



EOP Newsletter N°72

(November-December 2017)

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Bonne année - ein gutes neues Jahr - happy new year - feliz año nuevo - felice anno nuovo - feliz ano novo - un an nou fericit - S novim godom - sana saida

Éditorial – When Europe wakes up ! (Fin)

The culture first !



In his new album “Bug”, drawing artist and script writer [Enki Bilal](#) imagined a world frozen by a gigantic computer bug. Beyond the imagined catastrophe, he explained on 28th November in an interview for French newspaper Le Monde that “digital technologies constitute the new addiction

which has us all in its grip. I have read that a kid coming to life today would, when turning 20, find it hard to look at another human being because of that obsessional and very early relationship to screens.” He adds “We are living in an exciting period of time but we suffered a deep trauma without noticing it. The advent of digital technologies has sealed the end of the world. It has cut off a large part of the ways used for the transmission of culture. The practice of reading is being lost. The 20th century has been –such is my personal feeling- banished for a whole generation which was born in the same time as digital technologies. For them the world only starts now.”

The question of the loss of culture transmission is definitely worth dwelling on.

It could be observed that, without digital technologies, an immense cultural heritage that can be accessed by anyone today wouldn't be as easily available.

For example: Around 1920, Austrian artist Raoul Hausmann made the sculpture reproduced above which is called *The Mechanical Head*. The Centre Pompidou explains that, “by describing it as ‘The Spirit of Time, 1919’ in a text published in 1967, the artist prompted the adoption of a date and definitive title. The wooden head is ornamented with a variety of objects, among which a piece of tape measure and, stuck on its forehead, a little white label bearing the number 22 to hint at a Spirit of Time reduced to a simple ‘digital meaning’.” Fascination for the digital is definitely not a contemporary matter and this kind of fear can be found in numerous literary or artistic works from this period of time, far better so as in scientific publications.

Let us go back even further in time. We will be able to access the [Oaths of Strasbourg](#) in only a couple of clicks. Sealed on a certain 14th February 842 between two of Charles the Great's grand-sons, it is this alliance that maps out the outline ...->

Direction et rédaction : Christian Tremblay, Anne Bui

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-> of future Europe, a map laden with the conflicts and reconciliations that were to come. The Oaths are also considered to be the act of birth of the Romance language that was to become modern French. They also obey to symbolic rules that could be taught in communication schools. Novelist Pascal Quignard wrote (in *Les Larmes (The Tears)*, Grasset, 2016, p.124-125): “3. The German king, Louis the German, being the firstborn took his oath in *French*, (in lingua romana) in front of his brother's troops. 4. The French king, Charles the Bald, being the last-born, uttered the oath in *German* (in lingua teudesca) in front of his brother's troops. 5. The chiefs – the dukes in Latin – of the tribes of the Germanic Franks pronounced in front of their troops in their rustic language (in lingua rustica, that ...->

-> is to say in their own language; for the German tribes this was the Proto-Germanic language) the pact to death that had been sealed between the kings so that every German-speaking warrior could grasp its meaning. 6. The chiefs –the dukes in Latin – of the “French” Franks pronounced in front of their troops, in their rustic language (in lingua rustica, that is to say in their own language; for the French tribes this was the Proto-French language) the pact to death that had been sealed between the kings so that every French-speaking warrior could grasp its meaning.”

Is this some irrelevant symbolism? That is still to be proven. In its 21th September issue, French weekly *Le Point* made its headline “France-Germany, a history-making pact” and when German former vice-chancellor Joschka Fisher explained “Both countries’ Histories must be considered: we are two Carolingian nations which, despite all the wars that they have inflicted to each other, are inter-dependent in almost an existential way,” he was hinting at the Oaths of Strasbourg which reproduced this very symbolism.

Of course, this is only possible through language and writing. The strength that the discourse may have is too scarcely taken into account.

When, on 18 June 1940, General de Gaulle called for resistance from London, only few people heard the message. But there were enough individuals to understand what it meant, to broadcast it and to take action.

With this example we are far from Shannon model of communication to which language is still often reduced. This model brings language down to the mere emission and reception of information followed by an efficient processing of the received information. This is an elegant way of reducing language to an almost mechanical tool. This is something that is expressed by our example sculpture, *The Mechanical Head*. Language is something else altogether.

