H-** place for keeping and breeding pigs – per annum. **I-** hollow area in a wall – moves in the sky. **J-** gathering – kind of cereal. **K-** a secret agent – sacred – Arabic definite article. **L-** lair – small house – French friend. **M-** Public transport vehicle powered by an overhead wire and running on rails in big streets – shaped.

Solution for N° 13:

1- amalgamates. 2- Lima - ave. 3- MS. – pace - le. 4- robbery. 5- hence – NY. 6- and – gnat. 7- doses – to. 8- sparrow. 9- gas – dean. 10- torpedo. 11- are - when. 12- sea – eschew. 13- si – odors.

A- Almohads - task. **B-** mis – one (eno) – gore. **C-** am – ends - areas. **D-** lap – SP. **E-** are – SS – eye. **F-** Co. – so. **G-** beam (maeb) - ado – CD. **H-** acre – who. **I-** talent – rather. **J-** every – ton – 'ews' (in news). **K-** SE – bow – an.