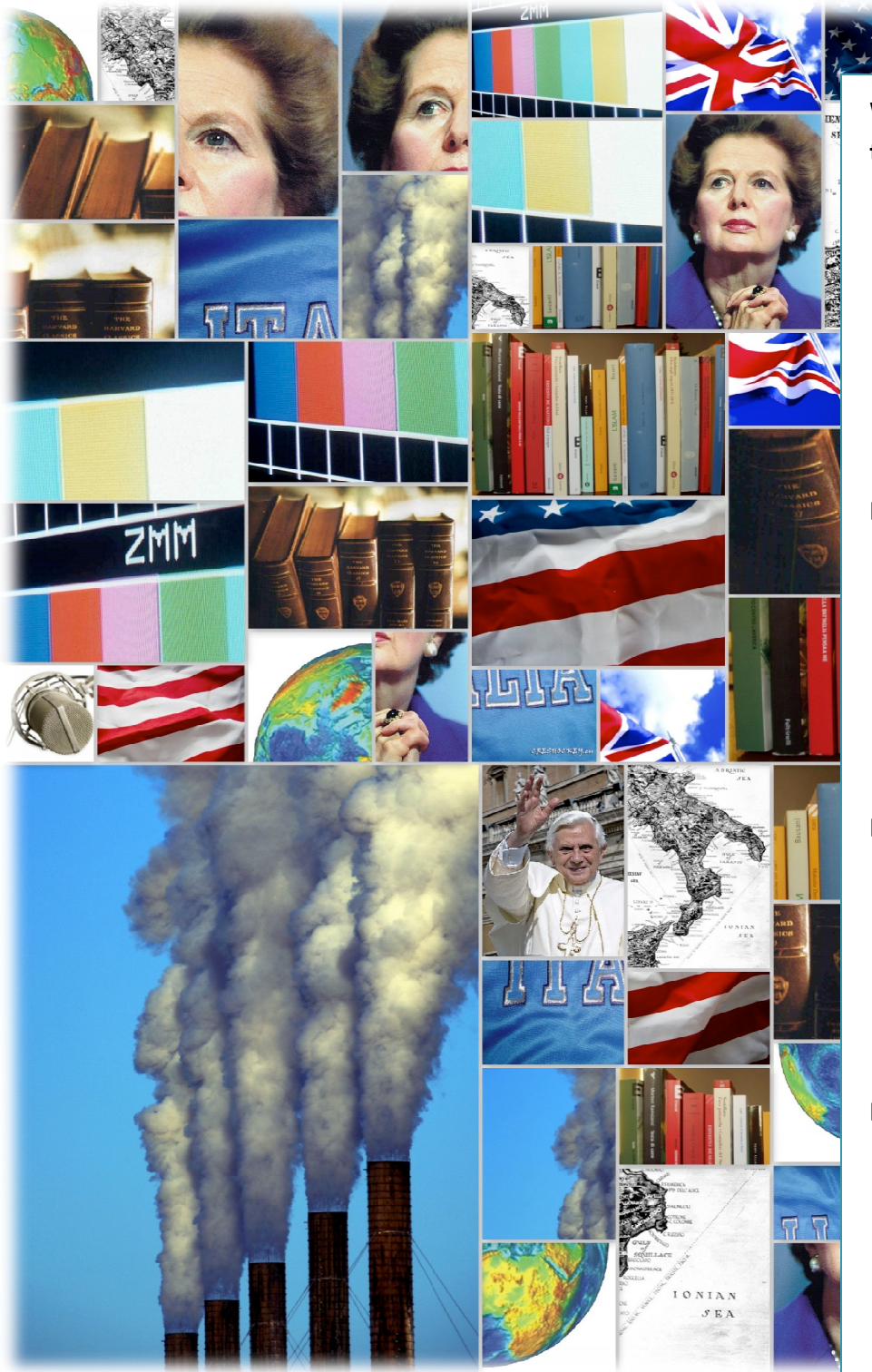




We just want to say...

(the Villa Mirafiori Magazine)



As Editors we chose to collect a wide range of articles because we think everyone has the right to express themselves. As the title of our magazine says: “We just wanted to say...”

Ylai Giardino, Drifa Gudmundsdottir, Silvia Persiani

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The trip of the Pope

Last March an important religious event took place: the Pope's journey to Africa. He visited Angola and Cameroon where the majority of population is Catholic. There he talked about the relevance of religion in everyday life and about its role as solution to all Africa's problems. Before I started to write the article I read various Italian newspapers and asked some people their point of view in order to understand better what he said and what he meant. The Pope talked about different topics such as superstition which affects African's behavior in many ways. Another important topic is the problem of AIDS that plagues many people in Africa. The Pope said that condoms aren't the solution to this problem because it isn't a problem that could be solved with money but by changing the African's point of view. They should have a stronger sense of religion and practice a life of chastity so that they could be aware of the real



meaning of sex: love and life.