The Appeal of the 18th of June would have considerable consequences that are not the subject of the present letter. Nonetheless, if The Appeal of the 18th of June and the German-French reconciliation were to be considered in the same light, there would emerge, more than 1000 years later, an almost similar symbolism as the one encapsulated in the Oaths of Strasbourg.

Granted, language in discourse is like the whole memory and understanding of the world.

But Europeans must see beyond the boundaries of Europe. We would not need more than a couple of clicks either to access the part of the [Timbuktu Manuscripts](#) that escaped destruction and were digitalised. In this written memory of West Africa and Sahara one can find, for instance, among [32 manuscripts available](#) to the public, a commercial deal related to a sale and transportation of slaves between the cities of Timbuktu, Mali and Ghadames, Libya. The dreadful images that have leapt from our screens over the past days are not coming from the limbo.

The power of written forms and of art is often under-estimated although it is perfectly well known and understood that the burning of books and the destruction of works of arts and symbols....->

-> is an attack on the peoples’ memory and thus, on their very existence. Concerning recent events, whether they be the destruction of the Buddhas of Bamiyan in 1999, the sack of Iraqi museums during the American invasion, or the destruction of Palmyra by the Islamic State, it is always culture and language that are impacted which is to say that it is the memory of peoples and of Humanity at large that is targeted. The ultimate aim of such acts is to break off the transmission chain. Our opinion is that such scheduled ruptures within transmission are sheer barbarity. Whether perpetrated in the name of civil or religious dictatorships or of “democratic” powers, they remain acts of barbarity.

But language is everywhere and would not let itself be seized easily. It can be a dreadful weapon. The biggest know (and acknowledged) lie ever performed by a government, orchestrated by the ruling staff in the United-States and the United-Kingdom at the time, by the way of which, on 5th February 2003, General Colin Powell, United States Secretary of Defense, managed to convince the UN Security Council of the presence of mass destruction weapons and thus triggering the second Iraq war was an act of barbarity as well as the war itself. Language used in discourse is definitely an act that changes reality for better or worse.

Finally, what is language, without culture: nothing else than a code, easier replaced than destroyed. This is the reason why some people endeavour to split the inseparable. But if language is nothing without culture, culture is nothing either without language.

And what is general knowledge, a much decried notion nowadays, if not the understanding of the world we inhabit? It enables to draw relevant parallels, to question, to research, to analyse, to put in perspectives, to ponder, to judge, to estimate, to organize, to take offence, to revolt. As for technic, it is part of culture and is nothing without it but one more barbarity. Just like air and water, language is an environment. This is...->

-> the reason why language and culture are one of the dimensions of “sustainable development”. There is no...-> other path for our language-rich Europe. End ◀

The EOP is engaged in a long-term struggle which is a necessary battle, with multiple challenges. We have to be there for big and small decisions. This is the mission of the OEP. Together we must redouble our efforts. You can provide human support, participation in its work, or material support by joining the OEP or making a donation.

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and to share**



Recent articles not to be missed



Why teaching in English may not be such a good idea

Research suggests students learn better in their native tongue, and English fails to prepare international students for a job after graduation, says Michele Gazzola.
[Read more](#)



Nouveau titre : "Black Friday ou l'incongruité publicitaire"

"Black Friday ! Sombre vendredi ! La semaine de tous les soucis ! Une semaine de ..., quoi !" Attention, la déferlante Black Friday est arrivée !
Aujourd'hui, 23 novembre, c'est la fête populaire américaine du *Thanksgiving*, célébration de l'arrivée sur le sol américain des *pèlerins du Mayflower*. Le lendemain du Thanksgiving, c'est...
[Lire la suite](#)



Por una ciencia y una educación superior pública, gratuita, crítica, humanista e intercultural, basada en modelos plurilingües de investigación y docencia (Comunicado del GERES)

En la academia latinoamericana aumenta la preocupación por ciertos procesos de reestructuración de las Ciencias y de la Educación Superior que incluyen los siguientes fenómenos:
[Leer más](#)



Un jugement qui fera date : L'emploi d'une marque avec des termes anglais est interdit aux établissements publics et personnes privées chargées d'un service public

C'est une application de la loi Toubon, particulièrement spectaculaire et aux conséquences significatives. Motif : Annulation pour méconnaissance de l'article 14 de la loi du 4 août 1994². Injonction de mettre le logo de l'université de recherche **PSL Research University** en conformité avec les dispositions de la loi du 4 août 1994 au plus tard à la rentrée universitaire 2018-2019.
[Lire la suite](#)



The cost of Britons' failure to learn foreign languages

Native English speakers can't simply rely on the rest of the world's desire to learn their language, say Gabrielle Hogan-Brun and Jennifer Jenkins, while Jane Sjögren quotes Nelson Mandela on the importance of linguistic skills and Trevor Stevens says learning a foreign language should be compulsory at General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE)
[Read more](#)

Classifica: in quale Paese si parla meglio inglese?

