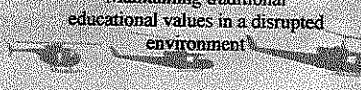


Apocalypse? No!

Maintaining traditional educational values in a disrupted environment



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Aims

- To look at the current climate of change and disruption of education worldwide, brought on by technological change.
- To suggest that such change has had, and will continue to have, less impact on the English Language sector than on almost any other, and that the traditional English language teacher will remain;
- To discuss an exhortation that the inherent tendencies for humanity to value heritage and nostalgia will safeguard the role of the teacher into the future.

What's Happening?

- Computers
- Internet
- Smartphones
- Social media
- Artificial Intelligence
- When did you last go to the bank?

Artificial Intelligence

- UBER has announced plans to buy 24,000 Volvo SUVs as a driverless fleet
- Peter Cushing appeared in the 2016 film "Rogue One: a Star Wars Story", although he died in 1994
- Google's AlphaGo software defeated a Chinese master at Go, considered the world's most complicated board game

"Will Robots Take Our Children's Jobs?" New York Times, 11th December 2017

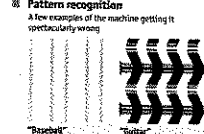
Artificial Intelligence

- Early in 2017, Fukoku Mutual Life Insurance made 34 of its staff redundant and replaced them with the AI system IBM Watson
- AUT AI research director Albert Yeap: "AI is about figuring out how the mind works and then working out how to reproduce it on a computer"

Institute of Directors Boardroom, Aug-Sept 2017

Artificial Intelligence

Pattern recognition
A few examples of the machine getting it spectacularly wrong



The Economist, 9th May 2015

AI: Machine Learning

- A subset of AI is machine learning
- It allows computers to pick up on patterns they were not explicitly programmed to perceive
- eg Google Translate – it uses pattern recognition to translate a fresh piece of language, based on what is already in the database. But how good is it?

The Economist, 22nd July 2017

Google Translate

I hope the leaves do not touch your body when they fall so you can not convert them into glass
I hope the rain stops being the miracle that goes down your body
Hopefully the moon can ping without you
May the earth not kiss your steps.
I wish your constant look will send the average word the perfect smile
I hope something happens that erases you suddenly, a blinding light, a shot of space
I hope at least death takes me not to see you so much not to always see you in all seconds, in all visions
I hope I can not even touch you in songs
I hope the marrow slits and sewers that fill on my hair
I hope your atoms will forget that voice
I hope the walls do not hold your masses revol noise
I hope the desire goes after you to your old government of depressed and flowers

Social Media

- Facebook, Messenger, text, Snapchat, WeChat, Twitter: the current communication media all depend on brevity
- Donald Trump has written policy in 140 characters, including typos: "Despite the constant negative press covfefe."

Chat rooms and Social Media

- Is it important to communicate accurately?
- Does spelling or punctuation matter?
- Will the next Trump typo spark off an international incident?
 - Eats, shoots and leaves
 - Fanny's ready
 - Sir Roger Casement hanged on a comma, 1916

The comma that killed

- Sir Roger Casement was a distinguished British diplomat, knighted for his work on human rights abuses in Peru
- Casement became involved in Irish republicanism during World War 1
- He sought help in Germany to recruit Irish prisoners of war to form an Irish brigade
- He was landed by a German submarine three days before the 1916 Easter Rising and arrested shortly after

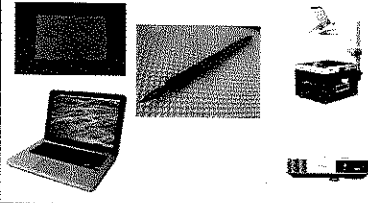
The comma that killed

- The trial was based on the 1351 Treason Act
- "... *If a Man do Levy War against our Lord the King in his Realm, or be adherent to the King's Enemies in his Realm, giving to them Aid and Comfort in the Realm or elsewhere ...*"
- the court decided that a comma should be read in the unpunctuated text, crucially altering the sense so that "in the realm, or elsewhere" referred to where acts were done and not just to where the "King's enemies" might be
- the defence had argued that acts performed outside the UK could not amount to treason within the UK, but the comma changed that
- So Sir Roger Casement was hanged on a comma in August 1916

Disruption in education

- Apocalyptic vision from New Zealand International Education Conference 2016:
 - University lecture rooms empty: MOOCs
 - Social media and changed communication
 - Changes in social media
 - Virtual classes
 - Online teaching
 - Chat rooms
 - Artificial Intelligence

Change

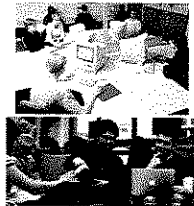


Blackboard

Whiteboard

White is the new black!