My point of view is far from this because I think the Pope's view is far from African's everyday life. We have to face the fact that in Africa there is a difficult situation of poverty and lack of information because of the most part of the population hasn't had the opportunity to attend school and university. *I think what the Pope said goes against volunteer's everyday effort to fight the illness of AIDS, trying to treat infected people and trying to avoid its spread; they give to Africans the opportunity to live a life as normal as possible without fighting everyday with the death.*

The best solution might be to introduce the use of condom in order to reduce the number of infected people and at the same

time to continue with projects that can provide a basic education to help Africans to find a job. This way, they would have a stronger awareness of sex and hygiene so that the problem of AIDS couldn't be anymore the first cause of death in Africa. The Pope and Governmental institutions from all over the world must face reality and not hide behind religion.

Silvia Persiani

Italy, beloved Italy

One of our illustrious ancestors called us people of saints, poets and seafarers and we like to quote him so much, often inappropriately.

Probably if Dante was writing today, his words would sound more like this: “Italians: the people of assistants, footballers and blackmailer photographers” or maybe “the people of criminals, incompetents, and censors”. This is the distorted and not very edifying image broadcasted everyday by TV. But the worst is the attempt to show all this as if it was normal. If I have a look around I see a sleepy generation, on the other hand there are people who are still awake and trying hard to emerge.

We are the generation of doubt, uncertainty, the generation of perhaps, the generation that shivers when someone says: “Relax, you have your whole life in front of you”, thinking about prospects in a country where everything

revolves around money, sex and power; where large businesses suddenly and inexplicably fail; where once there were indulgences and now



there's the pardon; Where workers earn € 1000 per month and must not delay a loan installment or the bank repossesses their houses, while the “so called” important people evade taxes; where 70 MPs were convicted of crimes related to bribery and where the mafia and government go hand in hand and information is monopolized.

In February MP Giampiero D'Alia introduced a bill which allows the minister of interior to close any site for “crimes of opinion”. Looking at this measure Beppe Grillo, comedian and author of a popular blog said: “ They are trying to build a ‘shit-wall’ similar to the Chinese ‘golden-wall’ . The situation was not

better before. In 2007, according to a survey by “The House of Freedom” (founded by Eleonore Roosevelt in 1941), Italy was 79th in the world for press-freedom, as the same level

as Botswana .

Looking at this demotivating context, we often ask ourselves if in our beloved country there is a place for those who have certain ideals robbed of them by others; for people who doesn't like this situation; for people who would like to have stability and justice: a job, a family, a house; or if they can't have all this here and, like many others, including their grandparents, they have to search elsewhere.

Ylai Giardino

The Scottish failed by Blair

(Translated from the Italian
paper: "Corriere della Sera")

The Queen Elizabeth
appoints the designation of
'Poet Laureate' to a
homosexual woman. This is
the first female nomination
in four centuries.

London_ A lesbian at
Buckingham Palace, may
sound rude and shocking as
title. However, in this case
nobody could complain
because it is neither an
insult nor a vulgarity.
Rather it is a serious thing,
the news that interrupts
the Court's tradition and
replaces the pure souls of
Tories and of the 'new'
Labours.

Was not Tony Blair who
decided to reject Carol Ann
Duffy ten years ago? The
poet was one of the first
candidates to be the 'Poet
Laureate'. She had an
extraordinary curriculum:
born in Scotland in 1955,

she has written several
books and won the most
prestigious prizes, Professor
at Manchester University,
famous, respected, popular
and brilliant. However, the
tenant of Downing Street
rejected her because it
would be not appropriate
to have as an employee for
the Royal Family a woman,
who confesses to love
other women, in particular
Jackie Kay, colleague and
cohabitant.

It would be better to avoid

poets and intellectuals
called to entertain, glorify
and humanize the Royal
Family to the eyes of loyal
subjects.

Another labour decides to
change the course. Few
years later, Carol Ann Duffy
has been nominated from
Gordon Brown
Government's. What a
revolution! The first
woman. The first lesbian.
She will celebrate all the
important events of the
Crown in verses. The first



scandals and gossip. Even
more Carol Ann Duffy had a
daughter. How she could
reconcile the immaculate
role and her ambivalent
feelings? For these reasons,
Blair decided to continue
the secular tradition and
chose Andrew Motion, a
famous literary man, who
joined the numerous male

'Poet Laureate' was John
Dryden nominated by
Charles II in 1668. The last
one, the 20th, was Andrew
Motion; after his death the
appointment was reduced
to a decade.

Andrew Motion celebrated in verses the 100th birthday and the farewell of the Queen Mother, the 80th birthday of the Queen Elizabeth, the 21st birthday of Prince William (in this case, appealing to the modern style of rap) and also showed his magnificent skill at the wedding of Charles and Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall.

Few days ago, while he was cleaning his studio near Buckingham Palace, he suggested to his unknown successor, to defend the privacy from the jet set, which could ruin the inspiration. He said: 'Unexpectedly, I felt overwhelmed and empty'.

Nevertheless everyone knows that Carol Ann Duffy is not a proper worldly woman. She confirmed that Friday during the interview at BBC: 'I am not obliged to write poetry about a wedding or any other event of the Royal Family. It will depend on my mood and my heart. I will compose only when I will feel the right impulse. I need to feel free.'

Carol Ann Duffy broke out debates but her works are masterpieces, beginning with 'The World's wife' (in

Italy, published by Del Vecchio). She decided to serve the Queen certainly not for money. Indeed, the 'Poet Laureate' gets a remuneration of £ 5,750 every year and occasionally a 600 Litres barrel of canarian white wine. A refined sherry. Perfect with her poetry!



