

ASE - QUEST Romania – IPALE International Conference
LANGUAGES AS A LIFESKILL. NEW PERSPECTIVES ON LSP TEACHING AND LEARNING
Academia de Studii Economice, Bucuresti, Romania, 21-22 May 2010

“AN IMAGE OF THE FUTURE IN THE MIRROR OF THE PAST”

***Young / Adult foreign language learners
and their perspectives in Europe today.***

“IF YOU ARE FAILING TO PLAN FOR YOUR FUTURE YOU ARE PLANNING TO FAIL IT”

The point of view of a Teacher of English, School owner in Thessaloniki, Greece.

by Harry Nikolaidis Teacher of English, ESL/EFL/ELF
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QLS Vice – Chair
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What is the situation today (Greece)

Dramatic reduction of student population because of:

- a. Changing age structure in society (Demography)
- b. A great number of recognized exams by the Greek state
(16 exams for B2, 15 for C1 and 11 for C2 level)
- c. The introduction of English in the state primary schools
- d. Enormous and unhealthy competition with misleading and erroneous advertising
- e. The general financial situation prevailing in Greece
- f. Illegal one to one private lessons delivered by students
and native speakers (tourists and housewives)
- g. Population continuous movement for better working conditions
- h. Technology trends (Internet , e-learning and teach-yourself methods)
- i. High operational cost for a quality private language school compared to services,
offered by competitors, who do not respect the state regulations

How can we overcome the problem?

We have to reconsider and restructure our schools so as:

- a. To reduce expenses by introducing new products using our premises for more hours on a daily basis
- b. To increase our educational and teaching activities to more students and individuals, creating new products and introducing languages which are in fashion (short survival courses, support courses for University students, scientists, corporate and professionals)
- c. To create a computer – information technology classroom
- d. To introduce an interactive board classroom
- e. To generate enthusiasm by adding new services to our students for example a Debating Society, a Film-Viewing Society, a Literary Club, a Drama Group and a Writers & Poets Society.
- f. To attract qualified, experienced and professional academic and administrative staff
- g. To spend more productive hours in our school talking to our students and their parents ourselves promoting our “First Class and Top Quality Services”.

B.R.I.C.

Languages which are to obtain a dominant position
in our world in the next decade:
2010 statistics

B stays for Brazilian - Portuguese are spoken by 200 million native speakers

R stays for Russian are spoken by 210 million native speakers

I stays for Indian (Bengali) are spoken by 380 million native speakers

C stays for Chinese (Mandarin) are spoken by 1.4 billion native speakers

Nota Bene

At **Lord Byron School** we have decided in 2008 to introduce the **Chinese language (Mandarin PU TONG HUA)** in coordination and agreement with the Greek – Chinese Organization of Friendship and Cooperation which leads our students to the **HSK – Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi Exams** of the Chinese Language by the **Beijing University of Language and Culture** (recognised by the Greek State). For the moment we have 32 students in 3 levels.

In September 2009 we introduced the **Russian Language** in cooperation with the **Panhellenic Teachers' Association of the Russian Language and Culture** preparing our students for **the Lomonosov Moscow State University** language exams (recognised by the Greek State). For the moment we have 11 students in 2 levels.

J.A.S.T.

**Languages which are to obtain a very important position
in our world in the next decade:
2010 statistics**

J stays for Japanese spoken by 130 million native speakers
A stays for Arabic spoken by 250 million native speakers
S stays for Spanish spoken by 350 million native speakers
T stays for Turkish spoken by 70 million native speakers

*English is spoken by 320 million native speakers.

Nota Bene

At **Lord Byron School** we have decided in 2008 to introduce the **Turkish Language** in cooperation with the **TOMER University of Ankara** using the Hatit Method leading our students to the **TOMER University Language Exams**.

For the moment we have 16 students in 2 levels.

In September 2010 we are to introduce the **Arabic Language** in cooperation with the **Cairo University, The Arab Language Department**.

How to become an ELF teacher

The English Language as a Lingua Franca

“Teaching and learning English as a Lingua Franca (ELF) is the most radical and controversial approach to emerge in recent years. It squarely addresses some of the issues which global English raises.”

“Proponents of teaching English as a Lingua Franca (ELF) suggest that the way English is taught and assessed should reflect the needs and aspirations of the ever-growing number of non-native speakers who use English to communicate with other non-natives.”

“Understanding how non-natives speakers use English among themselves has now become a serious research area.”


“English Next” by David Graddol,
published by the British Council, 2006

The future is uncertain but tempting

This is a topic I would like to discuss with you at a round table.

Views to be expressed are seriously to be taken into consideration.

- The European Language Portfolio (ELP) and the New Era.
- How an ELF teacher could gain the maximum from the “can do statements”.
- The art of self-assessing and the creation of “autonomous learners”.
- How a student can learn easier by prioritising his immediate needs.
- E-learning, blended learning and their advantages.
- Teaching and teleconferences
- Internet learning
- International Publishers and their new Technology products.
(Burlington English, MacMillan Practice online, etc.)



**Ideas are based on
“English Next” by David Graddol,
published by the British Council, 2006
“The struggle to teach English as an International Language”
by Adrian Holiday
published by OXFORD APPLIED LINGUISTICS, 2009
“Teaching English as an International Language”
by Sandra Lee McKey
published by OXFORD Handbooks for Language Teachers**

**Thank you for your attention,
Looking forward to meeting you soon,
Best wishes for a long, happy and relaxing summer.**