

Dear Going-home People,

You may remember the work we did yesterday afternoon around self-reference and other reference and group reference, around I/ME versus YOU/SHE/HE/THEY versus WE? What connections do you see between this scheme of things and your wish for and ability to accept and integrate language correction when you are learning another tongue? Would it be reasonable to suppose that strongly other-referenced people will accept and use correction more easily than self-referrers ?

What bearing does the self-other-group meta-program have on the debates about learner autonomy that seem to occupy some people's minds in Holland and Scandinavia?

You will have probably noticed that when, at 3.25 pm yesterday I introduced the Confucian idea of group reference, I did it with a considerable amount of respect and admiration. When I look out through the windows of my European self at the civilisations of the Pacific Rim ( the Western part of the Rim running from Indonesia up via Thailand to Japan, I do go into an UPWARD EVOLUTIONIST state of mind. I quietly think they are at a higher state of inter-personal civilisation than we are. This gives me a real feeling of wanting to learn when I am in the presence of a Nihon-jin or some one from Thailand, say.

May I remind you of the exercise we did on transitions? It will be worth observing your own self-management techniques over today and tomorrow. When you are on the cusp of a transition it can be uncomfortable but at the time the transition can offer a rich self-observation harvest.

I very much object to flabby last days. I am shocked at the acres of time that are wasted in UK secondary schools in the last two weeks of the summer term. My hope is that what we do today will have double the value of what we did on the first Monday. If we don't manage this, what have we been up to for the last two weeks?

  
Mario.