Alexandra Nessi

Environment changes

In the past years environment issues like global warming and greenhouse effects have received lots of attention. Many institutions and organizations have been set up to prevent pollution.



Their main goal is to educate people about possible consequences of global warming and to point out that pollution damage impact mainly on people.

The increased attention given nowadays to environment issues is probably caused by the fact that consequences of global warming are already noticeable and not only to scientists. We all see how the weather is changing: extremely hot summers and freezing cold winters. Researchers from University of Monaco have recently studied animals

and plants behaviour coming to the conclusion that soon the weather will change even more radically and

mid-seasons like spring or autumn will disappear.

As a result of the widespread campaign against global warming an international policy has been agreed to protect our planet. The main commitment is to reduce CO₂ emissions by encouraging recycling, use of environment-friendly products, and public transport.

Big factories have also been obliged to reduce the emission of polluting gasses by applying special filters. However, according to recent research carried out by Susan Solomon, Nobel Prize laureate in 2007, changes caused by CO₂ emission are irreparable. She claims that people take for granted that by reducing gas emissions, in about 100 or 200 years, the climate would return as it was. In fact Susan Solomon's studies have shown that the damage is already too serious and even if we manage to restore the emission of other gasses global warming would not be stopped. She explains that seas function as enormous

heat sponges that have been absorbing the excessive heat and CO₂ from the atmosphere for the past 50 years.

Trapped gasses will be released by seas during the next centuries and so even if humanity stops emitting polluting gasses, their amount would not lower.

There is now convincing evidence that since the industrial revolution, human activities resulting in increasing concentrations of greenhouse gasses have become a major agent of climate change. Damages that are probably irreversible and irreparable. Species that have become extinct and people who have died because of hurricanes caused by climate changes won't return. Because of industrial revolution humanity have already lost so much.

Was it really worth it?

Olga

Differences between British English and American English.

What do Young Italians know about differences between them?



Introduction to the English
World:

British English is the form of
English in the United

Kingdom. It includes all
dialects of English used
within the United
Kingdom. American English
is the form of English used
in the USA. It includes all
dialects of English used
within the US.

Written forms of British and
American English vary little
in their essential
features. This kind of formal
English is often called
'Standard English'. Regional
dialects in the US reflect
the elements of the
language of the main
immigrants in any
particular region of the
country. There are at least
4 major regional variations
of spoken American
English: Northern,
Southern, Midland and
Western. Spoken British

English forms differentiate
a lot not only among
countries in the UK,
(England, Northern Ireland,
Scotland and Wales) but
also within these individual
countries.

Historical background:

English was introduced to
the Americas by British
Colonization. It began in
the 17th century. The kind
of language used in the
America and that used in
the UK have diverged in

different ways following
territorial, cultural, political,
economical
developments. These
languages have led to the
dialects now referred to as
American English and
British English. There are a
lot of differences:
pronunciation, grammar,
vocabulary, spelling,
idioms. A fundamental

figure who formalized these
divergences was Noah
Webster. He wrote the first
American dictionary. It was
published in 1828. It shows
that in America they speak
a different language from
Britain. George Bernard said
that UK and US are "two
countries divided by a
common language". Oscar
Wilde said "we have really
everything in common with
America, except of course,
the languages". Henry
Sweet in 1877 predicted
that within a century, AmE
BrE Australian English would
be unintelligible.

Differences: pronunciation,
grammar (verbs-
nouns), idioms, culture.

Pronunciation: Differences
between British English and
American English can be
observed through accents.

Grammar:

Nouns: In BrE collective nouns can take either singular or plural verb forms. For example you can say either "the staff is working well" or "the staff are working well". Just Government is used with a plural verb form to emphasise the principle of collective responsibility. In AmE collective nouns are usually used with plural verb forms.

Verbs: BrE uses the present perfect tense to talk about recent events and with the adverbs already, just, yet. In AmE it can be expressed also with past simple.

An American could say: I just arrived- I have just arrived

A British person could only say: I have just arrived

In BrE have got or have can be used for possession and have got to or have to for the modal of necessity. The forms with got are less usual and more informal.

In AmE the forms with got are usually much more than in the UK.

Colloquial AmE informally uses got as a verb with possession meaning or necessity meaning. For

instance: "I got two cars" "I Got to go".

The subjunctive mood is used in American in mandative clauses. It isn't used in British English any more. In fact If you are in London You will say "They suggested that he could apply for a job" and if you are in New York you will say "They suggested that he apply for a job".

Shall is more common in Britain. Shan't is seldom used in America. It is replaced by won't or not going to. AmE tends to ignore some traditional distinction between should and would.

English irregular verbs present differences between the two dialects.

The past simple and past participle of the verbs Learn Spoil Spell Burn Dream Smell Spill Leap can be either irregular or regular.

In BrE irregular and regular forms are used equally. In AmE irregular forms are not used.

The past participle Gotten is never used in modern BrE, which generally used got, except in old expressions. According to Compact Oxford English Dictionary "the form

gotten is not used in British English but is very common in North American English". In AmE gotten points out the action of acquiring and got just possession.

Idioms. A number of English idioms that have the same meaning show lexical differences between The British and the American version.

