



Polyglot
Gathering



Polyglot Gathering

1st – 4th May 2015

Berlin, Germany

www.polyglotberlin.com



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After witnessing the amazing energy of the first Polyglot Conference in Budapest in 2013, I had the idea for a somewhat different kind of event.

I always loved going to week-long Esperanto events. There, 150-300 people from all over the world would gather in a youth hostel, not just staying in the same place but living together, eating together, learning from each other during the day and chatting over drinks together in the evenings. Everyone would be welcome to guide a workshop, discussion or lecture, without the hierarchy of most conferences. There would be language mini-courses and the aligatorejo with its unique rules for practicing languages. The official evening program might include an International Culinary Festival, where people could delight in foreign snacks and drinks, perhaps a game show, maybe a film, cultural presentations, and of course concerts, for example by jOmO. The unofficial evening program would include an on-site bar and a gufujo (tea lounge).

If you went to the Polyglot Gathering last year, a lot of this already sounds familiar. If you look at this year's program, it will sound even more familiar. It turns out that not just Esperanto speakers enjoy this kind of gathering. Your feedback last year was overwhelmingly positive. An anonymous survey showed that 100% of people would recommend the event to their friends. And sign-ups for this year prove it. It is scary to organize an event when people come in with such high expectations, but it would be criminal not to organize another event.

So we're back, mostly with the same team, and we're so happy you're here, too! A particularly warm welcome to those for whom this will be their first Polyglot Gathering. We hope you'll feel right at home. Stop worrying about how many/few languages you speak and enjoy yourself!

The most important part of the Polyglot Gathering is not the organizers. Nor even the speakers, even though we really appreciate the extra work they took on in order to share their knowledge and their passion. But the most important part of the gathering is the community. You. By coming together from 50 countries and sharing the polyglot love, you will make this event a success. I am honoured to help.

Judith Meyer
#polyglotber @polyglotber



Judith Meyer - Head Organiser

As a computational linguist, Judith has the perfect excuse to learn languages as diverse as Chinese, Indonesian and Swahili. She works on projects involving languages or web development, preferably both, has developed a machine translation system, created podcasts for the ...Pod101 franchise and authored five books on language-learning. Read her blog at www.learnlangs.com.



Martin Sawitzki - Participant Administration

Martin started learning Esperanto aged 15 and spent a decade using it all over Europe, and becoming increasingly involved in the organisation of Esperanto events. He has been a vegetarian for even longer, speaks 3 languages very well, and two others a little. In real life he studies economical computer-science, whilst working part-time as a tour guide, all in the beautiful city of Nuremberg, Bavaria.



Chuck Smith - Local Organizer

Having started learning Esperanto in Feb 2001 and then founding the Esperanto Wikipedia in Nov 2001, he is in a unique position to predict the future of community educational websites. He leads Duolingo's Esperanto course team and is the CEO of Ludisto (www.ludisto.com), which makes fun mobile and tablet games like What the Shell. Besides speaking Esperanto and his native English, he also speaks fluent German, as well as conversational Spanish, French and Dutch.



Adam Scott - Website & T-shirt

Adam is a polyglot and web designer. He fell in love with languages at 16 when he began learning German, and has continued learning languages ever since as a means to gain a deeper understanding of foreign cultures and customs. He's currently hard at work learning Arabic and Russian. He hopes to one day open his own multilingual marketing agency.

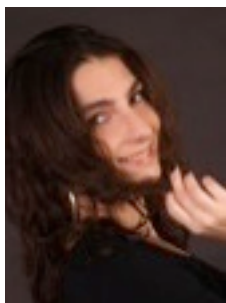


Andrew N. Cookson - Conference Booklet

Academic and writer, Andrew began learning Portuguese after becoming inspired by the beautiful novels of José Saramago. Ever since then he's been hooked on language learning and is currently tackling Persian, with many more on the wish-list. Read his stories, poems, essays and more at: thoughtsatintervals.com.

Conference Organisers

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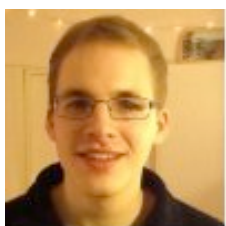
Mariola Czapowska - Public Spokesperson

An avid language learner, currently working on Norwegian, she is fascinated by Norway, Norwegian dialects and Norwegian comedians. The next language on her wish-list is Spanish. Mariola's other big passion is dancing bachata. She loves travelling. Find out more at: jeglurerpaa.blogg.no or www.youtube.com/user/TheLanguageWanderer.



Ulysses Hsiung-Lúo - Press

Always fascinated by languages, Ulysses found himself an accidental polyglot after experiencing life on three continents. With years of experience as a film translator and journalist, he now works as a freelance marketing-communication consultant and copywriter.



Joop Kieft - Print Design

Hello, I'm Joop Kieft, I'm a polyglot mostly thanks to Esperanto and have a conversational or better level in my native Dutch, English, Esperanto, Brazilian Portuguese (which I speak at home), Spanish, French, German, Ido and Toki Pona. I'm autistic but very communicative, possibly because of my contact with languages and cultures. I look forward to meeting you at the gathering!



Cesco Reale - Conference Activities & T-shirt

A scientific communicator, Cesco deals with games, languages and maths, creating festivals, exhibitions and conferences. He speaks more than 10 languages, including Latin and Esperanto, and holds the IPA certificate in phonetics. He is also a representative at the UN for the World Esperanto Association. Visit his Youtube channel at: www.youtube.com/user/matematikemulo.



Selçuk Destan Türkaslan - Invitation letters and contracts

Selçuk is a self-described "freak who likes to learn languages." Born into a Turkish family in Germany, he was destined for (at least!) bilingualism. Currently working on Finnish, Hungarian, and French, he always looks forward to adding new languages to his portfolio. When he is not procrastinating, he works on earning his Abitur. At the Polyglot Gathering 2015, he helped our non-EU-members get a visa for the Gathering.

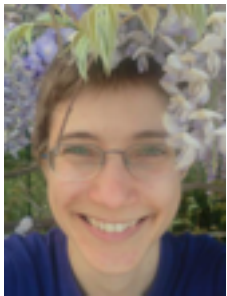
Conference Organisers

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Guillaume Armide - Gufujo

Guillaume wasn't interested in languages until they fell in love with Esperanto. They started to write songs in Esperanto. Since then, they have been invited to give concerts in Esperanto-meetings in many countries. They also made friends with language lovers and got the chance to practice other languages. Guillaume's musical activity is worth a look and a listen at: jadeo.net.



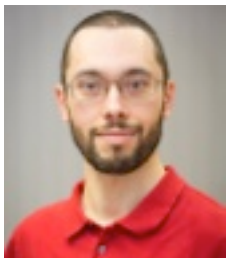
Anja Eisemann - Gufujo

Accidentally born in Germany, they learned German. Having moved to Berlin and onto the Internet, they met a lot of English speaking people, and English became their everyday language. One of their friends (painstakingly!) convinced them to try Esperanto. Having done so, they met and fell in love with some French person, whose life they are currently sharing in Paris. After Esperanto, French has thus become their everyday language. They remain fascinated by the multiple layers of beauty of (natural and constructed) languages.



Timwi Heizmann - Polyglot Game Show

I am a professional programmer and interested in languages. I've been a great fan of Unicode ever since its inception and I have closely followed its development.



Adriano Murelli - Video Promotion

A passionate language learner ever since, Adriano mainly concentrated on European languages; at present, he is considering "going East". He has been into language teaching, translating and linguistic research since 2001. You may follow him at murelling.com.



Miroslav Šedivý - Conference Activities

Miroslav Šedivý is from Bratislava and sometimes speaks his own dialect made up from Slovak, Czech, German and Hungarian. He uses however a standard language at www.sedivy.de.

Timetable - Thursday

7

TIME	ROOM ONE	ROOM TWO	ROOM THREE
13 - 15	LUNCH (only if you pre-ordered in the registration form)		
15 - 18	Welcome Game: multilingual simultaneous listening game Cesco Reale and Miroslav Šedivý, 5 th Floor		
18 - 20	DINNER (only if you pre-ordered in the registration form)		
20 - 22	Language Games: tongue twister contest, multilingual anagrams, language recognition Cesco Reale and Miroslav Šedivý, 5 th Floor		
22 - Late	Gufujo (Tea Lounge)		

Arrival Day

Registration opens in the afternoon – please don't go to the hotel check-in desk but come straight to us on the 5th floor. Hang out with other participants or help us prepare the venue. Cesco Reale and Miroslav Šedivý are organize an informal program of polyglot games for this day, with the first official day of the conference being May 1st.

Timetable - Friday

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TIME	ROOM ONE	ROOM TWO	ROOM THREE
10 - 11	Intro, Greeting Messages Organising Team		
11 - 12	Sounding Native Vladimir Skultety	Building Language Learning Habits [IT] Claudio Santori	Introduction to Northern Sami Irena Dahl
12 - 13	Native Languages of North America Brian Loo	How to Overcome Locals Replying in English When Traveling as a Native English-speaker Conor Clyne	Reasons for Learning Swedish Charlotte Scherping Larsson
13 - 15	LUNCH & Language Tables		
15 - 16	Learning Languages Abroad - Should I Stay or Should I Go? Alex Rawlings	Duolingo Product Development Cycle and Roundtable Q&A Myra Awodey	Learn Brazilian Portuguese with Mello Method Jimmy Mello
16 - 17	Three Keys to Staying Motivated When Learning a Language Brian Kwong	Tourist-Guides and Tour Managers [DE] Astrid Stangl	Introduction to Tamil Gokul Raju
17 - 18	Inside the Duolingo Incubator Chuck Smith	Languages of Europe (and the World): Definition, Classification and Maps [ES] Vittorio Dell'Aquila	Lightning Talks
18 - 20	DINNER & Free Mingling		
20 - Late	International Culinary Festival	Book Fair	Gufujo (Tea Lounge)

Language Key

[CA] = Catalan, [DE] = German, [EO] = Esperanto, [ES] = Spanish, [FR] = French, [IT] = Italian, [M] = Multilingual, [PT] = Portuguese.

Timetable - Saturday

9

9 - 10	Language Learning and Guided Imagery Antonio Libertino	Du, Sie, er und ihr – politeness in German [DE/EN] Jens Grabarske	Cantonese as a Key to the Sinosphere I Languages Victor Berrjod
10 - 11	Life as a Native English Speaker Learning Languages [M] Richard Simcott	Does the World (or at Least Europe) Need a Common Language? Peter Baláž	Introduction to Finnish Irina Pravet
11 - 12	The Pleasures and Pains of Working as a Conference Interpreter Lýdia Machová	How to Become a Language Blogger [PT/DE] Fabio Nogueira	Introduction to Arabic Catherine Wilcox
12 - 13	Comparing and Contrasting 10 Languages in Asia Tim Keeley	How To Be a Better Language Learner by Being Agile and Lean Benson Hoi	Introduction to Slovak Matthieu Desplantes
13 - 15	LUNCH & Language Tables, Group Photo (14:30)		
15 - 16	A Polyglot's Prism - Colours in Languages Gareth Popkins	italki Discussion italki Representatives	Lightning Talks
16 - 17	A History of Writing Simon Ager	(Re)playing Your Life: Creativity in Language Learning [ES] Maria de Vera	Practical Scots Ed Robertson
17 - 18	Can Immersion Possibly Hinder Language Acquisition? Alisa Zingerman	Wordpicking, a Lively Way to Meet and Learn [FR] Sylvain Lelarge	Introduction to Irish Benny Lewis
18 - 20	DINNER & Free Mingling		
20 - Late	Polyglot Game Show: GÉPARDI Timwi	Mingling	Gufujo (Tea Lounge)

Timetable - Sunday

10

9 - 10	Beyond Language: Lessons about Life, Self-Understanding & Transformation Irina Pravet	From 0 to C1 in Chinese - Without Staying in China [DE/EN] Judith Meyer	An Introduction to Modern Greek: How to Leverage Greek for Learning Other Languages Daniela Carcani
10 - 11	The Craft of The Hyperglot: an Actor's Approach to Language Learning Michael Levi Harris	What Philosophy Can Tell Us About Language Learning Christopher Huff	KomputeKo - Collaborate on a Dictionary Yves Nevelsteen
11 - 12	How Bilingualism Changes the Brain Helen Geyer	Lazy Poliglottumi - Lernen Langues Quase Senza Viajar 或者 a Studia: Suggestiones via Language Exchanges [M] Cesco Reale	Introduction to Polish Paweł Koperek
12 - 13	The Zen Of Memory Techniques For Language Learning Anthony Metivier	Synesthesia and Linguistics [IT] Emanuele Regano & Konstanze Schönfeld	Basic Japanese Erico Tamura
13 - 15	LUNCH & Language Tables		
15 - 16	How to Reach Millions of Language Learners Benny Lewis	Localization Management [M] André Liss	Introduction to Hebrew Alisa Zingerman
16 - 17	How to Facilitate Online Self-Study? Peter Baláž	Don't be Afraid of Tonal Languages! [Easy EO] André Müller	Three Column Wordlists [CA] Niels Iversen
17 - 18	Habits Mastery Michał Grzeskowiak	How to Become a Romance Polyglot [FR] Christian Koch	Consecutive and Simultaneous Interpreting Exercises for Beginners Lýdia Machová
18 - 20	DINNER & Free Mingling, Go to Concert Venue (19:30)		
20 - Late	JoMo concert (in Slaughterhouse club)	Mingling	Gufujo (Tea Lounge)

