

Dear Everybody,

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, E[REDACTED]!

E[REDACTED], how do you celebrate birthdays in the Chinese Deep South? Should the group have taken you out for a birthday breakfast at 5.00 am this morning? Is this the first time you have celebrated your birthday away from home?

[ Hey, Mario, why do you have to persecute the poor girl with a battery of questions? Why do you retain this questioning habit from your days as a journalist? Ain't you yet realised that asking loads of daft questions is like machine-gunning some one? You *might* learn one day..... ]

Yesterday you had a fair old dose of B[REDACTED] I wonder how it was for you? When you have finished reading this letter it might be good to have a feedback round on E[REDACTED]'s approach as each of our mappings will be deeply different. B[REDACTED]'s work will have touched us or put us off in very different ways.

I wonder how his work and philosophy affect L[REDACTED]'s thinking about her job? He told me last night that he thinks there are parallels to his work in language teaching in maths teaching, so maybe there are parallels in the sort of work that you do, Ernst?

What we did yesterday with E[REDACTED] is possibly a few light years away from what happens in language classrooms in Gifu ( where M[REDACTED] teaches ). How would that sort of stuff fit into Japanese classroom culture? Not at all, from the classes I have observed in Kyoto. And yet things may be shifting.

For me there is a cloud of uncertainty in J[REDACTED]'s departure, a cloud that hung over me/us the whole of yesterday. The uncertainty is double: a) I do not know how to understand what he said when he saw me at 11.00 yesterday b) I feel that he himself seemed very uncertain about whether to go or to stay. What Jose told me yesterday was that he had spent the week-end with his son in Essex and had decided that

- a) he was monumentally tired from his work in the Basque Country
- b) that he went thru a lot of things last week inside himself and that he decided over the week-end that at this moment his need to learn English seemed unimportant.
- c) that he wanted to go to France and have a real holiday.

I asked him if he wanted to come and say goodbye to us and he told me that he preferred to write us a letter.....

And yet there were moments last week when Jose seemed deeply involved. During the blind mirroring exercise last Friday J[REDACTED] was the only one to work with his whole body, not just his hands and arms.

During the music exercise he started as a conductor in Vienna, then was a music group leader in the carnival in San Sebastian and finally he transformed into one of the dancers and clappers in the carinval. Jun can tell you how strong his description of this was.

No se.....( I don't know ... ) there was a huge amount going on inside Jose.....

I honour J[REDACTED] and respect him.

I am sad without him

Mario.

