

Dear Everybody,

Over this first week I have tried to offer you certain things that seemed to make sense to me. The decisions have been mine.

We have worked on letters, a bit

We have worked on culture, a bit

We have had a go at correction of your mistakes in a variety of ways.

Monday we did a lot of getting to know each other exercises, some of them depth-seeking.

This morning we are going to have a look at the sort of things that come out of computer linguistics for language learners.

We have worked with natives.

This afternoon at 2.00 I am going to ask you to review the week on your own, with me absent, and to decide on the shape of next week.

You will have many suggestions of your own.

Let me add some of mine.

A. A good way of learning a language is to learn something else THRU the language.

I could teach you some initial things about Neuro-linguistic Programming, which is a theory and practice of communications. It has immediate application to language teaching.

Here your focus would be on the subject- the language you would be assimilating.

B. We could do more writing- the people who are off to Leeds will have to do a lot of that on their course there.

C. We could work on the language of childhood, the language you never knew in English, the sort of language that is the foundation on which your mother tongue is built.

D. We could do some project work in Canterbury.

E. We could look at some of the language you specifically need as teachers, eg the language of instructions, or the very difficult skill of reading aloud. We could look at oral story-telling for use in the classroom etc...

There have been some memorable technical moments this last week, for me:

- Mir [redacted] taking on board and integrating the correct pronunciation of "to worry". One of those miracles.
- C [redacted] F [redacted]'s inability to accept that " letter " is not pronounced "later". This is deep and interesting- why does one student accept correction and another one reject it?
What are your theories on this?
- the modification of G [redacted]'s voice over the week. He sounds to me a quite a lot more English today than on Monday.
- A [redacted]'s brilliance in our tutorial when she completely softened her way of speaking this odd, off-shore language.
- Realising, from listening to T [redacted] and watching T [redacted], a bit more about the inner diversity of Japan. It is pretty looney to talk about " The Japanese " when the regions of Japan are so different ; one from another.

I have skimmed thru your letters but have not got round to replying to them this time. I will do so on Monday. We had a very good teachers' meeting last night.

Mario. 

ps: Note " I have not got round to.....ing "
I can turn even my own defective behaviour into a language point!