Timetable - Monday

11

9 - 10	The Most Effective Way to Learn Languages Adriano Murelli	Japanese Role Language "Yakuwarigo" Marcus Zanteré	Challenges of a language exchange social app – HelloTalk Zackery Ngai
10 - 11	Making Extra Income as a Language Coach Ruslan Kokorin	Why Esperanto Helpt und Inspira zu Lernen Outras Langues [M] Cesco Reale	Introduction to Milanese Adriano Murelli
11 - 12	You Are What You Speak (or Not): Sapir-Whorf, Language, and Your Brain Ulysses Hsiúng-Lúo	Rough Guide to the Subordinate Clauses - Starting From Scratch Niels Iversen	Introduction to Basque: A Vibrant Language Isolate in Europe Maria de Vera
12 - 13	Mind, Language, and Culture: Exploring Social, Psychological, and Affective Factors in Becoming Multilingual Tim Keeley	Czech & Slovak [DE] Miroslav Šedivý	Introduction to Indonesian Maria Weidner
13 - 15	LUNCH & Language Tables		
15 - 16	Comparing Modern Standard Arabic & Egyptian Arabic Bojana Zlatic	How to Best Use Assimil Courses [M] Philippe Gagneur & Daniel Krasa	Introduction to Navajo Brian Loo
16 - 17	Finding or Creating Good Language Learning Content Claudio Santori	Etruscan and the Joys of Trümmersprachen Ed Robertson	Confident Cantonese in 49 minutes Benson Hoi
17 - 18	How to Learn Arabic Dialects Olly Richards	Two 20min lectures: Unicode / Polyglot Single Sourcing Timwi / André Liss	Gutamål, Gutniska, Gotländska - the Island Dialect that Wants To Be a Language Charlotte Scherping Larsson
18 - 20	DINNER & Free Mingling		
20 - Late	International Culture Evening	Mingling	Gufujo (Tea Lounge)

About Languages

Looking at linguistics, the politics & histories of languages, and language comparisons

A History of Writing

Simon Ager



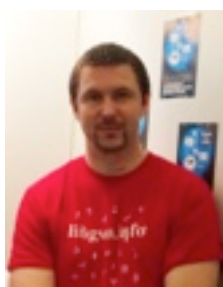
It's hard to imagine a world without writing, however for most of human history there was no form of written language. Knowledge, stories, songs, poems and all other forms of information were shared orally and stored in people's memories. After agriculture was adopted in western Asia in around 10,000 BC people started to build towns and cities and populations grew. A need to keep records and accounts emerged, and the world's first writing system appeared in

Sumeria (modern day Iraq) in around 3,300 BC. Writing was also invented independently in China, Mesoamerica and possibly in Egypt. Many other writing systems have been developed since then. This talk will look at the history of writing. It will explain the principles involved in representing language in written form, the types and structure of writing systems, and how they have developed and changed over time.

Simon Ager has a BA in Chinese and Japanese, and an MA in Linguistics. He speaks ten languages, more or less, and has at least a basic knowledge of twelve others. He runs Omniglot, the online encyclopedia of writing systems and languages.

Does the World Need a Common Language?

Peter Baláž



Do we, the whole of mankind, need a common language? And should it be English? (Although it's spoken by approximately 1-1.5 billion people now, we still have 6 billion who do not speak it). As the history of big empires is linked with linguistic imperialism, we have to consider which empire will rule in 20 or a 100 years? Which languages will we have to learn then? Or is there a chance, to make a deal to use one common language, to improve the quality of our lives? International relationships, news, policy, business, alternative movements, ecology, inventions - are all areas of our lives that are influenced by the language/s we use. Is the 21st century ready for such challenge? And are we?

Peter Baláž - coordinator of the NGO 'Education@Internet' (E@I) since 2005, publisher (www.espero.sk). Active esperantist, supporter of multilingualism and of free knowledge. Coordinator, team leader of several online language teaching platforms and active member of some others (ikso.net/en/projektoj/index.php). Organiser of international events (language schools, conferences). Speaks 5-7 languages. Hobby: meditation, sci-fi, metal music, books, meatless cooking. Contact: www.facebook.com/peter.balaz.526 or petro@ikso.net

Cantonese as a Key to the Sinosphere Languages

Victor Berrjod



Among the languages of East Asia, it's Mandarin, Japanese, and Korean that stand out as the most popular to learn. Because of China's influence during the Middle Chinese period, these and many other languages share tons of Chinese vocabulary. Since the modern readings of characters are radically different from Middle Chinese in these popular languages, they aren't very transparent cross-linguistically, so while knowing one will definitely help in learning the others to an extent, knowing a more conservative language like Cantonese will help immensely. Knowing the

reading of a character in Cantonese lets you predict what the reading (and tone!) will be in any other Sinosphere language with reasonable accuracy. I will introduce some of the most useful features of Cantonese readings and how they relate to those of the three most popular languages, as well as to less popular ones like Vietnamese and Wu.

I'm from a small farm in Sokndal in Norway, but enjoy travelling, languages, and linguistics. I have an MA in linguistics from the University of Oslo, and am particularly interested in the Sinosphere at the moment.

Los Idiomas de Europa (y del Mundo): Definición, Clasificación y Mapas - Languages of the World: Geography and Maps

Vittorio Dell'Aquila



¿Cuántas montañas hay en el mundo? Las montañas, como las lenguas, existen (las primeras se ven, las otras se oyen), se les puede dar nombres propios o comunes, pero ni las unas ni las otras se pueden contar. No empiezan ni acaban donde queremos los seres humanos, ni nacen o mueren, sino existen a pesar de nuestra observación (¿o, como todos los fenómenos naturales, existen únicamente por el hecho de ser clasificadas y enumeradas?). Y, como las montañas, se pueden dibujar en un mapa.

En esta comunicación veremos que las lenguas, diversamente de las montañas, no son fenómenos naturales sino fenómenos humanos y como tales forman parte de las relaciones sociales; veremos qué es una lengua (un idioma, un dialecto, un habla); como estas se pueden clasificar según parámetros cualitativos (sociales, políticos, históricos) o cuantitativos; y especialmente veremos como la continuidad lingüística se distribuye en el territorio y en la sociedad a través de muchos mapas detallados inéditos.

Vittorio dell'Aquila, polyglotte époustouflant est un chercheur free lance postmoderniste, qui se situe à l'extrême pointe de la cartographie automatisée appliquée à la sociolinguistique et à la géolinguistique. Dès l'âge tendre de 5 ans, alors que d'autres petits garçons jouaient aux cow-boys et aux indiens le petit Vittorio dessinait déjà des cartes dialectales, en babillant de délicieuses sottises en milanais. Il publie ces travaux en ladin, en anglais, en italien, en français, en catalan et en allemand et parle plus souvent suédois qu'italien. (texte de Jean-Léo Léonard, Paris)

How Bilingualism Changes the Brain

Helen Geyer



This talk aims to give an overview of the latest research developments on what actually happens in the bilingual brain. For example, it will deal with questions such as: Could speaking more than one language have positive effects on our mental abilities? It might even help prevent illnesses such as Alzheimer's. And, on the other hand, does it help or initially hinder children's brain development?

Helen is a student from Leipzig, Germany. She has a BA in Linguistics, an MA in Cognitive Studies and is interested in how languages are processed in the brain.

Du, Sie, er und ihr – Höflichkeitsformen in der deutschen Sprache

Jens Grabarske



German has three pronouns for the addressee, “du”, “Sie”, and “ihr”. All three of them translate to “you” in English which is not very helpful for the hapless learner who tries to understand the difference. This talk will show that the rules for these pronouns are both very simple and surprisingly complex at the same time. A lot of that has to do with culture and context, respect and sense of community, generation and codes of conduct. You will learn how using “Sie”

can make you unpopular, how “ihr” could cause people to question your political alignment and how using “du” can get you a hefty fine or even a visit to the courtroom. You will learn that the rules for business German are pretty straight-forward, except when they’re not. And you will learn that seemingly polite phrases can actually be an insult in disguise.

Jens Grabarske, born 1977, is a freelance software developer and IT trainer who studied computer science and mathematics at the University of Hamburg and the Fernuniversität Hagen. He frequently speaks at science and poetry slams, mostly in the Ruhrgebiet area.

Acting in Foreign Languages: the Linguistics of Stagecraft

Michael Levi Harris



An actor’s job is to make an audience believe that words that are not his own sound truthful when coming out of his mouth and seem to be spontaneously uttered for the first time, with a nuance that is particular to his character’s life story, including where the character is from. He must also be heard and understood clearly, a task all the more effortful when on the stage. Many of the

ingredients that make some actors better than others similarly make some linguists more proficient than others. Some of these skills are obvious: e.g. memorization, understanding syntax, employing an accent flawlessly. Equally useful to the language learner are some less obvious skills: risk-taking, precision, visceral connection. Could these skills be what separates the polyglots from the hyperglots? In this lecture, the writer and lead actor of the film ‘The Hyperglot’ will provide an opportunity for Q&A, leading onto an exploration of how stagecraft can be applied to language learning, practice and maintenance. We’ll see how more than any books, flashcards, software, apps, or audio programs, it is the body, mind, and life experience of a language speaker that is his or her greatest learning material.

Michael Levi Harris is an actor, writer and producer, having written and starred in the award-winning short film ‘The Hyperglot’. He holds a BA in Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures from Columbia University in New York City, as well as a certificate in Arabic-to-English translation from New York University. He is currently pursuing an MA in acting at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London. He speaks ten languages, signs one, and is knowledgeable in at least ten more.

Unicode

Timwi Heizmann



If you ever wondered how modern computers deal with text in various languages and how they cope with so many writing systems across the globe, this talk is for you. Aimed at a non-technical audience, this presentation explains what Unicode is, why we need it, how it developed from earlier approaches to text encoding, what problems it solves and what problems it still has.

I am a professional programmer and interested in languages. I've been a great fan of Unicode ever since its inception and I have closely followed its development.

You are What You Speak (or not): Sapir-Whorf and How Your Language Messes With Your Brain, Maybe.

Ulysses Hsiúng-Lúo



Is language the product of the way we think, or does language, in fact, determine the way you think?

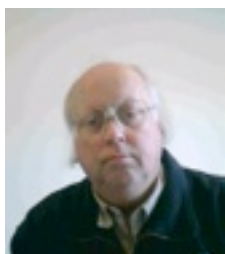
This is the principal question we're asking in the discussion about linguistic relativity. Commonly known as the Whorfian or Sapir-Whorf hypothesis, this question can be traced back to antecedents in the philosophy of language, and has been relevant in the fields of anthropology, ethnography and linguistics, but has seen many more intriguing and fruitful discoveries in recent analyses and experiments from the fields of economics and cognitive science.

This talk will be an interactive introduction to the topic of linguistic relativity. The audience is invited to participate and contribute as we present findings and theories from both sides of the debate. The Q&A session will double as a forum for open discussion, where we, as polyglots, can share and examine our relations to our languages.

Always fascinated by languages, Ulysses found himself an accidental polyglot after living on three continents. With years of experience as a film translator and journalist, he now works as a freelance marketing-communication consultant and copywriter.

Rough Guide to the Subordinate Clauses - Starting from Scratch

Niels Iversen



During the Polyglot Gathering 2014 I spoke about ways to survive grammar, and the message was that you should find the very common things and the regular things and write them down in a concise form for later reference. But my examples back then were mostly taken from morphology. This year I intend to demonstrate a similar rock-bottom approach to syntax, exemplified with the subordinate clauses in a number of languages. My theoretical standpoint could

be characterized as “transformationalism light” with a dependency grammar as its basis instead of the constituent structure grammar chosen by Chomsky. The advantage of this is that you introduce and manipulate concrete words from the start (as placeholders in syntactic fields), and with the words follows the semantics without the usual theoretical moaning and groaning.

Started out learning languages in school and by self study, later at Aarhus University where I obtained a cand.mag. degree in French and Comparative Literature in January 1982 - but I had also followed courses in a number of other languages. I discovered in 1982 that the preceding 68-generation had taken all the good jobs and decided to drop all involvement with foreign languages apart from reading, TV watching and travelling. I took instead an economical exam called HD (minus the final thesis) and then somehow got a job as a computer consultant in public service, which I have kept to this day. Discovered HTLAL in 2006 and decided to relearn my old languages and add a few new ones. Have done monolingual travels in about a dozen languages and can read/write in something like twenty - without necessarily being able to speak them.

Comparing and Contrasting 10 Languages in Asia

Tim Keeley



The goal of this presentation is to offer an introduction to 10 languages in Asia: Japanese, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, Thai, Lao, Indonesian, Malay, Hindi, and Nepali. In comparing and contrasting these languages, I will seek to show what is involved in learning them and how knowledge of some of them can help in learning the others. The talk will balance complexity and simplicity, avoiding overly complex linguistic classification and terminology. We will take a look

at the writing systems, the differences between the tones in the tonal languages, shared vocabulary among the subgroups of these languages, the fundamental aspects of the syntax/grammars, and how the languages sound in both speech and music. It is my hope to make it fun and interesting for those who love languages.