I can give you some examples=

British English
American English

not touch something with a bargepole

not touch something with a ten-foot

sweep under the carpet
sweep under the rug

touch wood
knock on wood

see the wood for the trees
see the forest for the trees

throw a spanner
throw a wrench

tuppence worth
two cents' worth

a home from home
a home away from home

haven't got a clue
have no clue

a new lease of life
a new lease on life

Culture. By talking about these two languages we are also talking about two different cultures. The evolution of a language depends on the evolution of its country from every viewpoint. Although the two languages come from an only one root, they have developed in two separate ways following their own cultures, habits and influences. New relations make a population create new designations and consequently new way of seeing the same thing. I can give some examples.

Americans refer to transportation and British people transport. Transportation in Britain has meant of criminals by deporting them to an overseas penal colony. British use of Communications is the movement of goods, people and messages, while in America it refers to facilities for sending and receiving messages by post or electronic transmissions. In American Tv, the episodes of a show first broadcast in a particular year constitute a season, while the entire run of a show is called a series. In British tv, on the

other hand, the word series can apply to the run of a show in one particular year. There are variations in floor numbering. In most countries, among these Uk, the first floor is one above the entrance level and the entrance level is the ground floor. In America the entrance level is called the first floor or ground floor. Greetings are part of this divergence. The North America Merry Christmas could be also Happy Christmas in Britain. In America is becoming common to say Happy Holidays to refer to all winter holiday.

Young Italians know this Difference.

In Italy almost everyone knows that there are differences between the two languages so I have tried to understand what Italians really know about these two languages so diverse. I have searched for ideas on Internet and I have discovered that there are several viewpoints on the subject. To find out what Italians think the best sites are blogs because everyone is free of typing. In "Studenti.it Università" there is an opinion poll. Studenti.it is a web site

where there are useful information for an Italian student but there is also a forum where there are many discussions. One of this discussions concerns our subject. The translated question is DO YOU PREFER BRITISH ENGLISH OR AMERICAN ENGLISH?

66.67 % loves more British English.

26.67% likes more American English.

6.67% doesn't perceive any difference.

There is also a discussion among University students who agree with the fact that American is the most important language in the World because of political, economic and cultural influence everywhere in the World. A small number of them considers British English as the King of the World because in the past British people colonized a vast range of territories and people giving them their language. So British culture is considered stronger. A high number of them understands that there are differences between the two foreign languages. There are phonetic, grammar and lexical dissimilarities.

Giulio Troccoli, a famous Italian journalist, wrote an article which appeared in "Il corriere della sera". He wrote about International English. For him so-called International English is written English which doesn't have so many differences among countries. Spoken English is different from country to another.

According to him an Italian must decide what language to study because it could be very difficult to learn two languages so similar but also different.

He said that to learn International English we could attend classes only in English Schools in Italy. Everyone in the world can create a personal page on the Internet to type what he wants. Blogs are very common nowadays and are visited by a lot of people every day.

Marco's blog has a whole Internet page devoted to this matter.

It is written that American Tv Programmes are broadcasted by British Televisions and vice versa. They don't need subtitles. For him it means that there aren't substantial divergences

between the spoken languages. This web site gives us some examples about lexical differences.

The British lift is the elevator for their overseas americans. A restroom in America is simply a toilet or loo in Great Britain. The dates are written and said differently. The second of May 2008 is the same as May the second 2009. In the United States in a restaurant you ask for the cheque that you pay with some bills, in Great Britain you ask for the bill and you will probably pay with a cheque. You go on vacation for an American and you go on holiday for a British. This article is so simple but also so efficacious could help to understand something about the big divergence between the two languages.

In conclusion, I think that each one has his personal experience and this matter could be a start point for linguistics.

I have chosen young people because I could have tested that they travel a lot and thanks to the computer have more relations with the International World.

For me, American is less difficult to understand but I really like British sounds and I try to improve my listening skills.

Raffaella Laudando

Personal opinions on “English Next”

Why this book is suitable for the English 3 students is pretty understandable from its first pages and from the author's introduction, which is also very interesting & describes more than one subject connected to our “Field and path of studies” and our European & worldwide cultural knowledge.

I think that almost all the students are Italian or maybe are here in Italy for different reasons:

Parents' work & professional occupation, parents' love for Italy, political reasons, academic facilities based on economic aid by the Italian government or maybe for the high academic level offered by the Italian state compared to their own state., and if the student is ambitious there are others, such as reasons & motivations connected to a personal-professional-academic life.

There can be many more, but actually I'm not a statesman or a demographic psychologist, which might be more involved or have the “professional” right keys to

understand better nowadays society!. Actually is a brief introduction on my personal flux of consciousness which can be understood or maybe not, depends on the reader's personal view & way of thinking on different aspects of the same topic.

I will start with the Modernism, one of the main aspects of the world we think to know or maybe try to understand in every moment of our daily life. It can be analyzed by different aspects connected to its fields, categories, instructions, languages development & deeper sub-areas facing the actuality: Where is very common to see different cultures, language & points of view which interact, represented by the people we meet or study or simply see, thanks to our modern interactive instruments (internet, television, posters & event' advertisements) or by hearing stories & reading books about different people who live together facing or divided by the same problems, positive experiences, feelings, troubles, etc.

