Story for performance #13 webcast from Paris at 09:57PM, 03 Jul 05



Source: Ali Akbar Dareini, AP writer, Ex-Iranian agent: photo not Ahmadinejad', USA Today, 03/07/05

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I know within myself I have a stammer, but in my heart of hearts I want to speak like other people and to enjoy talking fluently and freely all the time—surely I have a right to fluency of speech in my life—as much right as anyone else.

One of the most important problems English learners face is that they cannot speak fluently. I think it is not your fault. It refers to the system of teaching. I am an Iranian, studying language and have this problem. All of us when began to learn English obligated to use books without pictures and just written words-sentences and then we memorized them and we made some sentences. This is why when we speak English, it seems that we read through passages and texts. But that part of our brain which uses your hands to write on a blank sheet is not that fast to use our mouth to speak fluent. As I said, it was just one of the problem.

The saying goes: 'He who stays near vermilion gets stained red, and he who stays near ink gets stained black.' Mixing with bad people, one will become evil; mixing with virtuous people, one will become virtuous; staying with learned people, one can learn something; staying with foolish people, one will also become an idiot. A person who speaks English fluently would also forget, if he has not spoken English for thirty years. To speak English one must practice everyday. If you stay with a non-English speaking person for a long time, later you cannot speak English, or cannot speak fluently. [The Supreme Master Ching Hai]

Hi there,

Are there any classess in Mumbai, nearby Andheri or in Thane area, which has a structured English speaking programme who can guarantee to improve a person English fluency after attending it for specific duration. If yes, where can I get the addresses of such course?

I would like to improve the conversation for interviews, public speaking, and to handle the foreign customer. I can write english well, but cannot speak fluently. Can anybody guide me to get help in improving the fluency?

Latino students often feel as if they must shun their heritage, beginning with their language, to assimilate, she said. Sometimes that pressure comes from home. 'Some parents do that, often with a tinge of sadness,' Rayasam said. 'Because they themselves cannot speak fluently in English, they feel like they want their children to speak English and don't want to hold them back.' [Nikole Hannah-Jones, News & Observer, Raleigh, NC]

The Jamatul Jihad of Egypt led by Dr.al-Zawahiri. Bin Laden understands English, but cannot speak fluently. Dr.al-Zawahiri, who speaks English without difficulty, therefore, acts as his spokesman. [B. Raman, South Asia Analysis Group]

Dear Doctor Lin.

I left out some informations regarding my condition. I used to have a 6 to 7 inches long penis. Now just 2 inches long. My scrotum became small. My buttock became big.

My legs are weak. I cannot sit, stand or walk like a normal person. I am just like a jelly fish. I am always in a depression mode. I cannot speak fluently. I stammer when I talk. I got the eye floater and ear buzzing problems. I am forgetful. I got many white hairs and my face looks old.

Second, photography is for communication in which the language 'spoken' is not a string of intelligible words but the linkage of texture, line, shape, form and color into a fluent message that may 'praise, carp, clarify, or obscure' (Doeffinger, p. 37). We cannot speak fluently in the language of photography until we know our subject well enough. The trouble often is that we have only a nodding acquaintance with what we photograph. We have looked but not seen. So our preconceptions take over, preventing reflection on the meaning of the subject and true expression of our feelings about it. [R. Paul Stevens in *The Complete Book of Everyday Christianity* by Robert Banks and R. Paul Stevens. 1997]

As the star guides the mariner when, battered by boiling billows, he hies him home to the haven of hope and happiness, so do you gleam upon me along life's rough road and seem to say, 'Have courage, George! I am here!' Susan, I am not an eloquent man—I cannot speak fluently as I could wish—but these simple words which you have just heard come from the heart, from the unspotted heart of an English gentleman. [P. G. Wodehouse, Weekend Wodehouse]

But what is striking about this India they created? If I can again risk being anecdotal, way back in 1996 I think it was, our then prime minister, H K Deve Gowda, stood up on the ramparts of our wonderful sixteenth century Red Fort and delivered the Independence Day address to the nation in Hindi, India's official national language. Now eight other prime ministers have done this 48 times before him, so what was so special about this?

What was special was that Deve Gowda, as you all know is a Kannadiga, spoke to the nation in a language of which he did not know a word. Traditional politics required a speech in Hindi so he gave one. But the words had been written out for him in his Kannada script in which of course they made no sense. Now, such a phenomenon is inconceivable in any other country. It is only in India that we have a country that is ruled by a man who doesn't understand its official national language.

For that matter we are the only country with an official national language that more than half the population does not understand or cannot speak fluently. [Shashi Tharoor, Rediff.com]

At times, stammering causes me considerable heartache, especially after having stammered badly, but I keep this sadness to myself, because others cannot possibly understand my emotional feelings of having a stammer.

Adapted for performance from a Google search by Barbara Campbell.