Tim Keeley is professor of Cross-Cultural Management at Kyushu Sangyo University in Fukuoka, Japan teaching mainly in Japanese and Chinese. Tim has taught EMBA programs for Tulane University (Tokyo), Temple University (Shanghai and Taipei), and Chulalongkorn University (Bangkok). Tim has used more than twenty languages while studying at 8 universities around the globe (International Relations, Latin American Literature, Slavic Literature, Chinese Literature, International Business, Cross-Cultural Management and International Human Resource Management), working as a corporate manager at GE, marketing manager at Westvaco, teaching, and traveling for research and pleasure.

Comment Devenir Polyglotte en Langues Romanes? - How to Become a Romance Polyglot?

Christian Koch



Dans cette contribution, on présente des stratégies et ressources pour avancer rapidement dans les différentes langues romanes. Le français, choisi comme langue de cette conférence, sert comme point de départ commun pour accéder aux autres langues apparentées. Pendant les dernières années, les linguistes et didacticiens des langues romanes ont développé un grand répertoire de stratégies de l'intercompréhension pour promouvoir les compétences réceptives comme objectif alternatif de l'enseignement. On se pose ici la question si ces stratégies sont également capables d'inciter l'apprentissage de plusieurs langues pour devenir rapidement polyglotte dans le sens de maîtriser toutes les compétences de communication.

En considérant que les spectateurs seront déjà en grande partie des experts des grandes langues romanes (français, espagnol, italien, portugais), on se concentre à quelques langues moins souvent étudiées comme le catalan, l'occitan et le sarde pour y montrer non seulement des processus de l'intercompréhension, mais aussi des difficultés particulières d'apprendre ces langues plutôt petites.

Christian Koch studied French, Spanish and Italian philology and is now working in the department of applied Romance linguistics at the University of Siegen. He is doing his PhD about polyglot people with a repertoire of several Romance languages.

Native Languages of North America

Brian Loo



Navajos use a single word, *dá'ák'enáhi'niilcháá'* to mean 'The two of us ran out of sight back into the cornfield' while in the Nootka language of Western Vancouver, the four-syllable question "unistumṭṣuu" translates to "how many of you were on the canoe?" in English! In Musqueam, all nouns belong to one of two genders; feminine human and everything else (that's right; men, children, animals, plants, food and all non-living things belong to the neuter gender)! Obviously something is fundamentally different about the grammars of Native American language compared with more familiar Asian and European

languages.

This talk will serve as an overview to languages from three of the major indigenous language families of North America (Algonquian, Athapaskan and Salishan) and will focus on the unique phonological, morphological and syntactic characteristics which make them vastly different from other languages spoken around the world.

A former food process engineer who realised that there is more to life than climbing the corporate ladder, Brian speaks seven languages and is currently working on improving his command of Navajo, Cree and Warlpiri. His lifelong passion for learning exotic languages came about after a chance meeting with one of the last surviving speakers of Musqueam Halkomelem while on a trip to Vancouver as a teenager. His long-term goal is to create an online platform where speakers of endangered languages can share their linguistic and cultural knowledge with each other and with the rest of the world. He is the co-founder of Toledo Technical, a translation company specialising in scientific and technical translations with emphasis on cultural competence:

www.toledotechnical.com.

A Polyglot's Prism oder Spass mit Farben

Gareth Popkins



Words for “colours” are among the most frequently occurring in many languages. Their usefulness - and at least some of their huge potential cultural significance - is already clear to small children. As adult second language learners, we too want to learn the colours as soon as we can. Yet things are not always simple, even at a descriptive level. Did you know that in Basque, red wine is black? Russian, meanwhile, has two words for blue. Figurative colour associations too can differ between cultures (a potential cause of embarrassment) and expressions using colour do not always translate literally (a potential cause of blank incomprehension). This is intended to be a fun exploration of a subject which - among professional linguists - raises big and hotly-debated questions. You will be encouraged to share your own experiences and many of the insights will be of wider relevance as we seek to become more conscious and effective language learners.

Gareth Popkins has a doctorate in Russian history from the University of Oxford and taught the subject through the medium of Welsh at the University of Aberystwyth. He then trained as a lawyer and worked for several years in the Moscow office of an international law firm. A London-based language enthusiast, his "best" foreign languages are Russian, Welsh, German and French and he has studied five others including, most recently, Basque. He blogs at Howtogetfluent.com.

Why Esperanto Helpt und Inspira Lerni OTRAS Languas (Multilingual)

Cesco Reale



Esperanto is one of the easiest languages in the world and it is the most spoken planned language. It was my first foreign language, it helped me a lot in learning other languages and boosted me psychologically. This was due to several reasons: its logical structure allows you to understand concepts that you can reuse in learning other languages; its easiness (1 week to speak) pushes you to learn new languages; its festivals are full of inspiring openminded people that love foreign languages and

cultures.

A scientific communicator, Cesco deals with games, languages and maths, creating festivals, exhibitions and conferences. He speaks more than 10 languages, including Latin and Esperanto, and holds the IPA certificate in phonetics. He is also UN representative for the World Esperanto Association. Visit his Youtube channel on languages!

Synesthesia and Linguistics

Emanuele Regano & Konstanze Schönfeld



Synesthesia: merging of the senses, or anomalous cross-sensory experience. Through the history of synesthesia research, philosophers, artists and physicians explained this phenomenon limiting it to sensory perceptions. The term, of Greek etymology, was already used by Aristotle to describe occurrences of shared feelings, a definition close to our modern notion of empathy. After centuries of medical questioning and confusion, the notion was borrowed by visual artists crossing the twentieth century, characterising a cultural movement as a metaphor for the expression of inter-sensory correspondence. However, all the above attempts to explain synesthesia evoking only its sensory events neglect its very special bond with higher-order cognitive constructs, mainly involving language comprehension and production. In this talk, we will introduce synesthesia from its neurobiological origins, illustrate its connections with language processing, and learn to recognise and share our personal synesthetic experiences.



Emanuele Regano is a BA student focusing in Language Philosophy at the University of Turin, and the president of the Italian Esperanto Youth. He is an activist for language democracy, both as an esperantist and as an author in the Piedmontese language. Contact him at: emanuele.regano@esperanto.it.

Konstanze Schönfeld is a Language and Linguistics student at the University of Heidelberg. One year ago she discovered that not everyone experiences synesthesia. Since then, she has been looking for answers as to how this condition affects language perception and acquisition. Contact her at konstanze@tejo.org.

Etruscan and the Joys of Trümmersprachen

Ed Robertson



How do you learn a language not spoken for nearly 2000 years? It may surprise people to know that there are over ten thousand inscriptions in the Etruscan language, once spoken mostly in central and northern Italy, BUT there are no native speakers (of course), only a few hundred words that specialists agree on the meaning of, only a rough idea of the grammar, and the only languages Etruscan is known to be related to (Raetic and Lemnian) are more obscure than Etruscan itself. This lecture will cover how we got to know what we do know

about Etruscan, how to debunk pseudo-scientific theories about what it is related to and about what the inscriptions say, and look at some other lesser-known ancient languages also worthy of our attention.

Ed grew up in a rural area of southern Scotland where Scots has continued to cling on as an everyday language. He also speaks fluent English, German and Esperanto, and serviceable French, Italian and Russian, and has a passion for lesser known ancient languages such as Etruscan. He is also currently one of the members of the team developing the Esperanto for English speakers course on Duolingo.

Reasons for Learning Swedish

Charlotte Scherping Larsson



There are many languages in the world and each one has its own unique culture, history and literature. Swedish is the Nordic language with the most speakers today and seems fairly easy to learn for English and German speakers. What makes the Swedish language so easy to learn? Why should you learn Swedish? This talk will give an insight into Swedish language and culture, its past and present. The excursion will be through Swedish history with forays into grammar, dialects, books, music and film. The aim is for you to realise how compelling and extraordinary this ordinary little country and its language can be. Bring your best singing voice and be prepared to repeat some verbs.

Charlotte Scherping Larsson is a Swedish expat with roots in Germany. She has lived in Germany for six years, is fluent in three languages and studies German at the University of Umeå and Psychology at Högskolan i Kristianstad. The longer she's away from home, the more intriguing she finds her own country.

Gutamål, Gutniska, Gotländska – the Island Dialect that Wants To Be a Language

Charlotte Scherping Larsson



Whether a way of speaking is a language or a dialect, is a question of privilege, status and money. Dialects can be seen as a “wrong” way of speaking while one’s own language is something to take pride in. However, being called a language hasn’t helped the ones that died out. The Scandinavian languages might all be seen as part of a continuum of dialects, but in each nation there are many quite distinct - and sometimes incomprehensible - dialects. One of the

most compelling dialects in Sweden is Gotländska - the dialect spoken on the island of Gotland. The dialect has its own history, together with and separate from mainland Swedish.

Gutamålsgillet, an organisation promoting Gutamål, presents this dialect as a language. This talk will present this interesting way of speaking, intertwined with its historical roots, myths and modern music and touch on the topic of dialects and languages from a layman’s point of view.

Charlotte Scherping Larsson is a Swedish expat with roots in Germany. She has lived in Germany for six years, is fluent in three languages and studies German at the University of Umeå and Psychology at Högskolan i Kristianstad. The longer she’s away from home, the more intriguing she finds her own country.

"Strč prst skrz krk!" - Einführung ins Tschechische und Slowakische

Miroslav Šedivý



Es war mal vor langer Zeit ein Deutscher, der die östliche Nachbarschaft seines Landes bereiste und bei den Einheimischen nur Bahnhof verstand. In den meisten böhmischen Dörfern gab es früher aber keine Bahnhöfe. Er verstand dort also überhaupt nichts. Wortlos stand er da, schaute verlegen um sich und wurde so von den Tschechen und Slowaken als "Nemec" (der Stumme) und sein Land als "Nemecko (das Land der Stummen) bezeichnet.

Dabei wäre es für ihn aber gar nicht so schwierig Tschechisch und/oder Slowakisch zu erlernen. Karel Gott schafft es ja auch von "einem unbekannten Land" noch über "krajine, kde sa piesok lial" zu den "učení páni zkušení" über die Biene Maja zu singen. 'Der Brave Soldat Švejk' lässt sich im Original auch viel besser lesen. Die Laute "jeej" und "hele" vom kleinen Maulwurf habt ihr alle schon vor vielen, vielen Jahren bestimmt nachgemacht.

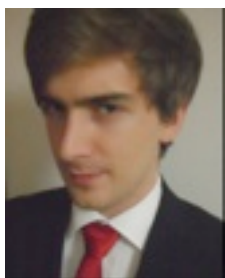
Habt ihr vielleicht bereits versucht, eine der beiden Sprachen zu lernen? Dann lasst uns mal sehen, wie weit ihr mit der anderen kommt. Die Anfänger unter euch dürfen schon mal die Aussprache vom Titel dieses Vortrages üben. Nun bitte einen Finger durch den Hals stecken und schön intonieren: strč, prst, skrz, krk. Voilà.

Am Montag verschenkt Miroslav Konsonanten, ganz umsonst.

Miroslav Šedivý kommt aus Pressburg und spricht manchmal seinen eigenen Dialekt - eine Mischung aus Slowakisch, Tschechisch, Deutsch und Ungarisch. Auf www.sedivy.de schreibt er allerdings in irgendeiner Standardsprache.

Japanese Role Language: Yakuwarigo

Marcus Zanteré



What if I told you that the way you say “Yes, I know” is enough to map your personality? This is true to a certain extent in modern Japanese speech and even more so in literature. From this phrase alone you could learn about a character’s or a person’s gender, occupation, social status, age, and a lot more.

Stereotypes play a big part in how we perceive the world and its people, this is reflected in language via dialects, accents or slang. In Japanese it is taken to another level compared to many other languages as pronouns, vocabulary and grammatical structures all play a part in building character through the concept known as yakuwarigo - “role language”. Samurai, professors, princesses and many other character types all have their own specific speech patterns that will be discussed in this talk, together with how stereotypes affect our view on language usage.

Marcus Zanteré first experienced Japan as an exchange student in high school, falling in love with the country he now holds a BA in Japanese and most recently lived in the country as a student on the Monbukagakushō scholarship program.

Comparing Modern Standard Arabic and Egyptian Colloquial Arabic

Bojana Zlatic



Bojana's talk presents a phonological, morphological, lexical and syntactical comparison between Modern Standard Arabic and Egyptian Colloquial Arabic, with emphasis on the differences of these two varieties. The classification of varieties is given along with their structural and style differences. The use of these language varieties depends on the social context and the circumstances of the communicative situation.

She will explain the phenomenon of diglossia and its influence on the linguistic ideology and linguistic inequality in Egypt. The linguistic features shed light on the social factors that are integrated into language. Discovering the relationship between the language and the community will allow us to see the interaction of language with social and cultural models, which reflects the linguistic identity of Arabic in Egypt.

Bojana is a polyglot, student, currently working as a language teacher and a freelance translator. She has published several articles in the field of sociolinguistics, semantics and culture. She is passionate about traveling, environmental issues and yoga.