Modernism seems to choose English as a Global foreign language: traditionally belonged to the secondary school curriculum, with particular attention on grammar, literature and native-speaker pronunciation (

with the help of British teacher/ lecturers followed by American ones in specific cases, depending on the institutes & universities internal policy). The use of the English language is also surrounded by complex cultural politics, for example in colonial time there was not a strong need to impose a metropolitan spoken standard and many local varieties of English emerged- the so called “ *New Englishes*” from contact with local languages, many new English's flourished, and have developed literatures & even grammar books & dictionaries.

Often there exist local as well as ethnic varieties of English, such as Indian or Jamaican English in London, where knowledge of the community norms of code switching is a must and translation & interpreting are the main communicative skills.

This book is interesting because gives direct information on the European Councils connected to the teaching of foreign languages. In particular the CEF (Common European Framework) is a wider ideological project to improve citizens' awareness of the multilingual nature of Europe, to encourage a positive attitude towards linguistic diversity and to

promote the learning of several languages:

European citizens should ideally learn 2 languages in addition to their mother tongue, to improve the multilingualism in Europe- confirms the committee of the European project, with their expectation on a better understanding between neighbouring nations, improved mobility of people in work and study, and an enhanced sense of a shared European identity.

In theory English has no greater status than French, Spanish, German, etc.. but in practice it became gradually the most one used & studied, both in work procedures that in school timetables. There is also the idea of English as an entry requirement or an exit qualification in universities, the "implementation stage" which will shape future identities, economic and cultures and the way it is managed could determine the future of several generations.

To deny the use of languages unrecognized as national ones in public spaces, such as advertising. Although the need to protect national languages can have "moral reasons" the bilingualism needs to be better recognized as a normal, rather than a special condition.

Everybody is aware that languages speakers might or will signal their nationality and other aspects of their cultural identity through their national language and if we are open-minded, as I might expect as languages & worldwide cultures students, different accents and particular tonalities, need to be viewed as a sign of originality rather than one of poor competence. The European cities and their private institutions are more likely to provide English in the environment, offering motivation and support for learning English and the need to offer different combinations of levels, ages, and needs may be an enduring feature of post-modern education.

Nowadays English can be considered a "lingua franca", making the cost of learning it lower for non-native speakers and increase the benefits of its mastery, recognizing also its importance in the work, in our future profession and private or public life. Its use will help us,

as students, to become more confident with the "Unknown World", which is different for everyone & can also be idealized in a specific way, by our mind or society, nourished by different ideas connected & influenced by school studies, point of views,

films, writers & scholar quotations, pictures, friend opinions (including real ones that interactive ones) travel reports and many more elements, which always change, with or without our own will, but indissolubly connected with our private & spiritual development.

Lisa Halfon

Fabio Volo as Kung Fu Panda

The work of a dubber

*(Translated from
"Cooming soon.it")*



This text is an extract from an interview with Fabio Volo – a famous Italian radio DJ, actor, writer, TV presenter – that appeared in a daily. I tried to preserve the original style of the article in such a way as to assign this translation to a newspaper or a magazine. I decided to keep in English the Anglophone words appearing (such as “showman”, “winners”, “losers” and “cool”), and to reduce passages where the Italian version is longwinded. In the last sentence I chose to translate into the plural form the nouns “comportamento”, “movimento”, “labiale”, because I think that in this

way they sound better in the reading.

Like Po, the panda to whom he gives his voice in the Italian version of Kung Fu Panda, Fabio Volo earned his first wage working for his father. Not in a spaghetti-restaurant, as occurs in the new DreamWorks animated cartoon, but in a bakery. Not in the faraway China, but in a little town in province of Bergamo. Not dreaming to become a kung fu champion, but daydreaming about radio, television and cinema.

“In effect I have a lot of things in common with Po” told us Fabio. He is in Rome these days to introduce the animated cartoon already shown at the Cannes Film Festival, and to talk about his work as dubber.

“ I’ll tell you more: the story of Po is similar to my life, but with some changes. I didn’t daydreamed about kung fu but I wanted to do something that was completely different from what was expected from me”. While Po doesn’t get away with martial arts Volo, soon became one of the most talented and famous radio DJs. He luckily met the talent-scout Claudio Cecchetto, who offered him a prestigious job at Radio Capital. Nevertheless the showman had quite a difficult beginning to his career : “ It was a disaster, even if I have always had a supporting family. Maybe

for that reason I am not constantly looking for approval. I am what I am, with my mediocrity , luck and skills”. No problem of self-confidence at all for Volo, who doesn’t divide the world into “winners” and “losers” like the American directors of the cartoon do. He is convinced everyone, like Po, can become cool easily. “ It is not so simple”, he admitted, “ but everyone has his own personal quality, not necessarily a physical one. Everyone thinks the winner is an actor, a singer or a writer. Instead I believe that a successful person is anyone who lives his life simply as himself.” However, being yourself is not always possible. Sometimes an actor is obliged to balance scrupulous preparation and spontaneity, proper pronunciation and a spontaneous way of speaking, especially when he is only one of the voices of the film. “Dubbing is fun” said Volo on this subject “but at the same time is difficult as well, because we work on something already made, so I have to adapt to precise behaviors, movements and lipmovements.”