L'Index Education First 2017, che classifica i Paesi secondo il loro livello di inglese, è appena uscito. Sorpresa! La Francia non fa parte dei primi dieci



L'Europa in testa grazie ai Paesi del Nord. L'Europa è il continente dove si padroneggia meglio l'inglese. Otto dei dieci Paesi della classifica sono europei. I Paesi Bassi vincono il premio del Paese più competente nella lingua di Shakespeare, seguiti da vicino dalla Svezia, dalla Danimarca e dalla Norvegia.

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La traduction dopée par l'intelligence artificielle (Le Monde)

Graal de l'informatique depuis sa création, la traduction automatique a fait des progrès impressionnants. Les algorithmes vont-ils supplanter les traducteurs humains ?

« En à peine six mois, nous avons dû réinventer notre technologie. C'était une question de survie pour l'entreprise », explique Jean Senellart, le directeur technique de Systran, ...

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[A écouter sur France Culture : conférence sur la construction des langues](#)

L'origine des langues, leurs mutations, leurs caractéristiques particulières et les structures communes qui les réunissent : regarder ce qui fait une langue, ce qui la fait vivre et tenir, c'est peut-être regarder au fond de nous. Peut-être que notre langue contient toute notre pensée.

[Pour en savoir plus](#)



La Spagna e il plurilinguismo

Àngela Morales è nata e cresciuta in Spagna, ma la sua lingua natale non è il castigliano. Come molte persone della sua città natale, Terragona, lei è madrelingua catalana.

[Leggere più](#)



The Guardian view on languages and the British: Brexit and an Anglosphere prison Editorial

The English language may seem an asset for Britain. But its dominance may also cut the British mind off from what the rest of the world is saying.

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Announcements and publications

L'OEP recherche des traducteurs bénévoles en anglais
Merci d'écrire à contact@observatoireplurilinguisme.eu

Les publications de l'OEP

[Plurilinguisme, interculturalité et emploi : Défis pour l'Europe](#), L'Harmattan, 2009, 33,73 € (papier), 27,99 € (numérique) • 408 pages [COMMANDER](#)

[Culture et plurilinguisme \(papier\)](#), 2016, La Völva, 189 p., 14 € [COMMANDER](#)

[Culture et plurilinguisme \(numérique\)](#), 2017, Bookelis, 4,99 € [COMMANDER](#)

[Plurilinguisme et créativité scientifique](#), 2017, Thebookedition, 138 p., 12,99 € (papier), 5,99 € (numérique) [COMMANDER](#)

[Plurilinguisme et enseignement du français en Afrique subsaharienne](#), 2017, Bookelis, 282 p., 15 € (papier), 4,99 € (numérique) [COMMANDER](#)

