

Dear Post-Beckett People,

I want to take your minds back to before you worked with H... and filled your minds with Nattinger, Michael Lewis (Lexical stuff) and then went off to the world of Nottingham and the Cancode corpus (CUP). To be precise I want you to take your minds back to yesterday afternoon when T... wanted us to do the appreciative sentence-writing by moving back and forth across the circle, exchanging papers, while H... clearly felt it would be better to pass the papers round in a sequential way.

Pondering on this, I realise that here we have two different human needs. **In the T... position** there is a tolerance of "messiness", a pleasure in the unexpected, a realisation that some folk benefit from movement. Above all there is acceptance of uncertainty and being ok with some lack of clarity.

In the H... position there is a need for order, a pleasure in what can be foreseen, a desire to offer the students security and stability, and dislike of uncertainty. This position will be reassuring to some students

I wonder where you might place yourself between these two psychological poles? Is your classroom a place where you revel in the uncertain? Do you jump up and down if you see your lesson plan go out of the window? Do you help your students to surprise you?

Or, do you demand order and well-known sequence? Is routine a staple part of your teaching? Do you think of what comes up unexpectedly as a red herring, a sort of deviation? Do you enjoy knowing what will surely happen next?

Maybe you combine the two ways of thinking? How do you do this? When you have read to the end of this letter, please turn to a partner and let them know what you think and how you feel and see this.

I felt there was huge energy when the cameras came popping out under the hops in the pub at supper last night. I enjoyed the feeling of our long table with its animated discussions and also lulls and moments of silence.

What a loud, noisy bunch we were, when heard from a Finnish perspective.. and how muted and quiet if heard from Athens or Thessaloniki! Culture is a huge force that affects everything we do.

Enough of vapid philosophising .. and so to bed.

Warmly yours,

Mario