Nicolò Pedevilla

Students and University

I caught up with some students at Villa Mirafiori and asked them a few questions, and I noticed that they don't have a positive attitude towards the future. Here is an interview I had with two girls:



Hi girls can I ask you some general questions for our school magazine? I won't publish your names or anything!

Both: Sure, why not.

OK thank you. To start with, why did you choose to study English at the Sapienza?

Student 1 : Sincerely, I'm not quite sure. Well, I want to be a journalist and when I had to choose I saw that in communication science you don't study English or at least very little and I think it is very important for journalists to know other languages, especially for me because I want to work freelance. So I chose languages, and the

Sapienza because I'm from Rome and the Sapienza is well known here.

Student 2 : I studied languages at high school and I would like to speak English fluently. I think that knowing other languages is going to be important to find a job in the future, and I also study English because it's helpful when you go abroad.

Are you satisfied with the teaching method at Sapienza ?

Student 2 : Not really, the teachers are good but I think we should have more English classes at university level and more speaking practice and maybe less of other classes like geography and philosophy.

Student 1: In some ways I am quite satisfied, because I love literature and some of the professors give really good lessons. But there are some classes where we don't learn anything and are just a waste of time. I also think we need more English classes, four hours a week are not enough.

What do you think of the Gelmini reform?

Student 1 : I think that the cuts are not a good thing, our university is already falling apart. They cut funds where we need them but not where they really could cut them, for

example: professors that teach law are all lawyers or politicians that already have a very high income and add to it at least 4000 Euros or more a month for teaching once a week at the Sapienza.

Student 2 : I don't think the reform was necessary because they want to improve the school system which in my opinion is already fine as it is. By cutting back they are pushing people towards private schools.

Do you think that you will have a brighter future because with a degree?

Student 2 : No, because when we can finally look for a job, they want people with both experience and education and here in Italy we don't have any working experience when we graduate.

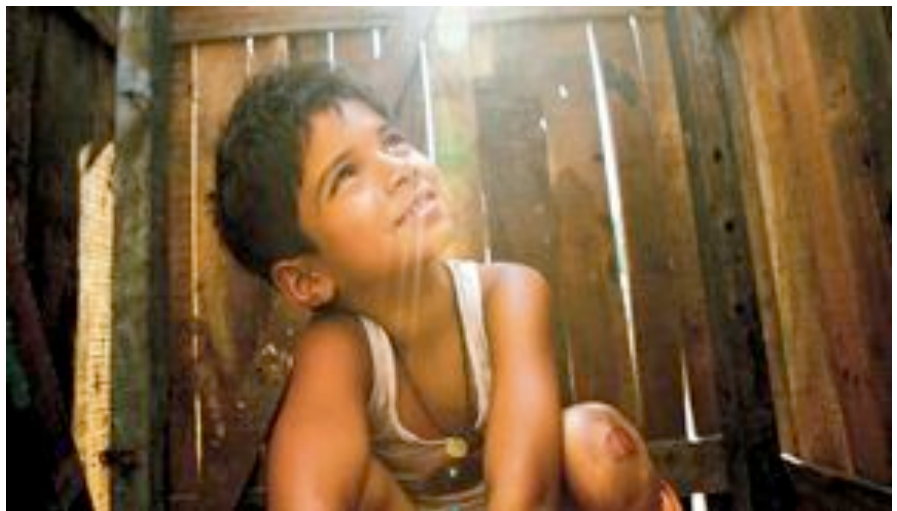
Student 1 : I think the biggest problem is unemployment in general, no one can find a job.

Thank you girls and good luck in the future.

Drifa Gudmundsdottir

The redemption of a *Slumdog*

A gaudy, gorgeous rush of colours, sound and motion *Slumdog Millionaire* is the latest film from *Danny Boyle*. The movie takes audiences to the poorest sections of India and shows a level of poverty and human misery that's almost beyond our imagining. It could be considered a modern fairy tale about a poor Indian boy that becomes a prince. Jamal (Dev Patel) is a teenager from the depths of poverty who becomes a contestant on the Indian version of the "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?" quiz show. As the movie opens, he is coming close to winning the grand prize but the police arrest him on suspicion of fraud. The police review the questions he has been asked on the quiz show, and, one by one Jamal explains how he knows the answers, we get an extensive flashback into his horrible childhood. The movie structure seems to be a fairy tale but Dannie Boyle built it with a strong realism. What has interested me more is the explosion of colours and light, above all at the beginning of the film but at the same time with the



darkness ever ready to invade. It's a family film of shocking brutality, a romance haunted by sexual abuse, a fable characterized by strong poverty.

Through the flashbacks the suspense never stops, and you can't stop thinking about the end of the film, "will it be an happy end or not? I think that it could be considered a happy ending because he manage to use the terrible events of the past to redeem himself from his difficult childhood and I imagine that after the film he would live better with the love of her life. This film gives a vision of Indian reality that many people of our society can't ever imagine. In my opinion it's right that a film tries to show us places in the Indian continent where the hasn't still civilization arrived.