	<p>Linguistique pour le Développement. Modèles épistémologiques, enjeux et perspectives (appel à communication réseau POCLANDE, date limite 30 décembre 2017)</p> <p>Si La linguistique pour le développement (LPD) est aujourd’hui une théorie en plein essor, c’est en raison de l’adéquation de ses champs de recherche avec l’exigence de la quête de solutions aux nombreux obstacles du développement économique et sociétal. Ce dynamisme résulte également de la prise de conscience, ces dernières années, de la place prépondérante des langues et cultures dans le traitement des questionnements soulevés par le Développement.</p> <p>Pour en savoir plus</p>
	<p>The 6th international workshop on spoken language technologies for under-resourced languages (SLTU'18, call for papers)</p> <p>Read more</p>
	<p>Sustaining knowledge diversity in the digital age (CCURL 2018 - Call for Papers)</p> <p>Collaboration and Computing for Under -Resourced Languages a Workshop to be held as part of the 11th edition of the Language Resources and Evaluation Conference (LREC 2018) at the Phoenix Seagaia Resort in Miyazaki (Japan)</p> <p>Date: 12th May 2018 Web site: http://www.ilc.cnr.it/ccurl2018 Submission deadline: 13th January 2018</p> <p>Read more</p>
	<p>Relações entre bilinguismo, cultura e criatividade</p> <p>Conference: XI Semana de Extensão, Pesquisa e Pós-Graduação - SEPesq Centro Universitário Ritter dos Reis, At Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul, Brasil, Volume: I</p> <p>Simone Becker, UniRitter - Centro Universitário Ritter dos Reis</p> <p>Resumo: Nos dias atuais, em função do processo de globalização, aumentaram a velocidade e a facilidade com que nos comunicamos um com o outro. Desse fenômeno de comunicação intensificada surgem indivíduos bilíngues e multilíngues.</p> <p>Màs</p>
	<p>Langue et discriminations (Appel à contributions) Date limite : vendredi 23 février 2018</p> <p>Pour ce septième appel à articles, la revue Les cahiers de la LCD (Lutte contre les discriminations) a décidé de s’intéresser aux langues, sous l’angle des « discriminations linguistiques ». Sujet d’actualité depuis un an : la loi de modernisation de la justice de novembre 2016 a opéré un changement sur l'article 225 du code pénal.</p> <p>Pour en savoir plus</p>
	<p>Sprachkritik und Sprachberatung in der Romania (Sammelband) 1. Auflage 2017, Narr Verlag (starter)</p> <p>Die Beiträge des Bandes beleuchten die Beschreibung und Bewertung sprachlicher Entwicklungstendenzen und Diskussionen um „guten“ und „schlechten“ oder „richtigen“ und „falschen“ Sprachgebrauch im Spannungsverhältnis von öffentlicher und fachwissenschaftlicher Wahrnehmung. Es werden vielfältige Aspekte von Sprachkritik und Sprachberatung in verschiedensten romanischen Ländern untersucht. Mehr...>>></p> <p>Mehr</p>

	<p>MultiLing Winter School 2018: Language policy in multilingual contexts – methodological approaches/Norway University of Oslo, 5-9 February 2018 Registration from November 15th to December 15th Language policy and planning (LPP) as a discipline was initially developed as a part of sociolinguistics and language-in-society studies and emerged as a field of study in the 1960s (Kaplan, Baldauf, Liddicoat, Bryant, Barbaux, and Pütz 2000). Wright (2004) outlines how LPP after WWII, as a result of decolonisation, moved from being primarily an integral part of nation building to a subject of academic enquiry. Read more</p>
	<p>Call for Papers Translation and interpreting in an era of demographic and technological change Innovations in research, practice and training The <i>Centre for Translation & Interpreting Studies in Scotland (CTISS)</i> at Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh is delighted to announce an international conference on <i>Translation and interpreting in an era of demographic and technological change</i>, to be held in Edinburgh on 30 and 31 May 2018. Read more</p>
	<p>La ULL debate la importancia del multilingüismo para mejorar la internacionalización universitaria Fuente: Universidad de La Laguna, viernes 10 de noviembre de 2017 El papel predominante del inglés como lengua de la ciencia, la necesidad de reevaluar qué idiomas deben impulsar las universidades, o apoyar una educación que vaya más del bilingüismo para llegar a un multilingüismo funcional, fueron algunos de los asuntos debatidos hoy, viernes 10 de noviembre en la Sección de Filología de la Universidad de La Laguna, durante la mesa redonda “Las lenguas como vehículo de cultura y comunicación en la internacionalización y cooperación universitaria”, auspiciada por el Vicerrectorado de Internacionalización. Leer más</p>
	<p>Translation and Translanguaging in Multilingual Contexts John Benjamins Publishing Company Editor: Sara Laviosa University of Bari 'Aldo Moro' saralaviosa@gmail.com Review Editor: Giovanna Di Pietro University of Bari 'Aldo Moro' Translation and translanguaging are natural and complementary phenomena that occur in multilingual societies. They are advocated as valuable pedagogies that not only develop the ability to operate between languages but also, and most importantly, nourish creativity and a multilingual sense of self. Read more</p>
<p>C'est le moment d'adhérer à l'OEP et de partager</p> 	