About Learning

Improving and accelerating all aspects of language learning

Duolingo Product Development Cycle and Roundtable Q&A

Myra Awodey



The Duolingo team will present a 15-minute introduction to how our language learning app team develops and tests new features. We'll cover AB testing, learning and design data-driven decision making and explore iterations of the newest dashboard feature in our slides. The remaining time would be dedicated to a panel with 2-3 Duo staff and 2-3 Duo volunteers from one of the Incubator's many language teams. We are lucky to have several volunteers from courses of various phases at the event, and hope to involve anyone who wants to share their experience with the Duolingo Incubator or has questions and ideas about the incubator or Duolingo or language learning and technology in general. We'd also like to open the floor to questions from the audience during this time.

Myra Awodey and the Duolingo Team. Community Manager/Language Specialist. Contact them at myra@duolingo.com, +1 412 354 0782 and www.duolingo.com/myra. We are a team of multilingual engineers and community builders who are passionate about global communication. Our mission is to spread the joy of language learning and provide fair access to education.

How to Overcome Locals Replying in English when Traveling as a Native English-Speaker

Conor Clyne



Being an English native speaker has huge advantages when traveling as it is often the international language most widely spoken at your holiday destination. However, as an avid language learner, the ubiquity of English can cause serious problems for you as you travel learning local languages. You spend hours back home studying trying to learn a language and when you arrive in a country where it is spoken, the locals ignore your well-intentioned attempts in the local language and reply to you in English. The experience can be

confidence shattering as well as extremely frustrating.

So what can you do to overcome this? In my presentation, I will outline the principal strategies that work effectively to persuade English-speaking locals to converse with you in the language of your choice. I'll cover the tactics that can be employed for such situations like living abroad, traveling and staying in your home country. Moreover, I'll show you how to deal with even the most stubbornly persistent English-replying local. Finally, I'll go into detail on how to boost your confidence in order to overcome the frustrations of encountering such language learning blockers.

Conor Clyne has lived in 8 countries and travelled to over 70 in the past 15 years. Although not talented at all with languages in school, he subsequently learnt or is currently learning to speak 12 languages, including French, German, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Dutch, Russian, Romanian, Irish, Ukrainian and Catalan, in addition to, his native English. Inspired by the other polyglots who participated at the first Polyglot Conference in Budapest in 2013, Conor subsequently started his own website and YouTube channel called "Language Tsar" at www.languagetsar.com, www.youtube.com/thelanguagetsar, www.facebook.com/thelanguagetsar, and www.twitter.com/thelanguagetsar.

How to Best Use Assimil Courses - Discuss with Authors and Publishers

Philippe Gagneur & Daniel Krasa



Almost every polyglot has tried the Assimil courses. Some even prioritise learning French so that they might use the French-based Assimil courses for lesser-studied languages. But how do you best use an Assimil course? How are they intended to be used? What are people's experiences with them? Join our lively discussion with two representatives of the company: Philippe Gagneur, publisher, and Daniel Krasa, an author of language books who adapted Assimil Hindi, Arabic and Brazilian Portuguese for German learners. Both are polyglots themselves, so you can ask your questions in any language.



Philippe GAGNEUR (1962 in Bourges) , French-German Publisher | Assimil - Der Sprachverlag - Cologne/Rhine.

Daniel KRASA (1976 in Wien), free author for language-books, Documentary Filmmaker, polyglotte-trotter

Habits Mastery

Michal Grzeskowiak



The founder of Facebook wears a grey T-shirt every day - for a reason.

Michael Phelps was able to set a world record in swimming despite being unable to see anything - for a reason.

Stephen King - world bestselling writer - has one morning routine he has been doing for years - for a reason.

Aristotle used to say that we are what we repeatedly do. So in the process of becoming successful in languages and in life you should know that your willpower is limited. Use it wisely. Don't overuse it. And because it's limited it's so important to invest in forming habits - automatic, effortless, quiet factors of cumulative impact on final success. Let's look inside what science tells us about human habits. The talk will consist of 3 parts:

1. WHY it's so important to optimize habits and work on consistency.
2. WHAT is the structure of every habit and HOW to form sustainable habits.
3. What LANGUAGE HABITS can help You become a polyglot, a hyperpolyglot, a person you want to be.

Science has a lot to say about human habits and this talk will translate the most important insights into practical tips to be used on the spot.

Lawyer who decided to follow more inspiring paths of life - personal growth, languages and music. Polyglot helping people in effective language learning through mentoring, training, lectures and products. Coach (member of International Coach Federation) helping people in balanced personal growth. Trainer delivering workshops on practical skills of communication, public speaking, leadership. TEDx Speaker and Advanced Communicator and Leader at Toastmasters International.

How To Be a Better Language Learner by Being Agile and Lean

Benson Hoi



You can get stuck at language learning at times with the conventional approach, so what if you learn to be more flexible, have more feedback loops and learn to set up a language learning process which continuously improves? The words Agile and Lean have been buzzwords in the media for quite some time. You have most likely heard about these two terms in relation to the IT industry. Agile and Lean have made software development much more

effective. IT teams in both the public and private sectors are increasingly embracing these two methodologies. Did you know that the lessons learnt in the software world can be applied to language learning?

This talk will introduce and explore principles of Agile and Lean Methodology and how they can be applied to tackle the problem of language learning. You will learn how to diagnose your own language learning and how to continuously improve effectively. You will also appreciate a new and flexible mindset to approach language and general learning. You don't need any IT background to benefit from this talk!

Benson was born in Macau and raised in London and had a passion for languages from a very young age. Benson has a Master in Computer Science and Mathematics and a Graduate Certificate in Linguistics. He works as a software engineer and a development process coach for 6+ years. As an aspiring nomadic technology guy, his current gig is in Paris where he continuously seeks to improve his programming, language and personal skills. He speaks Cantonese, Mandarin, English, French and Japanese. He is also somewhat conversational in Spanish and has dabbled in many more. You can find out more about his technology, language learning and personal development passion at BensonHoi.com.

What Philosophy Can Tell Us About Language Learning

Christopher Huff

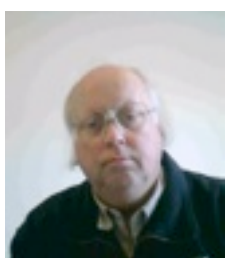


Ever feel like there's nothing new in language learning? Like every new idea is already ancient by now? Then the ideas Chris has uncovered - from some ancient philosophers - might surprise you!

Christopher Huff is a language fan from the United States currently based in China. You can find updates on his learning methods, materials and progress at LanguageFan.com.

Llistes de Paraules amb Tres Columnes - Three Column Wordlists

Niels Iversen



Per l'aprenentatge de paraules, l'enfocament, la formació de associacions i la repetició son paraules clau. Les eines de memorització “formals” - incloent las listas de paraules amb tres columnes - sistematitzen la repetició i mantenen l'enfocament, però al meu entendre també es necessari la formació de connexions a altres paraules i al món en general. El resultat és un augment del vocabulari passiu, i cal d'altres activitats per a activar aquest vocabulari. Però això és més fàcil si saps 10.000 paraules que si només saps una mil·lèsima.

Started out learning languages in school and by self study, later at Aarhus University where I obtained a cand.mag. degree in French and Comparative Literature in January 1982 - but I had also followed courses in a number of other languages. I discovered in 1982 that the preceding 68-generation had taken all the good jobs and decided to drop all involvement with foreign languages apart from reading, TV watching and travelling. I took instead an economical exam called HD (minus the final thesis) and then somehow got a job as a computer consultant in public service, which I have kept to this day. Discovered HTLAL in 2006 and decided to relearn my old languages and add a few new ones. Have done monolingual travels in about a dozen languages and can read/write in something like twenty - without necessarily being able to speak them.

Mind, Language, and Culture: Exploring Social, Psychological, and Affective Factors in Becoming Multilingual and Multicultural

Tim Keeley



When it comes to foreign languages and foreign cultures people react in astoundingly different ways. Why are some people frustrated in trying to learn even the basics of a foreign language while others speak multiple foreign languages fluently? And why do some people seem to flourish in almost any culture while others quickly become overwhelmed and flounder? The book I have written under the same title (in press - Springer) investigates how some

key social, psychological, and affective factors go a long way toward accounting for these differences and how people can become more adept at the challenges of learning a foreign language and adapting to a foreign culture. The main factors to be discussed in the talk are: Self-Identity, Self-Confidence, Optimism, Emotional Resilience, Non-Stress Tendency, Stress Management, Relationship Interest, Interpersonal Engagement, Emotional Sensitivity, Self-Awareness, Social Flexibility, Tolerance of Ambiguity, and Interest Flexibility. I look forward to an interactive session of comments and questions from this great gathering of polyglots.

Tim Keeley is professor of Cross-Cultural Management at Kyushu Sangyo University in Fukuoka, Japan teaching mainly in Japanese and Chinese. Tim has taught EMBA programs for Tulane University (Tokyo), Temple University (Shanghai and Taipei), and Chulalongkorn University (Bangkok). Tim has used more than twenty languages while studying at 8 universities around the globe (International Relations, Latin American Literature, Slavic Literature, Chinese Literature, International Business, Cross-Cultural Management and International Human Resource Management), working as a corporate manager at GE, marketing manager at Westvaco, teaching, and traveling for research and pleasure.

Three Keys to Staying Motivated When Learning a Language

Brian Kwong



Most of us who are here at the Polyglot Gathering are pretty motivated already. But what if we can take our motivation to the next level while making language learning even more fun than it already is? These three golden keys, which I discovered by working with more than 500 language learners around the world through the Add1Challenge, will not only empower you to sustain your motivation, it will also make your language learning experience more fun,

fulfilled and richer than before. After the talk, we will interact, brainstorm together and dive in to what motivates us, the awesome participants in the Polyglot Gathering Berlin together.

Brian Kwong is the founder of the Add1Challenge, where language learners motivate, support and keep each other accountable to strive for the common goal of holding a 15-minute conversation with a native speaker in 90 days, together. More than 500 language learners around the world, with different levels of language learning experience have gone through it. Language learners learning their first ever foreign language and polyglots like Judith Meyer all got amazing results by participating in the Add1Challenge.

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Cueillez des Mots, Partout, Partout! – Wordpicking, a Lively Way to Meet and Learn

Sylvain Lelarge



Promenez-vous en France et lisez ce qui s'offre à vos yeux: vous y découvrirez, partout, partout, des perles. Graffiti provocants aux murs, noms de boutiques bien trouvés, panneaux publicitaires étranges ou annonces officielles bancales, même les petits mots épinglés sur les portes, très souvent, se révèlent pleins d'humour (qu'il soit volontaire ou pas). Pour qui aime la langue et la rencontre, de telles trouvailles sont l'occasion rêvée de parler avec les

passants, de rire ensemble, et d'explorer langue et culture. Existe-t-il une façon plus vivante d'apprendre ? Sylvain partage avec vous une petite partie de sa collection de merveilles... et espère vous infecter avec le virus du Cueilleur de Mots, en quelque langue que ce soit...

Strolling down French streets with your eyes wide open, you will discover little treasures in writing: graffiti, shops signs, advertising posters, as well as personal messages pinned on doors, full of (not always intentional) humor. Use them to meet the French. Become a Cueilleur de Mots.

Sylvain Lelarge lives in Holland, and regularly takes groups of Francophiles to the most gorgeous places in France for intensive language training and cultural exploration. His teaching embodies the good French life and all its little delights... Sylvain speaks four languages fluently and is currently learning another three... which is no mean feat for a Frenchman ;-)

Guided Imagery in Language Learning

Antonio Libertino



Imagine you had a tool that could increase your cognitive skills, creativity and motivation and even let you remember words and expressions in your target language in an easier way. Would you use it? Scientific research has already proven that learning can occur by mental imagery as much as by the real action. That is also why athletes have used it for decades to reach their goals, to acquire and practise motor skills, to rehearse routines to create muscle memory, and to develop a greater sense of self-awareness.

So, why can't you use imagery to speak better in your target language? After a brief introduction about the subject, you will be guided in an imaginary adventure that will make you get familiar with the use of mental imagery in language learning.

Author of several books for language learning (Speak Italian Magically, Awaken Your English, etc.), teacher of Italian (Ditals certified) to foreigners for more than ten years, Antonio Libertino has also learned English and German, loves languages, cultures, and accelerated learning methods. Find out more about him at www.speakitalianmagically.com, www.awakenyourenglish.com, or contact him at: info@italianoinitalia.com.

The Zen Of Memory: Advanced Mnemonics For Language Learning

Anthony Metivier



Every language learner has either heard of, or used, image-based mnemonics for language learning. Success with these memory techniques varies according to interest, learning preferences and pleasure of use. But by better understanding their application, more fun, more portals of entry and more results emerge. In this talk, you'll learn about more advanced approaches linked

to location-based memory strategies, a.k.a. Memory Palaces. You'll discover how you can rapidly memorize irregular verbs, cases and other grammar principles using locations and other information you already know. You can use these techniques as an alternative to SRS or in combination. The more sophisticated you make your approach to mnemonics for language learning, the more difficult projects you can tackle and experience greater success in record time.

Whether or not you take up these techniques, learning the Zen of Memory guarantees you will never think about memory techniques for language learning the same way again.