Silvia Persiani

The Last King of Scotland: analysing the language of a dictator

INTRODUCTION

Watching a film like *The Last King of Scotland* means to realize who Idi Amin Dada really was; at first sight his ambiguous behaviour disorients us, it's a sort of split personality, transposed in a dichotomy in his actions, that leads the audience in a whirl of charm and repulsion, so it's not easy to judge his words without an adequate analysis about him.

Several questions, at this point, are required: how can we achieve full knowledge of the mind of a man miles away from our culture and our time? What criterion is needed to understand the meaning of his bizarre claims about the British Empire? Were his claims signs of a deranged mind or did he act within some kind of special plan that aimed to point the attention of the international

community towards him and his "revolution"?

The truth maybe resides in the fact that many people still have a high consideration and respect of his memory in spite of his cruelty.

His charisma and personality are well-portrayed in the film and it works as a truthful document and accurate testimony about his figure, so here I will try to analyze the language of Idi Amin Dada through the performance of the actor Forest Whitaker, Academy Award winner for his performance.

THE TWO AMINS

English is the sole official language in Uganda, so we can start the analysis examining his public speeches, maybe the most important part of a leader's life. It's interesting to notice in fact Idi Amin's way of speaking; a lot of interviews are available, like those in which he claims to be "Conqueror of the British Empire and last King of Scotland" that are especially involving, and actually we can listen to it in the film, so it's possible to compare both versions.

The first thing we note is his pronunciation: it is slow for someone theoretically should have learnt English as a

mother tongue, words are marked and syllabified, they sound well-pondered. He weighs his words emphasizing each letter; more similar to the way of speaking of a foreigner than to the standard. All this makes it easier for Italians to understand, since it's similar to the Italian pronunciation of the English words.

Maybe Whitaker speaks too fast compared to the real Amin, but it is also true that there are film reasons to meet such as fluency of the dialogues as not to be bored and the necessity to make them spectacular. We must take into consideration that it's a film and not a documentary.



In a particular manner we can pay attention to the first appearance of Idi Amin Dada in front of a jubilant crowd: the tone of his voice is filled with enthusiasm, but populism too. His rethoric is minimalist and clever as well,

it doesn't exceed the expectations of his public. There is no shadow of deep thoughts, there are only notions that anyone can understand. Besides, as several filmed sequences show, he uses the language of gestures to strengthen what he says and a short pause breaks each word in his statements

He knows, like the majority of leaders, that declarations and promises such as "make Uganda stronger and free", "new roads, new houses, new schools", "I'm a simple man, a man like you" are enough to catch a widespread success. Idi Amin Dada in these occasions was proposing himself as the guide who has saved a country devastated by poverty; the message in few words was: under my leadership Uganda will be free. For these reasons he repeats the same idea all the time, and the joy of Ugandans, united under a regained national identity and nationalism, grows and grows.

Moreover the choice of simple concepts gives us the opportunity to understand and follow the dialogues.

In the film as well, Idi Amin/Forest Whitaker uses common parlance, not jargon, but a language full of strong and clear terms, lacking in archaistic or learned words. A kind of language that he probably learnt during his experience in the British

Colonial Army and that is sign of the poor education he received. Often it's figurative language, made up of symbols, and in those moments the real Amin turns into an actor, it's a metamorphosis, and the actor in the film turns into Idi Amin Dada. In other words he was speaking directly to the people of Uganda. This element of his language is useful to study his personality, also thanks to Forest Whitaker's acting.

On the other hand, there is the other different pronunciation of James McAvoy/Dr. Nicholas Garrigan, a young Scottish graduate who speaks using a very different diction, much more learned and faster than Idi Amin's (though the character is fictional).

The choices made in the dubbed Italian version are not very convincing: the dialogues lose their vigour and their dramatic force, in the film Italian voices lack inflexion and intensity, it follows that the characters are levelled out, the two different characterizations (British English and African English) inevitably vanish.

Furthermore we can't hear the nasal sound, typical of the African accent, that Forest Whitaker and the others actors reproduce. A further criticism concerns the work of the Whitaker's dubber. In the original version he reproduces

a character ambiguous and charming at the same time, he wants to impress and he does it, he makes people who watch the film feel strange, in a mixture of fear and fascination. Unfortunately the Italian dubber can't give us the same idea of rage, pride, eccentricity and paranoia that makes him unusual and particular.

All things considered we must bear this in mind before seeing *The Last King of Scotland*.

Matteo Scarfò

Berkoff's "One-Man show"

Last January Stephen Berkoff acted at the Argentina Theatre in Rome as the only actor of his "One-Man show".

This show is divided into two: "The Tell-Tale Heart" by E. Allan Poe and "Dog" by Stephen Berkoff.

The "One Man" Berkoff, describes the existence of his characters through his language and gestures.

The action starts with the actor who stands still showing off a plastic smile: the look of a madman. Suddenly Berkoff starts moving and, through the use of extreme gesticulation and repetitive language he talks about a disgusting eye which stares at him continuously.

The tale goes on until the murder of the old man with the awful eye and the dismemberment of his corpse. Even though the actor is alone on the stage using only his body to build up the action, he's able to create a truculent and

almost splatter atmosphere. Looking at Berkoff's incredible gesticulation the audience can feel involved in the action as if it was really happening.

