

2nd Thursday Thor's Day
↳ God of Thunder

Dear Post-Bonnie People,

I want to draw your attention to some details from bits and pieces we have done over the past few days.

Tuesday afternoon: the man with the Alsatian: you will remember that we sat looking at the picture in two or three tight semi-circles (new configuration). The teacher voice came to us from behind, wondering about the life and times of the guy in the picture. We then went on to write our own questions in preparation for the C [redacted] and M [redacted] interviews. Voice directionality is a strong part of some people's inner dialogue: does the inner speech come down from above, up from the left, from the front etc....?

The teacher speaking from behind the students is quite different from the teacher voice coming at them fully frontally.

I wonder how aware you are of the different effects you get from playing with this feature of voice.

S [redacted] last Friday, put on the board some of the sentences spoken in the group. 3/4 of them were excellent English and three or four of them were a bit wonky. In order to do a bit of discreet correction, she gave us loads of language strokes, which naturally made us more receptive to the corrections.

S [redacted] told us a sandwich story yesterday in which she took charge of the narrative and we put in much of the descriptive language.

Another way of doing this would have been for the teacher to *dictate* her narrative bits to us. The downside of this is that there is less narrative flow, but the advantage is that each student then has a "sandwich story" that she can read to her neighbour.

This is a marvellous way of helping a student write a story with fuller language than she would achieve on her own.

In this second period I will be inviting you to look at uses we can make of the work of the corpus linguists.

Let us start with a mea culpa session. **Please turn to a couple of neighbours and tell them all mistaken rules you ram down your poor students' throats, rules you vaguely know to be false, mendacious and inaccurate in terms of any up-to-date description of the language.**

As a fifteen year old I discovered that Fr Maurus would dish us up "rules" about Spanish that did not hold water. Once I had caught him in flagrante I never trusted another word he said and looked everything up.

Warmly yours,

Mario