Anthony Metivier is the founder of the Magnetic Memory Method, a systematic, 21st Century approach to memorizing foreign language vocabulary, dreams, names, music, poetry and much more in ways that are easy, elegant, effective and fun.

From 0 to C1 in Chinese - Without Staying in China

Judith Meyer



Chinese is fascinating, super useful and said to be incredibly difficult. Almost everyone will deny that it's even possible to learn Chinese without spending a lot of time in China. But that's exactly what I did and I am here to show you that learning Chinese is entirely within your power, no matter where you live. Both the characters and the tones are much easier to learn than you think. I have a concrete map that you can adopt (or customize) in order to go from zero knowledge to intermediate and then on to C1 in this amazing language. If you are wondering how to master another Asian language without living in the

country, you can probably adopt a lot of the suggestions as well. Let's speak Chinese at the next Gathering!

Judith Meyer is a Berlin-based polyglot and head organizer of the Polyglot Gathering. She has mastered all of her languages, including English and Chinese, without extensive stays abroad. She also developed the free online Chinese course www.learnyu.com.

Ne Timu Tonajn Lingvojn! - Don't Be Afraid of Tonal Languages!

André Müller



Multaj homoj, eĉ poliglotoj, timas lerni tonajn lingvojn kiel la ĉinan, vjetnaman aŭ tajlandan. Kelkaj diras, ke ili ne povas aŭdi la malsamon inter la tonoj, aŭ ke ili ne povas prononci ilin ĝuste. Por multaj lingvolernantoj la tonoj ŝajnas esti granda malfacilaĵo en la aziaj lingvoj kaj ili kredas, ke ili ne sukcesos venki ĝin. Tamen, tiaj lingvoj ja estas lerneblaj. La ĉina lingvo eĉ estas unu el la plej ofte lernataj lingvoj inter poliglotoj. Do, evidente ĝi ja estas lernebla.

En mia prezentado mi volas montri, kiel la tonoj en la ĉina, tajlanda, vjetnama, birma, ktp. funkcias, kiel oni povas prononci kaj aŭdi ilin, kaj kiuj metodoj ekzistas por faciligi la lernadon de la diversaj tonsistemoj. Se vi planas iam lerni azian aŭ afrikan lingvon, sed ankoraŭ timas la tonojn, venu kaj aŭskultu! Ni eble eĉ povos iomete ekzerĉi.

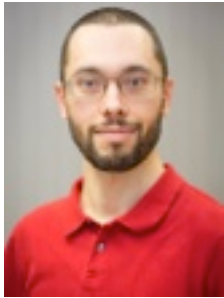
Mi mem sukcesis lerni tri lingvojn kun tonoj. Pro tio mi certas, ke ankaŭ vi povos!

Note: This talk will be in *simple Esperanto*, as a little challenge for you and an experiment! Even if you have never studied Esperanto before, chances are very high that you'll still understand most of what I'm saying. And the slides will be in English. Have no fear, for I shall speak slowly and clearly. :)

André Müller is a PhD student of linguistics at the University of Zurich in Switzerland, though originally hailing from Leipzig, Germany. He is most fascinated by writing systems, phonetics, languages of Southeast Asia, the Caucasus and artificial languages. André speaks in descending order of fluency: Deutsch, Esperanto, English, 普通话, ภาษาไทย, Nederlands, русский язык, မြန်မာစကား, Français, tlhIngan Hol, español, Latina & la .lojban., and can read and write around two dozen writing systems.

The Most Effective Way to Learn Languages

Adriano Murelli



So you love languages and feel the sacred fire of polyglossy deep inside yourself like the Apostles at Pentecost? You bought more than 30 different language courses but don't really know where to start? Then this introductory lecture may help you! We will review a number of factors crucial to (language) learning and go in search of the most effective learning method - if there is one at all... To escape Anglo-monotony, we may switch the language of the lecture from time to time. Slides are in English, so everybody can follow.

A passionate language learner ever since, Adriano mainly concentrated on European languages; at present, he is considering "going East". He has been into language teaching, translating and linguistic research since 2001. You may follow him at murelling.com.

Beyond Language: Lessons About Life, Self-Understanding & Transformation

Irina Pravet



Ever wondered why you feel so good at the polyglot conferences & gatherings? Is it only because we're language nerds who can't get enough of phonetics and grammar or is there more to our shared passion? This talk will explore three phases of transition we experience when we move abroad, take on the challenge of learning a new language, and the unexpected results we get from morphing our lives around an entirely new way of thinking.

What does such a process do to us? What does it teach us? How does it change us? I'll be sharing insights from my own transition from Canada to Finland, as well as inviting attendees to become active participants, and answer questions they may have never considered from their own experiences. Whether or not you live abroad, are considering a move or are happy learning from home, I hope you'll join us and find out if and how your perception of the world and yourself been radically altered by your love of languages.

Hi, my name is Irina Pravet and I'm an accidental polyglot. I was born in Romania, raised in Canada (Montreal & Toronto), and now I live in Finland. I'm truly fascinated by the process of finding oneself abroad and all that it entails: from learning the language to the personal growth and well-being involved. When I'm not thinking about the aforementioned things, I'm either doing handstands, eating cheese or watching Buffy the Vampire Slayer. Among other things, I'm a language, life & transitions abroad coach; you can find me at www.languagecatalyst.com.

Learning Languages Abroad - Should I Stay or Should I Go?

Alex Rawlings



One of the rumours you'll often hear about language learning is that the best way to do it is abroad. Immersed in the local language and culture, mastering it is almost inevitable and simply a matter of time. There's no need to spend all day studying books or even log into Memrise ever again, you can simply just sit in a café all day long sipping coffee and absorbing everything going on around you. Right?

Since August, Alex has been living in Budapest, Hungary - home to one of the hardest languages in the world, which he has been trying to learn. In this talk he shares some of his experiences, explaining what worked, what didn't, and what he would do differently next time in order to get the most out of his immersion experience. He will draw some conclusions about whether immersion is all it's cracked up to be and answer a question that's often asked about learning languages abroad: "Should I stay or should I go?"

Alex was born and raised in London and had a passion for languages from a very young age. In February 2012 he was named Britain's most multilingual student in a competition run by Harper Collins, after being tested for fluency in 11 different languages. He read German and Russian at Oxford University, and is now learning more languages and blogging at RawLangs.com.

Lazy Poliglotti - Lernen Languages Quase Senza Viaggiare 或者 a Studia

Cesco Reale



How to be a lazy polyglot: no courses, no books, no travel, no study, no money: only friends, parties and mainly tandems (language exchanges). In your city, a fun and free way to learn languages and make foreign friends, just exploiting lunch and dinner time.

I will give some tips based on my experience of over 150 tandem partners and over 4000 hours of language exchanges.

It has become a way of life for me.

A scientific communicator, Cesco deals with games, languages and maths, creating festivals, exhibitions and conferences. He speaks more than 10 languages, including Latin and Esperanto, and holds the IPA certificate in phonetics. He is also UN representative for the World Esperanto Association. Visit his Youtube channel on languages!

italki Discussion and Q & A

italki Representatives



italki is a language learning marketplace where students can find the best online language teachers in the world. With over 1.5 million students and 4000+ teachers of 100 languages, they are the leader in online education and a paradise for polyglots. They are also the official sponsor of the Polyglot Gathering. Use

this chance to talk to representatives of the company about your experiences with the site and about your ideas for how it could be even better. No matter if you are using italki as a student, a teacher or an affiliate partner, they are specifically looking for feedback from the polyglot community.

How to Learn Arabic Dialects

Olly Richards



“I’m one of the people who gave up on Arabic.” Why do so many people who learn Arabic as a foreign language give it up? This talk is aimed at those who are new to Arabic and will explore some of the challenges facing learners of the world’s 5th most widely-spoken language, such as learning Modern Standard Arabic versus local dialects, the merits of using the Franco-Arabic alphabet, and difficulties reading the traditional script.

This is a personal talk in which I will discuss my own experience of beginning to speak the language...and not giving up! I will cover the lessons I have learnt since moving to Egypt in September 2014 and offer advice to those interested in taking on the language, focusing on how to be successful from the start and avoid the most common pitfalls. There will also be a discussion of some of the main linguistic challenges associated with Arabic and plenty of time for questions.

Olly Richards is from the UK and runs the I Will Teach You A Language blog. He currently lives in Egypt, where he is learning his 8th language: Arabic. Find him at: iwillteachyoualanguage.com, facebook.com/iwillteachyoualanguage, and twitter.com/olly_iwtyal.

Building Language Learning Habits

Claudio Santori



My cousin wants to learn a language. He is all excited about it. He buys everything he can find about this language: all the books, softwares, courses, anything. And only one week later, his motivation is gone, suddenly he struggles to find the time to study the new language. But of course he has always time to procrastinate on Facebook and Youtube. Maybe you know my cousin too?

We cannot rely only on willpower and motivation, because willpower and motivation are limited. Better to cultivate discipline than to rely on motivation. Come to the lecture and you will learn how to build strong habits to make your language learning inevitable. And not just language learning, you can apply most of these techniques to any goal you have in your life. Some of the things you will learn:

- how to deal with procrastination
- how to deal with pain
- the minimal effective dose
- 80 / 20
- how to make it inevitable

The talk is in Italian but I will make it very easy and entertaining so that anybody can follow it.

Claudio Santori is a life enthusiast. He is Italian but he has been living abroad (first Finland, now Lithuania) for more than 10 years. He is a lazy polyglot and he is looking for a way to learn languages without studying it. You can call it "the lazy Italian way of learning languages".

In 2013 he raised 200,000 Euros and started his own business. His startup is called BliuBliu.com and the central concept is learning languages while consuming interesting content without worrying too much about the grammar or memorising any list of words.

Recently he hacked an entire country and made a video in Lithuanian that went viral: now the entire nation knows him and strangers are coming to him to speak Lithuanian and help him practice. Find him at: facebook.com/claudio52, twitter.com/claudio52, claudiosantori.it, bliubliu.com, and claudio@bliubliu.com.

Finding or Creating Good Language Learning Content

Claudio Santori



If you are learning a language, you know how hard can be to find interesting content at your level. How many times (and in how many languages) have you already read the Petit Prince? Wouldn't you like to read something different?

If you ask natives, they will always give you very nationalistic old content that nobody watches anymore. If you ask Google, you never know what you are going to find. What kind of content do we need to make a language easier to learn for ourself and other people?

Come to the lecture and you will learn:

- what makes a content good for language learning
- how to find good content
- how to create good content
- how to hack YouTube to find amazing material
- how to use Bliu Bliu (my startup) to immerse yourself in any language

Claudio Santori is a life enthusiast. He is Italian but he has been living abroad (first Finland, now Lithuania) for more than 10 years. He is a lazy polyglot and he is looking for a way to learn languages without studying it. You can call it "the lazy Italian way of learning languages".

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Life as a Native English Speaker Learning Languages

Richard Simcott



Richard Simcott, a polyglot from Chester, Great Britain, is a lifelong language learner who has studied more than 40 languages. HarperCollins has described him as one of the most multilingual people in the United Kingdom, and the Goethe-Institut has named him Ambassador for Multilingualism.

Richard manages a team of polyglots as the Head of Languages at social media management agency Emoderation. He has many years of consulting experience using languages with diverse clients and offering his expertise on multilingual and multinational projects in both public and private sectors.

At the Gathering, Richard will discuss his language learning story and routine and how he fits it in to his daily life. He will also look at giving spontaneous sessions too. Feel free to put in your requests to him.

He is an original founder of the Polyglot Conference, manages a popular Facebook group called Speaking Fluently, and also runs the Polyglot Workshops with Alex Rawlings. Richard lives a very multilingual existence at home in Skopje with his family and is raising his daughter multilingually also.

Sounding Native

Vladimir Skultety



Having a native-like accent is something that a lot of students of foreign languages strive for. Acquiring a good or native-like accent is unfortunately not easy and many fail to achieve this goal. A good accent is often attributed to talent, but many times, as with almost anything, practice can make (almost) perfect too. Yet, is accent the only thing that is making us sound native?

In this talk I will go over the basic aspects of 'nativeness' and talk about ways to improve them. Learn about the importance of intonation, accent and how working on pronunciation mechanics can improve it, but also understand how correct wording and saying what is called for can often make an even greater difference.

A translator and interpreter of Chinese, Slovak and English, born in Slovakia and lived in 9 countries, most recently in Taiwan for 5 years. He has a Master's degree in International relations and a Bachelor's degree in Chinese studies, speaks 15 languages, 8 of them at a C1-C2 level. Find him at: www.foreverastudent.com and Youtube: Understanding Chinese Characters.

Imagina Tu Vida Doblada: Creatividad Aplicada al Aprendizaje de Idiomas - (Re)Playing Your Life: Creativity in Language Learning

María de Vera

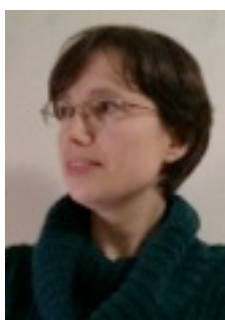


Un genio dijo una vez que la creatividad es la inteligencia divirtiéndose. Jugar a imaginar expande tu mente dotando a tu vida de mayor intensidad. Ser más creativo sirve para un montón de cosas. Entre otras muchas, ayuda a retener nuevos conocimientos disfrutando más del proceso. ¿Quizás te hayas preguntado alguna vez cómo nace una idea? ¿Será que somos todos creativos? ¿Cómo me entreno para serlo más usando mi cuerpo? ¿La sinestesia se puede aprender? ¿Qué es visceralizar? En esta charla quiero compartir contigo lo que he aprendido durante mis propias aventuras por el país de la creatividad. ¿Te vienes a romper conmigo las barreras de la lógica?