After the murder, the tension is released but the rhythm immediately becomes urgent and distressing when the Tell-Tale Heart starts beating 'louder and louder', as he says, under the protagonist's feet. Then the terrible sound becomes unbearable and drives him to madness and confession to the police.

The second part is about a typical day in the life of a hooligan with his pitbull and brings to the stage a social parody reflecting the Thatcher's England characterized by pubs, stadium punch-up and immoral behaviour. Even in this part the actor's gestures are incredible and

thanks them a show which last 1 and a half hour, with only one actor, is not boring but thrilling.

I can say for sure I've never seen anything like that.



Now Stephen Berkoff is in England and the show is not on the stage anymore, but if you have the opportunity to go and see anything acted by this actor go and check it out.

Ylai Giardino

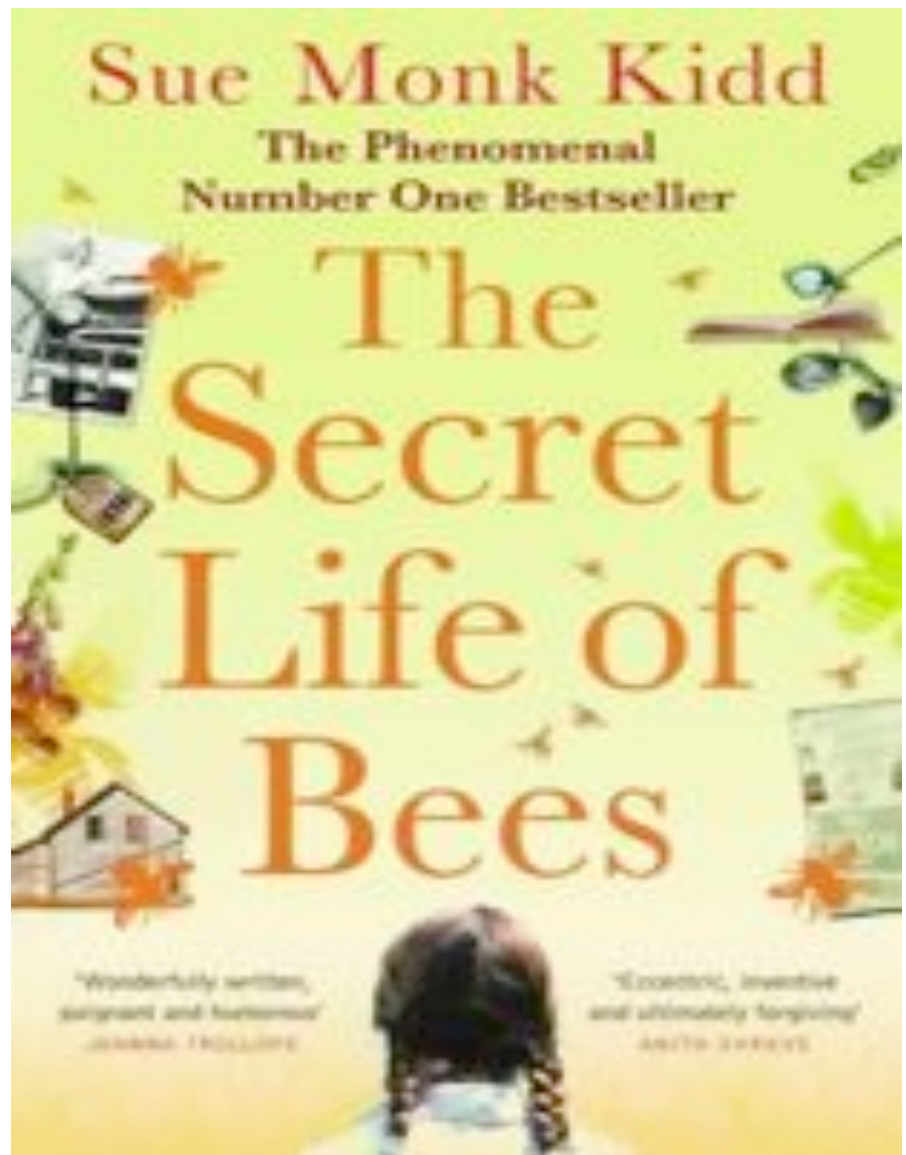
The Secret Life of Bees, by Sue Monk Kidd

The story takes place in South Carolina in the beginning of the 1970s. A girl of fourteen, Lily Owens, lives on a farm with her cold-hearted father.

When Lily was only four years old her mother got killed by a gunshot. Lily's memories are blurred and she can't really remember what actually happened but it seems like that she herself let the shot off. Rosaleen, a kind old African-American woman, who works for Lilly's father, takes care of her after the tragic accident.

One day Lilly gets to go with Rosaleen to town to vote, the first time black people could vote in the American history, but Rosaleen is taken prisoner by three racists. Lily decides to rescue her and they flee together and so begins their long trip across Carolina.

This novel is very impressive and beautifully written. It is a novel about women with



extraordinary gifts coping with loss and finding forgiveness and, especially, learning to forgive themselves.

And last but not least bee fans will find this book very educating.

Every literary aesthete would enjoy this book because of the authors

remarkable penmanship. All those who take interest in women rights, black peoples independence struggles, domestic violence and human rights in general will love this book.

Drifa Gudmundsdottir