

## The world for sick proper

In a short story by Paul Theroux, *The Flower Of Malaya*, one of the characters is a young American woman : ... she was a teacher ... she taught English, most of them do. Shortly after I read this, I read the June 1979 issue of the *New Internationalist*, children's *Voices*, in which seventy children from five continents talk about their lives and their hopes for the future. Quite a few of these children, from West and East Africa, the West Indies and India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, spoke in their own varieties of English. Here is what some of them said, or mumbled in heavily-accented English :

– **Kweku (9), Accra, Ghana :**

*My work is that I sell chewing gum around the Orion Circle at cinema time... My mother died before they born me. My father nobody know ... I sleep in the far night at 2.00 a.m. sometimes 3.00 a.m. morning time. I no have sleeping house. I sleep at the lorry petrol station... the world for sick proper. I want 1979 to have no war and no children born like I am ... I want 1979 to bring house for us and water for village people to drink. Don't take photo of me. I don't want white man see me dirty.*

– **Keshar (9), Nagpur, India :**

*I am looking through all this rubbish every day. It is my work... I look for glass, paper, old iron things, plastic sandals ... I would like to go to school. I like to see small girls going to school with books and slate ... I would like to have a house and two sets of clothes ...*

– **Vinton (14), Kingston Jamaica :**

*I want to go back to school and get myself a trade. I learn welding, woodwork, and learn to fix electrics. You have some boys and they get trade, but they follow their friends. They go robbing, and the police kill them. Them idiots. If I get a trade, I cool ... In twenty years, time I wish I'm in nice job with my wife and children and house, you know ...*

– **Kenyatta (14), Kenya :**

*... the boy at school will get to be a manager and have a big car. The boy at home will just become a thief and a robber ... if you don't know English they will say that you are a useless man and they won't do what you tell them. I want to be a manager and then they will just bring my letters and I will put my signature there. I will give many orders to others, and I will warn those ones who are lazy or drunk. And if they don't agree with me, I will sack them...*

Has English helped these children and the countries they are trying to survive in, or has it in some way been part of the cause of their miserable existence? Is it ethical to go on teaching English to so many children, and so encourage them to believe that it will automatically entitle them to a better job, an office job, a manager's job with a big car, a better life? Have we omitted to ask ourselves what happens when this half-starved world mumbles, *I want ...*, in English?

It is, rather, directed at the often-indiscriminate teaching of English in countries where it is a second or foreign language and where a knowledge of English is regarded as a passport to a better job. In these countries English is also considered essential as a means of international communication and as the means for acquiring access to Western technology, science and, finally, Western-style development and progress.

However, by an interesting coincidence, or perhaps as yet another example of serendipity, a 1980 BBC TV documentary, and the book it was based on (Glasser 1977), describe a similar situation, happening almost in reverse in Europe. The book and the documentary describe a small southern Italian village, San Giorgio, where parents were very anxious to get higher education for their children. The young people realize that their parents, by sending them in for higher education ... have already made a choice on their behalf to send them away from San Giorgio simply because there is no chance whatsoever for them to get a job as an engineer, a doctor, an accountant, a lawyer and so on, in a tiny place like this. So by the very fact of education they are being made into exiles from fairly early childhood. English-teaching was not, of course, the reason for exiling for the young in San Giorgio. But their parents, desire for higher education was.

According to Glasser, who has been involved in development in various countries for fifteen years, what we (developers? Agents? English-teachers?) have been doing is to impose upon people a series of very violent emotional changes as the price of achieving industrialization and technology change. And this realization is such an emotional shock to them that you get a violent explosion in that society which leads to misery, cruelty and all those other things which we now (1980) see in Iran and Kampuchea...

The questions and approaches I have outlined are one of the results of my English teaching experiences in Europe, Asia, Africa, and South Pacific, experiences that have left me with many doubts, a great deal of unease, and growing realization that more of the same might not be the answer. Edward de Bono in *The Use Of Lateral Thinking* (1967) has a very apt metaphor about the digging of holes and deepening and enlarging existing holes instead of deciding to dig new ones : It is not possible to dig a hole in a different place by digging the same hole deeper... if the hole is in the wrong place, then no amount of improvement is going to put it in the right place. No matter how obvious this may seem to every digger, it is still easier to go on digging in the same hole than to start all over again in a new place ...