María de Vera is a multilingual creative generalist, in love with languages and imagination since she can remember. Born in Tenerife, Spain, she has worked as a translator, conference interpreter, raw food chef, storyteller, designer, actor and singer. At the moment, she romances Esperanto, Hungarian and Polish. More about María at www.multilingualcreativegeneralist.com.

Can Immersion Possibly Hinder Language Acquisition?

Alisa Zingerman



We often take things for granted. It's considered to be common sense to agree that immersion is the best facilitator of language-learning - because, of course, technically, the bigger the input, the faster the progress. But, with human language-learning, not only the technical aspects count, there are other factors at play. Immersion is not a magic pill - I was amazed to notice that in some cases it works wonders, but in some cases it doesn't. Drawing upon examples and stories from personal experience, I'd like to look into this immersion notion fallacy and try to work out some practical conclusions.

Maybe not enough of a polyglot, but certainly a passionate language-learner. Being born in Russia, spending my grown-up life in Israel, now moving to Germany for a couple of years I am lucky to encounter, compare, enjoy and speak the languages I came into contact with (by living or by prolonged learning, as is the case with my most cherished and challenging Japanese.) Similar to the broad and hectic parsing of the languages I studied, this lack of singularity is mirrored in my professional occupation - formally an English teacher, then got an "upgrade education" as an animator, currently I am running a translation agency with my husband and do my best to combine all the fields.

Life as a Polyglot

The challenges and opportunities that come with speaking multiple languages

How to Facilitate Online Self-Study? Lessons Learned Building Several Course Platforms

Peter Baláž



Is it possible to make language learning easier and easily accessible to the majority of mankind? Yes it is! How? By means of good online platforms. What is the key, to create a good online tool for language learning? What does the user want and really need? Why does online learning matter? How can non-formal learning influence the formal one?

Our experience in this field can help you see it more deeply. How to support multilingualism and language learning at the same time? Use the Internet and the right know-how and make the knowledge accessible! This talk will discuss the creation of course platforms, and will look at how some of them works, or doesn't work. We will try to see the near future, where online learning will be a part of everyday life for the majority of us and an inevitable part of lifelong language learning.

Peter Baláž - coordinator of the NGO 'Education@Internet' (E@I) since 2005, publisher (www.espero.sk). Active esperantist, supporter of multilingualism and of free knowledge. Coordinator, team leader of several online language teaching platforms and active member of some others (ikso.net/en/projektoj/index.php). Organiser of international events (language schools, conferences). Speaks 5-7 languages. Hobby: meditation, sci-fi, metal music, books, meatless cooking. Contact: www.facebook.com/peter.balaz.526 or petro@ikso.net.

Making Money Teaching Languages Online: 5 Steps to Your Own Language Training Program

Ruslan Kokorin



If you, as many polyglots and language enthusiasts have, spent years perfecting your language skills, you are in a good position to share your knowledge and experience with others and make extra income in the process. There is a huge and growing demand for language coaching, teaching and training. Believe it or not there are people out there who are willing to pay money for your advice and coaching them in order to get better results and faster than usual. Last year I became a language coach who had a group of 28 students at one moment. I would love to tell you how you can start earning money by helping people get excellent results in the field you are most likely already an expert: language learning. We will talk about easy steps to your online coaching/training program. Questions such as: “how can I create my own program?”, “how do I find my first students?”, and others will be covered in this talk.

Ruslan Kokorin was born and raised in Russia but for the last 16 year has been living in the UK and Ireland. Last year he created his coaching program “Learning a language like polyglots” and one week training “Barrier remover” where people overcome their fears and start speaking the language. Both of these programs are designed for Russian speakers learning English. Ruslan had a number of talks at the monthly online conference “The Tower of Babel”. He speaks 4 languages and learns a few more. My FB page is www.facebook.com/ruslan.kokorin.

How to Reach Millions of Language Learners

Benny Lewis



Benny Lewis' website gets 1 million visitors per month, his Youtube channel has over 5 million views, and he appears very often on the media, including major TV spots seen by millions. That's a lot of people who have heard his encouraging words for beginner language learners. How did he do this? In this talk, Benny shares his story from his first ever Youtube upload through to how his language learning book became an international best seller. Understand the development of his story, the perspective of a well known Youtube polyglot as he found the online community, and the growth of his “Fluent in 3 Months” brand, and see if you can take inspiration to apply to your own story, to also reach millions of people and try to inspire language learners as Benny has done.

National Geographic Traveller of the Year, Irish Language Ambassador for the EU, and speaker of 11 languages at A2 through C2 levels, despite only speaking English at the age of 21, Benny Lewis has made it his mission to inspire as many adults as possible to get into language learning.

Localization Management

André Liss



Many polyglots, by dint of their knowledge and abilities, work as translators. Technology continues to change this ever-growing industry. Software localization, which means to say the translation of a user interface into other languages, is a fascinating sub-field. Many polyglots and translators are unaware of the processes involved on the software-development side of the equation.

This presentation will provide an overview of the main terms, technologies, methodologies and challenges that a software development house must address for effective localization. The presentation will be given in English, French, German and Portuguese.

André Liss has been studying languages for 30 years, speaking 10 with varying levels of confidence and flair. Since 2000, he has been a technical communicator, specializing in information architecture and localization management. A Canadian nomad, since 2012 he has been happy to call Vienna home.

Single Sourcing by Language

André Liss



Single sourcing is a methodology used in software development and technical communication, whereby a single repository of content is repurposed for differing types of output. At one IT company in Vienna, your polyglot presenter uses this methodology to group short user manuals by language, tagging the differences per country, for consistent output and fast turnarounds. This presentation is likely of great interest to polyglots who wonder about non-traditional career paths that can leverage their unique skill-set.

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The Pleasures and Pains of Working as a Conference Interpreter

Lýdia Machová



Languages are a hobby and a passion for all of us but have you ever wondered what it's like to work with them in your professional life too? I have been a conference interpreter (working with Slovak, Czech, English and partially German and Polish) for over five years and I love my job. I'll tell you what goes on in the head of an interpreter during simultaneous interpreting, what are the do's and don'ts of interpreting, how much interpreters earn, what problems we encounter in the interpreting booth or on the stage, and how we overcome them. I'll also

debunk a few myths about interpreters - of course, mentioning a few anecdotes from my interpreting experience along the way. If you have been toying with the idea of putting your languages to a good use and work as interpreters, this talk will give you a general picture of the profession. Note: The talk will not deal with written translation of texts, only interpreting.

Lýdia is a freelance interpreter and a PhD student of Translation studies concentrating on self-assessment of student interpreters. She teaches lessons of consecutive and simultaneous interpreting at the Comenius University in Bratislava. Lýdia speaks 5 languages fluently and is able to communicate in four more. Besides languages, she loves travelling (especially through Couchsurfing), salsa dancing and socializing. Contact: www.facebook.com/lydia.machova.

Komputekeo - Collaborate on a Dictionary

Yves Nevelsteen



Komputekeo is an online project of the non-profit youth organization E@I ('Education@Internet') with the goal of bringing together parallel computer terminology from various dictionaries in order to facilitate access to and comparison between different translations and thus promote exact use of language, and thereby counteract the (often sloppy) usage of linguistic borrowings from American English. Komputekeo is short for the Esperanto noun phrase "Prikomputila terminokolekto", meaning "collection of computer terms". The dictionary is quinquelingual (Esperanto, English, Dutch, German and French), and there are plans to expand it into other languages. A preliminary version with a few other languages already exists.

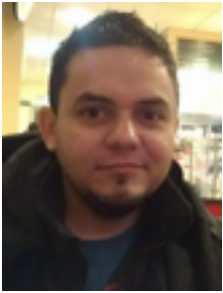
The Esperanto dictionaries and word lists on which Komputekeo is based are the Komputada Leksikono ("Computing Lexicon") by Sergio Pokrovskij, the crowd-sourced Reta Vortaro ("Internet Dictionary", ReVo, the Plena Ilustrita Vortaro de Esperanto ("Complete Illustrated Dictionary of Esperanto", PIV), the Internet mini-dictionary of the Flandra Esperanto-Ligo, the Techniczny Słownik Polsko Esperancki ("Polish-Esperanto Technical Dictionary") by Jerzy Wałaszek, the three-volume Pekoteko collection of terminology, Bill Walker's Komputilo Vortolisto and a Dutch-Esperanto dictionary. It also takes into account the terminology used in Wikipedia articles.

The promoter of the project, Yves Nevelsteen, among other things, joined the Esperanto translation team for the open-source productivity suite OpenOffice.org, the social networking site ipernity and the content management system Drupal in order to make these teams' work product more widely available through Komputekeo.

Being from Belgium, Yves learned French, English and German at school. Dutch is his mother tongue. He taught himself Esperanto at the age of 15, learned Spanish later and has always worked in a multilingual environment. He studied communications management, but is passionate about technology too. In 1997 he worked for an internet provider, in 1999 as an internal helpdesk agent and software teacher at a newspaper. From 2005 till 2008 Yves was an active CAD software translator and manual writer. It is at that time, he started developing the Komputekeo project. After an interesting experience as an independent editor, nowadays, Yves is working as an assistant editor for a company that produces school books.

Como se Tornar um Blogueiro de Idiomas - How to Become a Language Blogger

Fábio Nogueira



You always wanted to have a website about languages but you don't know how to do it? Are you afraid of not being original? Would you like to have some ideas of what to write about? What are the most popular posts on a language blog? What does/doesn't work? After 7 years of blogging (Blog/Facebook/Twitter/Instagram) about the German language on Internet (aprenderalemao.com) and getting more than 62,000 Likes on Facebook, Fabio wants to share some ideas (with real examples) that could help those who want to become a language

blogger. People who have their own blogs are welcome to share their experiences. *Lecture will be given in Portuguese and German.*

Fábio Nogueira is a Brazilian polyglot who lives in Germany. He graduated in Portuguese and German and has a Master degree in German as a Foreign language. Nowadays he works as a Portuguese teacher in two German universities (Bremen/Hamburg) and has a website in Portuguese about the German language (aprenderalemao.com). Besides German and Portuguese, he speaks English, Spanish, French and has some knowledge in many other languages: Finnish, Esperanto, Italian, Greek, Russian, Croatian etc. Contact him at: deutsch@aprenderalemao.com.

Inside the Duolingo Incubator

Chuck Smith



You may have used Duolingo, but were you ever curious about what goes on behind the scenes? Learn more about Duolingo's Incubator community and how courses are made. Chuck will give you an overview of the entire process from applying to be a course contributor to creating an entire course's content to launching a course into the wild.

This inside glance will also reveal how volunteering in the Incubator is gamified in a similar way as learning a language in their system. Internal chatrooms connect their over 200 volunteers and talented mentors help each team communicate with Duolingo staff in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA.

Whether you are interested in creating a course for Duolingo, make your own courses, or are just a happy student on Duolingo, you're sure to learn something interesting. Chuck also looks forward to answering your questions of how the system works from the inside. Be sure to attend: after all, you wouldn't want to make the owl cry!

Having started learning Esperanto in Feb 2001 and then founding the Esperanto Wikipedia in Nov 2001, he is in a unique position to predict the future of community educational websites. He leads Duolingo's Esperanto course team and is the CEO of Ludisto (www.ludisto.com), which makes fun mobile and tablet games like What the Shell. Besides speaking Esperanto and his native English, he also speaks fluent German, as well as conversational Spanish, French and Dutch.

Fremdenführer und Reiseleiter - Tourist-Guides and Tour Managers

Astrid Stangl



Hier möchte ich ein Berufsfeld vorstellen, in dem gute Fremdsprachenkenntnisse sehr wichtig sind. Ein Arbeitstag gleicht selten dem anderen und man trifft ständig neue Menschen aus anderen Ländern und Kulturen. Dies ist möglich, ohne je den eigenen Heimatort zu verlassen - oder man begleitet als Reiseleiter Gruppen in die ganze Welt. In jedem Fall lernt man jeden Tag etwas neues dazu.

Die Möglichkeiten als Guide zu arbeiten sind sehr vielfältig. Ich möchte hier einige grundlegende Informationen über den Beruf vermitteln: Was ist der Unterschied zwischen Fremdenführer und Reiseleiter? Für wen könnte eine solche Tätigkeit in Frage kommen? Welche Fähigkeiten und Kompetenzen sollte man mitbringen? Wie wird man Fremdenführer bzw. Reiseleiter? Muss/ soll man eine Ausbildung dafür machen? Was muss man dafür lernen? Wie sieht der Berufsalltag aus? Wo finde ich meine Kunden?

Diese und weitere Fragen werde ich in meinem Vortrag beantworten und damit vielleicht die eine oder den anderen auf diese interessante Tätigkeit neugierig machen.

