

Dear Room 2 People,

I think I gave you (notice how an English speaker softens what he wants to say - I know very well I gave you that article by Robles... but I feel the need to defocus, to blur, to soften- listen out for this in the speech of most of the people you meet here) **that wow article by Ana Robles Fraga on the precise ways in which her students mentally process the task of writing stuff in English.**

She is working from an NLP background. She both learnt some NLP with us and then later came back to teach it with us. I wonder how many of you have come across Neuro-Linguistic Programming? It is an area of psychology that can be helpful to a teacher a) in the area of self-management and b) as a source for brilliant language exercises for learners. I'll probably do some stuff from NLP when I take over the language teaching side of things in your last two weeks here. A good book to look at in the meantime is Seymour and O'Connor **Introducing NLP.**

I would be delighted if some of you were to write to me as this would accelerate my learning of your group and it would be another and very powerful way of working on your language.

In the downstairs group yesterday I was reflecting on the fact that very advanced speakers of a language get lots of things slightly wrong in their pronunciation, a tinge wrong... and this is what adds up to the feeling of non-nativeness they purvey. *Feeling* pronounced like *filling*, *smile* either pronounced with something close to a *z* sound or pronounced *esmile*.... that Spanish mistake makes me think of the same error in the speech of Farsi speakers (Iran). As a language teacher I think I have a sort of warmth towards this sort of learner error. Sure, I did my job with the Room 12 folk and offered them correction, BUT practically speaking it was ineffective in 50% of the cases. Why is this? Does this happen in your classroom, or am I alone with this low success rate?

Claro lo mismo pasa en mi caso cuando voy torturando la fonología del castellano. Pobre fonología, ha padecido tanto en mi boca, en mi garganta!

Like you I want to sound native and I know I fall far short. Bugger!

Warmly yours

Mario. 