*Adapted from John Rogers*

## Section I : Comprehension Check

*Now answer the following question by choosing only the best answer.*

1. The writer was influenced the most by the readings from :
  - A. Paul Theroux
  - B. New Internationalist
  - C. The flower of Malaya
  - D. Heavily-accented English
2. If there is one thing in common among Kwenku, Kesher, Vinton and Kenyatta is because they are :
  - A. Teenager
  - B. thieves
  - C. school aged
  - D. orphans
3. Kenyatta : " and if they don't agree with me, I will sack them." Who is he talking about ?
  - A. Friends
  - B. Ordinary workers
  - C. Useless people
  - D. English speakers
4. The word "passport" is used as a Metaphor in relation to :
  - A. Spoken English
  - B. Knowledge of English Language
  - C. Skillful Englishman
  - D. BBC English Programme
5. "... by an interesting coincidence..." What is this coincidence about ?
  - A. marginalization of children
  - B. illiterate children
  - C. children in Europe
  - D. English children
6. In "Glasser, 1977" description of children being made into exile is because of :
  - A. parents choices
  - B. parents choices and education system
  - C. the size of San Giorgio
  - D. varied reasons
7. This refers to one's life period before one is mature.
  - A. young
  - B. children
  - C. childhood
  - D. adult
8. "And this realization is such an emotional shock to them that you get a violent explosion in that society which leads to misery, cruelty and all those other things which we now (1980) see in Iran and Kampuchea..."  
This was because :
  - A. Iran and Kampuchea had no children
  - B. It was the war time in Iran and Kampuchea
  - C. Iran and Kampuchea were great invaders
  - D. Iran and Kampuchea did not exist 15 years ago
9. Eduard de Bono's metaphor, "digging of holes" is focused on :
  - A. the structure of the system of education
  - B. the implementation of the system of education
  - C. the teaching of English
  - D. English and education programme
10. According to this text, "digger" refers to :

- A. people in general
- B. educational experts
- C. parents
- D. the author

## Section 2 : Language Use

*In this section you MUST choose the word or phrase which best completes each sentence. Give ONLY one answer for each question.*

11. What do you usually .....for delivering things?  
 A. demand                      B. charge                      C. cost                      D. price
12. Although this palm wine (surra) is sour, it is very .....  
 A. drunk                      B. drinking                      C. drank                      D. drinkable
13. While the builders were repairing the roof they ..... the bathroom window.  
 A. broke                      B. break                      C. have broken                      D. was broken
14. Why don't you do something worthwhile with your time instead of just..... it!  
 A. spending                      B. using                      C. wasting                      D. passing
15. The new factory chimney was ..... than all the trees around it.  
 A. longer                      B. greater                      C. deeper                      D. taller
16. Her doctor ..... her to eat less salt and sugar.  
 A. Threatened                      B. blamed                      C. treated                      D. Warned
17. They tried to give him some advice but he ..... to listen.  
 A. lacked                      B. refused                      C. avoided                      D. prevented
18. My television ..... in the middle of a good programme.  
 A. broke down                      B. broke up                      C. broke out                      D. broke through
19. She doesn't ..... enough to be able to buy her own flat or house.  
 A. gain                      B. earn                      C. bring                      D. take
20. José admires who are ..... languages.  
 A. attracted to                      B. interested to                      C. bright of                      D. good at
21. I ran .....money yesterday and had to go the bank.  
 A. away with                      B. out of                      C. away from                      D. out on
22. Everything ..... so much these days. I need a pay rise.  
 A. costs                      B. merges                      C. prices                      D. affords
23. Artur ..... 500 thousand Meticaís out of the bank every Friday.  
 A. obtains                      B. draws                      C. pulls                      D. extracts
24. My electricity .....is ridiculously high.  
 A. note                      B. bill                      C. account                      D. statement
25. They come from a well- .....family.  
 A. in                      B. by                      C. off                      D. out
26. Many factories .....their rubbish in the nearest river.  
 A. drop                      B. put                      C. dump                      D. let
27. The grapes are now ..... enough to be picked.  
 A. ready                      B. mature                      C. Advanced                      D. ripe
28. Many .....of wild life are becoming extinct.  
 A. specimens                      B. makes                      C. examples                      D. species
29. When he picked the roses up he was careful not to be ..... by the thorns.  
 A. stung                      B. scratched                      C. bitten                      D. cut
30. We won't arrive in time .....we catch a taxi.  
 A. without                      B. unless                      C. however                      D. Despite

31. When you work abroad you have to take local habits into .....
- A. thought                      B. count                      C. mind                      D. account
32. It's difficult to know the way to .....children.
- A. bring on                      B. bring out                      C. bring along                      D. bring up
33. The students breathed a sigh of ..... at the end of the test.
- A. relax                      B. relief                      C. leisure                      D. pleasure
34. Steak pie! That's my favourite .....
- A. menu                      B. receipt                      C. dish                      D. Plate
35. Her shoes were so old that her ..... were sacking out of them.
- A. toes                      B. tips                      C. thumbs                      D. fingers
36. They were ..... from the company because they were always late for work.
- A. sacked                      B. retired                      C. resigned                      D. disposed

### Section 3 : Language Use

*Read the text below and choose the correct answer (A, B, C and D) for each number.*

As you probably know, our host —37— that Duncairn is one of a small group of castles built —38— the twelfth century on Western coast of Scotland. Only one of its sea-walls still stands. It is —39— a few feet high, —40— an entrance gate with —41— of a stone stairway that originally rose up to the wall walk. I had a theory that it was the work of a particular architect who had built some other castles on the coast. —42— I decided to —43— Duncairn to see if it would confirm my theory. I was —44— a farmer living —45—, —46— the castle, who was quite pleased to put me up. He seemed interested in my work and used to join me every evening —47— together from the castle. On the night before I —48— I told him I wanted to go back to the castle to check a detail I was not sure of. "You'd never —49— there by night, —50— you", he asked. "Of course not. I won't be long". "You can't get there after dark", he replied. "You would never come back. The wall would shut you in. Didn't you ever wonder why —51— with you every night? It was to make sure that you would not be shut in —52— the rest of them."