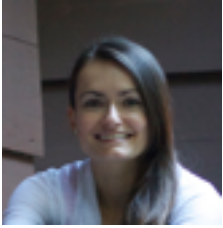
Astrid lebt in Wien und ist seit 3 Jahren staatlich geprüfte Fremdenführerin für Österreich. Nach einem Werdegang mit mehreren beruflichen Umwegen, gelingt es ihr in diesem Beruf ihre vielfältigen Interessen für Sprachen, Kultur, Geschichte etc. unter einen Hut zu bringen.

Courses

Come and sample a new language from this diverse selection

An Introduction to Modern Greek: How to Leverage Greek for Learning Other Languages

Daniela Carcani



Knowing Greek is one of the most powerful tools a true polyglot can have. As a result of its lasting influence, studying Greek will empower you to easily unlock numerous languages worldwide. Whether you are studying for a standardized exam, want to be the next Indiana Jones, want to be a hyper-polyglot or simply want to expand your vocabulary, understanding the definitions of Greek root words and how they are used will be extremely beneficial. The majority of words in higher education subjects such as the sciences, medicine, philosophy and mathematics derive from Greek and Latin. Greek is the language in which foundational texts of philosophy such as the Dialogues of Plato and the works of Aristotle were composed. Whatever your reason, studying this rich language will provide you with the tools to decipher the meaning of words, take apart and construct new words, as well as to learn new vocabulary and language patterns.

Daniela is passionate about the language acquisition process and loves telling others about Greek root words whether they want to listen or not. She is a native speaker of Greek and speaks over six languages at different levels of fluency and has studied several more. She has studied in six countries and traveled to over thirty. She always enjoys learning about other people and cultures. Daniela also has a Masters in International Relations.

Introduction to Northern Sami

Irena Dahl



The Sami people, sometimes referred to as the only remaining indigenous peoples in Europe, and their languages have always had a reputation of being mysterious and exotic. Now you have a unique chance to get to know one of these beautiful languages, Northern Sami. It has about 25 000 speakers that live in Norway, Sweden and Finland and is the most widely spoken of all the Sami languages. It's a member of Finno-Ugric language family, together with Finnish, Estonian and Hungarian. You'll learn some basic phrases, get an overview of the Northern Sami grammar and even learn how to flirt in Northern Sami!

Irena Dahl is a Russian polyglot living in Norway. She is currently doing her Bachelor in Arabic and Middle Eastern Studies. She speaks 10 languages and works as a private Norwegian tutor. She learned Northern Sami, an indigenous minority language spoken in the North of Scandinavia, in Oslo, the capital of Norway, without ever having travelled to the North. Find Irena at: www.youtube.com/user/lashforbates.

Introduction to Slovak

Matthieu Desplantes



Slovak is a Slavic language spoken by approximately 5 million people who live mostly in Slovakia, as well as one of the 24 official languages of the European Union. Less known than its close relatives Czech and Polish, it is nonetheless an interesting and beautiful language. During this talk, I will present basic facts about the language, give an outline of its pronunciation and grammar, and I will also present the most interesting and unusual features of Slovak, useful

phrases and tongue-twisters, such as the infamous *Strč prst skrz krk*, which is actually a valid and pronounceable Slovak sentence.

I am from France, but I have been living in Slovakia for a year and a half. I work as a programmer and translator on language-related websites, including the website Slovakie.eu that aims to teach Slovak to foreigners. Apart from intermediate Slovak, I also speak French, English, Esperanto, intermediate Russian and bad German.

Confident Cantonese in 49 minutes

Benson Hoi



Cantonese has about 70 million speakers and has a rich culture and films and music. By the end of this interactive workshop, you will learn to make a few simple speeches and ask basic questions. You will achieve this through hacking the tones of Cantonese and as well as the required grammar points and vocabularies through various creative mnemonic techniques. The presented framework is inspired by Memrise, Pimsleur and Michel Thomas among others.

Benson was born in Macau and raised in London and had a passion for languages from a very young age. Benson has a Master in Computer Science and Mathematics and a Graduate Certificate in Linguistics. He works as a software engineer and a development process coach for 6+ years. As an aspiring nomadic technology guy, his current gig is in Paris where he continuously seeks to improve his programming, language and personal skills. He speaks Cantonese, Mandarin, English, French and Japanese. He is also somewhat conversational in Spanish and has dabbled in many more. You can find out more about his technology, language learning and personal development passion at BensonHoi.com.

Introduction to Polish

Paweł Koperek



Polish may seem like a challenging language at the beginning, but every polyglot knows that if there's a will, there's always a way. In the course of this talk, I'll do my best to encourage you to learn one of the biggest languages in Europe. I'll dispel some major myths about Polish, show good learning materials, and discuss useful learning techniques, often suitable for other Slavic languages as well.

If you are already learning the language, or you're seriously thinking about undertaking the challenge, or even if you're just curious - feel free to come. Apart from the informative part, we'll practice pronunciation, try to articulate a well-known tongue twister (there will be a small reward!) and learn an icebreaker which will surely make every Pole laugh out loud!

Paweł was a monoglot as a young IT student until he went on a student exchange and discovered how enriching and rewarding it was to acquire the local language. Speaking 7 tongues now, he's been trying his hand as a language teacher and coach and has been organizing multilingual meetings, including the biggest language exchange event in the capital of Poland: Warsaw Tandem Evening.

Introduction to Irish

Benny Lewis



Who wants to learn some Irish (Gaeilge)? This official EU language is seen on all official roadsigns in Ireland, can be heard on several radio stations and the Irish-language TV station (both available online), and is spoken daily by approximately 350,000 people and partially understood by almost a quarter of the entire population of Ireland. While still an Indo-European language, it has interesting features not seen in Romance, Slavic or German languages. In this

session, Benny will give you a crash course of the basics of how the language works, so you don't find it at all intimidating, and will teach you some fun phrases to get a smile from Irish people you meet in your travels.

National Geographic Traveller of the Year, Irish Language Ambassador for the EU, and speaker of 11 languages at A2 through C2 levels, despite only speaking English at the age of 21, Benny Lewis has made it his mission to inspire as many adults as possible to get into language learning.

Introduction to Navajo

Brian Loo

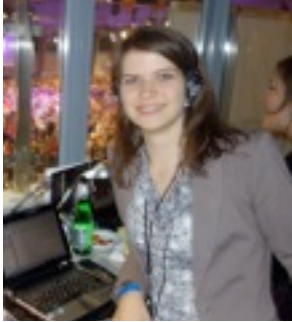


The Navajo language, also known as Diné Bizaad is spoken by over 150,000 people primarily in the American Southwest. It is the 3rd most commonly spoken language in the United States following English and Spanish. The Navajo language has a special status in US history, due to the role played by Navajo Code Talkers during World War II. Also, perhaps due to this, there is a common misconception that the language is impossible for non-Navajos to learn. This short introductory course will help you to unlock some of the mystery surrounding this fascinating language, from its exotic phonology to its intricate verb morphology, as well as its extremely complex use of idiomatic expressions.

A former food process engineer who realised that there is more to life than climbing the corporate ladder, Brian speaks seven languages and is currently working on improving his command of Navajo, Cree and Warlpiri. His lifelong passion for learning exotic languages came about after a chance meeting with one of the last surviving speakers of Musqueam Halkomelem while on a trip to Vancouver as a teenager. His long-term goal is to create an online platform where speakers of endangered languages can share their linguistic and cultural knowledge with each other and with the rest of the world. He is the co-founder of Toledo Technical, a translation company specialising in scientific and technical translations with emphasis on cultural competence: www.toledotechnical.com.

Consecutive and Simultaneous Interpreting Exercises for Beginners

Lýdia Machová



An interpreter working with two languages at the same time needs to apply a few special techniques and strategies such as constant logical analyzing of the speech, quick memorizing of a few facts/names/numbers, splitting of your attention (to the speaker's speech and to your own speech which has a few seconds' lag and is in another language), anticipating the speaker's message before they finish a sentence and rapid switching between the two language codes, to name just a few. On top of all these techniques, one needs to be able to speak publicly with confidence,

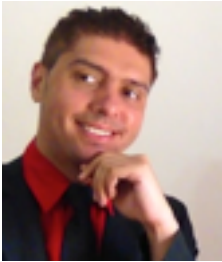
handle crisis situations, improvise at times and distribute mental energy wisely in order to be able to work all day.

In this workshop we will practise some of the most crucial interpreting skills, first using a few (fun) exercises, then doing a live multilingual consecutive interpretation. The common language will be English and you will practise with your own mother tongue or a language of your choice on a C1-C2 level. Some exercises will be bilingual with German, Spanish and French (you should have a C1-C2 level in at least one of these three). It is recommended to attend my talk on conference interpreting the previous day as the workshop will build on it.

Lýdia is a freelance interpreter and a PhD student of Translation studies concentrating on self-assessment of student interpreters. She teaches lessons of consecutive and simultaneous interpreting at the Comenius University in Bratislava. Lýdia speaks 5 languages fluently and is able to communicate in four more. Besides languages, she loves travelling (especially through Couchsurfing), salsa dancing and socializing. Contact: www.facebook.com/lydia.machova.

Learn Brazilian Portuguese with Mello Method – 100% Focused on Conversation

Jimmy Mello

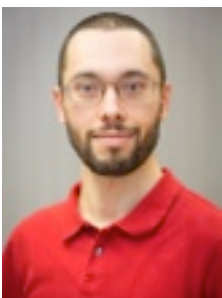


Break free from the shame and procrastination of not doing what needs to be done, that is, speak from day one! What if you could learn a language without grammar? What if your teacher could always give you a perfect lesson? What if you could leave the classroom from day one speaking your totally new sentences perfectly and almost effortlessly? Is it possible? YES, IT IS! In this mini-course, you will be introduced to Portuguese in a unique way. After 50 minutes, you will feel closer to Brazil. Take part in this course and discover how effortless it can be to learn a new language and step into a smarter future.

Jimmy Mello is a neurolinguist and holds two degrees: one in Linguistics and other in Educational Science. He is a polyglot and has been learning and teaching languages for over 20 years. He is fluent in English, Spanish, Italian and Portuguese, and he can also speak Catalan, French, German, Dutch and Polish at different levels. He has developed a new method suitable for teaching any foreign language. He currently lives in Brazil where he runs his own language school, which he established in 1995. Find him at: www.mellomethod.com, www.mypolyglot.tv, [Twitter.com/jimmymello](https://twitter.com/jimmymello), and www.facebook.com/jimmymelloreal.

Introduction to Milanese

Adriano Murelli



You are a skilled polyglot and have already learnt all Romance languages? Congratulations! If you want to take a further step into the fascinating world of Romance dialects, then this lecture might raise your curiosity. Throughout Italy a large number of dialects is spoken that significantly differ from Standard Italian. Milanese, the dialect spoken in and around Milan, is one of these. In this mini-course we shall zoom on some distinguishing features of Milanese and learn some basic sentences, so you can boast of being a real expert of local linguistic varieties. The lecture will be held in English or Italian, slides being in English.

A passionate language learner ever since, Adriano mainly concentrated on European languages; at present, he is considering “going East”. He has been into language teaching, translating and linguistic research since 2001. You may follow him at murelling.com.

Introduction to Finnish

Irina Pravet



If I told you most people know Finnish as “the hardest language in the world”, would it stop or encourage you?

Come see what the fuss is all about and get introduced to the beauty, straightforwardness and mystery of the Finnish language. We'll cover an overview of Finnish (what's easy and not so easy), as well as getting to know some basics of the language. Some examples include: cases instead of prepositions, non-existent gender and articles, and people saying exactly what they mean. Tervetuloa! Welcome!

For the record, I'm not a supporter of this “hardest language in the world claim” but come hear the talk and decide for yourself.

Hi, my name is Irina Pravet and I'm an accidental polyglot. I was born in Romania, raised in Canada (Montreal & Toronto), and now I live in Finland. I'm truly fascinated by the process of finding oneself abroad and all that it entails: from learning the language to the personal growth and well-being involved. When I'm not thinking about the aforementioned things, I'm either doing handstands, eating cheese or watching Buffy the Vampire Slayer. Among other things, I'm a language, life & transitions abroad coach; you can find me at www.languagecatalyst.com.

Introduction to Tamil

Gokul Raju



Tamil is recognised to be one of the longest surviving classical languages in the world, with a rich history and an extensive body of literature. It is spoken predominantly in Tamilnadu (India) and has more than 70 million native speakers around the world. The session will feature a short introduction to the Dravidian language family, an overview of the linguistic history and Tamil cultural elements, some colloquial words that you can easily learn to impress a

Tamilian, how written Tamil and spoken Tamil have evolved into vastly different entities. The talk will also point you to some books and web resources that you can consult to learn the language further.

Gokul grew up in a small town in Tamilnadu - South India. He is fluent in Tamil (native speaker) and English. He is a Physicist-Engineer by profession and has spent roughly 3 years in Germany. He is an aspiring polyglot, who is trying to inspire himself into learning German and French.

Practical Scots

Ed Robertson



Would you like to cultivate a Scottish accent when you speak English, just to make people wonder whether you're a native speaker or not? Or maybe you find Scottish people difficult to understand when they speak to you? This is a workshop to hone your speaking and listening skills in a variety of registers and regional varieties of Scots and Scottish English.