I thought he has gone a little mad, —53— sometimes happens to people who —54—.

Then he told me a strange story about a war between two families that had ended in —55— brutal way that one of them had killed the others and put them in the wall, believe that it would help to hold it up. "I cannot let you go back there," the farmer said, "in case you are —56—."

"I don't see that —57— danger," I said, laughing. "All the ghosts are holding the wall —58—, it won't fall on me."

"Has he ever gone there at night and come back alive?" He asked. " —59— the ghosts are all tired and need others to help them."

37. A. was explaining to us      B. explaining us                      C. was remarking                      D. was telling to us
38. A. by                      B. at                      C. in                      D. on
39. A. hardly more than                      B. almost more than                      C. just as much as                      D. nearly more than
40. A. in spite there is yet                      B. in spite it still                      C. though it is yet                      D. though there is still
41. A. what stays                      B. what remains                      C. that what remains                      D. that what stays
42. A. Because of that                      B. For that                      C. That is the cause why                      D. For which reason
43. A. do a careful study to                      B. make a careful study to                      C. do a careful study of                      D. make a careful study of
44. A. enough lucky to find                      B. lucky enough to find                      C. with enough luck to meet                      D. with lack enough to meet
45. A. by his own                      B. without no one                      C. by himself                      D. solely
46. A. quite near at                      B. not much far from                      C. nearby to                      D. not far away from
47. A. so that we could walk home                      B. so that we could walk to home                      C. for walking home                      D. for walking to home

48.	A. was to leave	B. would be to leave	C. must have left	D. must be left
49.	A. pretend to go	B. pretend going	C. think of going	D. think of go
50.	A. should	B. did	C. would	D. had
51.	A. have I always come back	B. I have always come back	C. have I come back always	D. I have come back always
52.	A. similar than	B. the same that	C. as well	D. like
53.	A. what	B. which	C. that	D. for
54.	A. do live alone	B. do live lonely	C. live alone	D. live lonely
55.	A. a so	B. what a	C. the most	D. such a
56.	A. avoided to leave	B. prevented to leave	C. avoided from leaving	D. prevented from leaving
57.	A. it is any	B. it is some	C. there is any	D. there is some
58.	A. save	B. safely	C. hardly	D. hardening
59.	A. Meanwhile	B. During	C. As long as	D. As far as

### Section 4 : Writing

Read the following extract from an original text in English taken from the newspaper; then choose one of the four versions in Portuguese that is correctly translated.

The bridge linking Mozambique Island to the mainland is being restored after a delay of ten years. The bridge, which joins the Island to Lumbo on the mainland, was built twenty years ago. The pillars supporting it have been eroded and need repairing. The repairs were to take place ten years ago, but were postponed because of shortages of materials. A team from the Ministry of Construction and Water is carrying out the repair work.

(In English for Mozambique)

60. **Versão A**

A ponte juntando a Ilha de Moçambique à parte continental está sendo reposta depois de um atraso de dez anos. A ponte que junta a Ilha com o Lumbo na parte do continente foi construída há vinte anos. Os pilares que suportam-na estão a ruir e precisam de reparação. A reconstrução era para ter lugar há dez anos mas foi cancelada por falta de materiais. Um grupo do Ministério de Construção e Água esta a levar a cabo um trabalho de restauração

**Versão B**

A ponte ligando a Ilha de Moçambique á parte continental está sendo reabilitada após um atraso de dez anos. A ponte que liga a Ilha com o Lumbo na parte do continente, foi construída há vinte anos. Os seus pilares estão a desmoronar e precisam de reconstrução. Os trabalhos de reabilitação teriam sido realizados há dez anos mas foram cancelados por falta de materiais. Uma equipa do Ministerio de Construção e Água está levando á cabo um trabalho de reparação..

**Versão C**

A ponte unindo a Ilha de Moçambique e a parte em terra firme está sendo reconstruída depois de um atraso de dez anos. A ponte que junta a Ilha e o Lumbo da parte do continente, foi construída há vinte anos. Os pilares que suportam-na está a ruir clamando pela reparação. As reparações eram para serem feitas há dez anos mas pararam por motivo de materiais. Uma equipa do Ministério de Construção e Água está a trabalhar para recupera-la.

**Versão D**

A ponte que põe juntas a Ilha de Moçambique e a parte do continente, está sendo reconstruída depois de um atraso de dez anos. Esta que junta a Ilha com O Lumbo na parte do continente, construiu-se há vinte anos. Os pilares da ponte estão a degradar-se precisando de uma reparação. Essas reparações eram para ter lugar há vinte anos, mas tiveram uma paragem por causa de materiais. A equipa de Ministério da Construção e Água está a trabalhar pela recuperação.

**THE END.**