Ed grew up in a rural area of southern Scotland where Scots has continued to cling on as an everyday language. He also speaks fluent English, German and Esperanto, and serviceable French, Italian and Russian, and has a passion for lesser known ancient languages such as Etruscan. He is also currently one of the members of the team developing the Esperanto for English speakers course on Duolingo.

Basic Japanese

Erico Tamura



This lecture is for both absolute beginners and advanced learners. I will provide you with Japanese pronunciation tips that will help you sound like a native Japanese speaker. We will practice pronunciation with funny abbreviation words and fabulous mimetic words. Actually, Japanese has rich vocabulary for abbreviation words, onomatopoeia and mimetic words. Can you guess what these words mean:

- a) sumaho, korabo, rimokon, and konsaba (those abbreviation words are based on English words)
- b) wakuwaku, yuruyuru, gussuri, and chinpuncanpun (mimetic words)?

I will also provide explanation on how Japanese uses three types of writing systems properly and the different nuances they give us.

She has been always enthusiastic about learning languages. After receiving BA in physics and an MSc in Astrophysics, she worked as an instructor for students aged 18 years and over, and then as an engineer and translator. She is a native Japanese speaker, and speaks English, Dutch and some Korean and Arabic. Read her blog at: multilingualdays.blogspot.jp and on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/MultilingualDays.

Introduction to Basque: A Vibrant Language Isolate in Europe

María de Vera



An introduction to the Basque language - the second most-widely spoken language isolate after Korean - as it is learned in Spain and used today in the Basque country. The talk will be peppered with highlights of ancient Basque history, folk music and Basque vibrant food culture, where tradition and innovation come together.

The speech will briefly overview the non-Indo-European suspected origins of Euskara and current situation, as well as delve into its structure, surprising features - such as the ergative case and the 3-participant verbs - and examples of vocabulary (relationships, nature and food). Tips and online resources will be provided for those interested in learning and experiencing this unique and fascinating language.

María de Vera is a multilingual creative generalist, in love with languages and imagination since she can remember. Born in Tenerife, Spain, she has worked as a translator, conference interpreter, raw food chef, storyteller, designer, actor and singer. At the moment, she romances Esperanto, Hungarian and Polish. More about María at www.multilingualcreativegeneralist.com.

Introduction to Indonesian

Maria Weidner



I will talk about the misconceptions (there are quite a few) and history of the Indonesian language, give a very short overview on the grammar, the differences between formal and informal Indonesian and of course I'll also do a mini course and teach some basics.

I studied South East Asian Studies in the Humboldt Universität Berlin and spent 14 months altogether in Indonesia. I have taught German as a foreign language

since 2006.

Introduction to Arabic

Catherine Wilcox



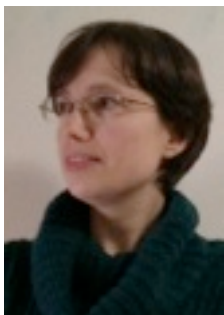
Come and learn Arabic! This language with a rich history and culture is spoken by over 300 million around the globe. By the end of this workshop, you will be able to greet others at any time, "decode" words in the Arabic alphabet, pronounce trickier sounds, and navigate introductory questions about yourselves across most major dialects. We will focus on a "neutral" form of spoken Arabic which is widely understood (with bonus slang phrases so you can sound like a local!).

We'll top off the session with some tips for further Arabic study, including both dialectical and Modern Standard Arabic (MSA). Whether you just want a taste for fun or you're planning to learn the whole language, yalla, let's learn some Arabic!

Catherine Wilcox is a language learning enthusiast who enjoys passing on that excitement. She has lived in Syria and the United Arab Emirates, traveled to Lebanon, Egypt, Tunisia, and Saudi Arabia, and spent extended immersion time with Arab friends and family elsewhere. You can find her at cdub4language.blogspot.fr/ or as [cdub4language](#) on numerous language learning websites.

Introduction to Hebrew

Alisa Zingerman



This workshop is for people considering to learn Hebrew, but who didn't give it a start yet - a quick overview of our right-to-left alphabet, most of the primary grammar, some funny vocabulary curiosities and best learning resources to my knowledge so far.

Maybe not enough of a polyglot, but certainly a passionate language-learner. Being born in Russia, spending my grown-up life in Israel, now moving to Germany for a couple of years I am lucky to encounter, compare, enjoy and speak the languages I came into contact with (by living or by prolonged learning, as is the case with my most cherished and challenging Japanese.) Similar to the broad and hectic parsing of the languages I studied, this lack of singularity is mirrored in my professional occupation - formally an English teacher, then got an "upgrade education" as an animator, currently I am running a translation agency with my husband and do my best to combine all the fields.

Events

A variety of fun language-related activities

Lightning Talks

Various speakers



Lightning Talks are a chance for anyone to give a quick presentation (up to 5 minutes) about a topic they're interested in. There will be no Powerpoint, no preparation of any kind - just scribble down a few keywords over lunch and you're set! If you want to give a talk, just add your name to the list of speakers. If you want to listen, get ready for a quick succession of interesting tidbits.

International Culinary Festival

Everybody



Get ready to tickle your tastebuds! With different cultures come different foods and drinks, so this is your chance to try some of them - and present your own culture to others! All participants are asked to bring samples of snacks, sweets or drinks from their home country, particularly the kind that are hard to find abroad. Each country will get a table to present stuff on and the entire room will turn into a bazaar of different flavours.

International Culture Evening

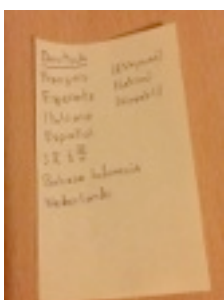
Everybody



Do you know how to sing or dance? Show us a traditional or popular song or dance from your culture. Or if you prefer, present something from the culture you're studying instead! A language is more than words and grammar - let's prove it!

Aligatorejo - Practice Languages

Everybody



In Esperanto the word “krokodili” (to crocodile) means speaking in an Esperanto environment in your mother tongue, and the word “aligatori” (to alligator) means speaking in an Esperanto environment in a language that is neither Esperanto nor your mother tongue. Both actions should normally be avoided, because probably other people will not understand you. So “Aligatorejo” is a place organised in Esperanto festivals to practice other languages. At the Polyglot Gathering, the most spoken language will be probably English, so you can come to the Aligatorejo to alligator with other polyglots practicing many

languages, except English and your mother tongue(s).

Ĝepardi

Timwi Heizmann



Look forward to *Ĝepardi*, the game show in which the contestants are presented with an answer and have to formulate the correct question! Are you quick on the buzzer? But beware, if you buzz in and then give a wrong response, points are deducted! In this special polyglot edition, all the questions revolve around languages or polyglotism.

There are two rounds of 30 clues, sorted into 6 categories. But some of the clues are special: *the Daily Double*! Will you timidly hang on to your points, or will you bravely risk everything to come out on top? In the final round, the contestants once again have the opportunity to risk everything to win the game. Come and watch the exciting challenge of speed, wit, and knowledge!

Multilingual Concert

jOmO



Prepare for the most multilingual concert of your life as jOmO will sing to you in 25 languages! How many will you understand? Formerly in the Guinness Book of World Records for most languages sung at a concert (22!), you'll hear not only his wide variety of languages, but also his wide variety of musical styles.

Long known for his lively concerts of folk and rock at Esperanto conventions around the world, now you have a unique chance to hear him in Berlin's own underground industrial club, Slaughterhouse (Lehrter Str. 35) just 650m from the A&O. Either enjoy dancing right in the midst of it or feel free to hang out in the nearby bar, where you can relax, listen to the music and still chat with friends.

(Photo by Ziko from eo, CC-BY-SA-3.0 via Wikimedia Commons)

Polyglot Games

Everybody, organised by Cescio Reale & Miroslav Šedivý



We will challenge you with some multilingual games, many of them will be team games, so you will have to make up your team maximising the number of languages in it! In these games you will have to translate words to many languages, to listen simultaneously to different languages, to perform tongue-twisters, to recognise foreign languages and writing systems, etc... in one word: polyglot fun!

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How to memorize words so they stick forever

by Anthony Metivier

I've written many books and video courses on using memory techniques as part of language learning and spent years tracking the results of my students and readers. Here are some of the things I've learned.

1. Make the decision and follow through. Getting started is the key indicator of success for using memory techniques as part of language learning. The results depend less on how you get started and more on quick victories that show you how the techniques work and that they work.

2. Nobody has ever been bored into learning a language. Memory techniques, when used correctly, cut the boredom of rote learning completely.

3. Innovation and improvisation. It is easier to give up when faced with a challenge than to press on. When people learn the simple steps for achieving memory readiness, innovation and improvisation follow. Learning can be jazz.

4. Total commitment. Many language learners make things too complicated. They pile on too many goals at the same time. By trying to do everything, they achieve little or nothing. Poor goal management makes total commitment impossible.

5. Poor memory is not a problem but a solution. People who succeed with memory techniques for language learning understand that they are on a lifelong journey. One activity strengthens the other.

6. Understand creativity. Creativity is about involvement. Creativity is the ability to hold focus for as long as you want or need.

7. Memory techniques are a form of showmanship. They involve drama, emotion and the same magic that drives movies and theater.

8. You don't have to reinvent the wheel. Wouldn't language learning be so much more fun if you could use images and information that already exists? You can.

9. Avoid emotional attachments to methods. Brain surgeons have procedures they prefer and even find fun. But what about the patients and their needs? How are you treating language learning?

10. Easier is not necessarily better. Judging techniques by how many procedures are involved is like judging a sculpture by how much it weighs. Maximum effect is more important than minimum effort. Making easier must mean making stronger.

11. Efficiency produces two problems. 1) Pursuing the most results for the least effort often degenerates into pursuing the least effort, period. 2) The term "efficient method" is often a synonym for "obvious method." We do not always find real benefit in the obvious.

12. Language learners tend to think that fluency is the goal. It's not. The real goal is to create experiences and distinguish your perspective from the perspective of others. The ability to rapidly memorize lots of words and phrases so you can better practice your language is the fastest path to understanding other people and their cultures.

13. Every method has a vulnerability. The more we use a method, the more we come up against the vulnerability. When people obsess over that vulnerability, they make it even worse.

14. Start again. Tearing everything apart and starting over is sometimes needed instead of endlessly reworking techniques that aren't working.

15. Never lose sight of the language itself. Memory techniques are a tool that contain a world of fascination that can become a trap. Focus on the results they offer and save memory theory, science and philosophy for rainy days.

In sum, memory techniques are three things:

- They are a critical aid that can come to the rescue during some of language learning's toughest moments.
- They are a diagnostic aid that can show you what's going wrong with your memory and how to improve so you can learn languages better.
- They are a creative aid that help you make words, phrases and grammar principles unforgettable.

If the memory tools of language learning make a recipe, needlessly eliminating ingredients will not make the outcome better. Likewise, adding ingredients is not necessarily a solution.

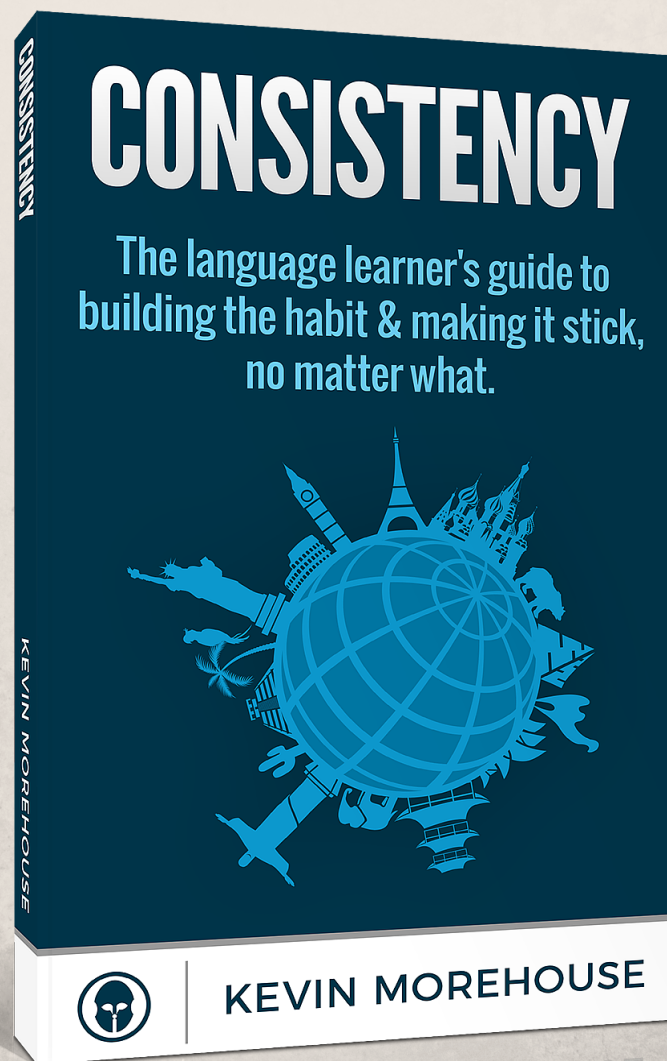
The key is in finding the right combination of ingredients.

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