Spot the change



ACQ 2001

AEA 2017

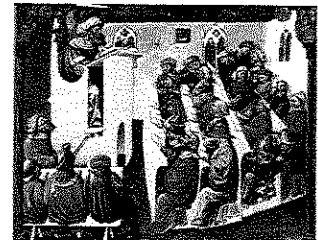
Spot the change



I.L.C 1982

AEA 2013

AEA 1415



Non-apocalyptic vision

- English Language Teaching (ELT) is:
 - Communicative
 - Mobile
 - 5% presentation; 95% reinforcement
 - Dictation, listening comprehension, You Tube
 - Much more than what happens in the classroom

Successful methods are all interactive

- Timothy Blake, Chairman, London School of English (est 1912): "People like people, especially when it comes to a process in which motivation is very important, because no one has yet made it quick and easy."
 - "Tape recorders, language lab, videos, computers, the internet, Skype, Social Media - they come along one after the other, and all of them have their impact, certainly, but none of them has yet rendered what we do completely out of date."
- "We are highly social animals" Dr Jason Stephens, The University of Auckland
- Kim Herase, ACG, "You can't create trust electronically."

Sprachcaffe study highlights benefits of language trips

... the study also explored the benefits of learning abroad, one of which was in-person learning, with 90% of participants citing "interaction with others" as the most useful resource for improving language skills.

Sprachcaffe is one of Europe's largest study abroad agencies

Study: Travel Magazine, 28th July 2017

Summing up Motivations for Studying Abroad

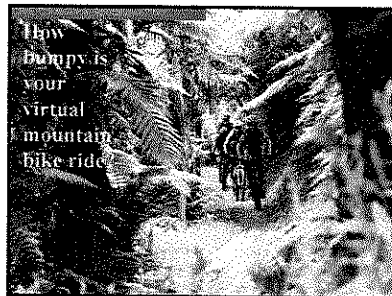
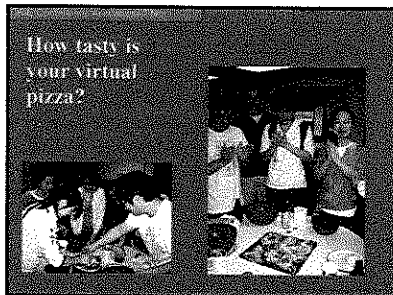
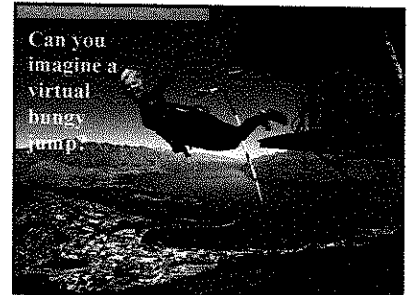
- AFS CEO Daniel Obst:
- Gen Z youth want to go out and experience a world that is larger and different than their own;
 - Gen Z students don't just want to simply travel to other countries; they are looking for authentic experiences through the eyes of local people. There are the adventures and stories they want to experience and share with others."

AFS is an international youth exchange organization, moving over 12,000 students annually between 100 countries

ICEF Monitor, 2nd August 2017

Defying disruption in education

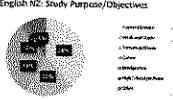
- Face off the apocalyptic vision:
 - MOOCs, Social media, Virtual classes, Online teaching, Artificial Intelligence
- Students are looking for
 - authentic experiences through the eyes of local people
 - adventures and stories
- Students are highly social animals
- **Virtual Reality is Virtual; it is not Real**



Study Travel

- English language learning is a form of study travel
- 24% of learners are on a pathway to education or migration; 76% are here for the experience and will then go home

English NZ: Study Purpose/Objectives



So where do we go from here?

- Change and disruption are facts of life, but:
 - Change is not linear
 - Change changes
- Perhaps there is room for compromise

NZ Productivity Commission Report

- Digital technologies will not cause the disappearance of the campus-based university.
- Campuses will still exist as places of teaching and learning, research, community engagement, and varied forms of student experience.
- But digital technologies will transform the way education is delivered and supported, for example through applications that enable real-time student feedback.

New Models of tertiary education, March 2017

Blended Learning


- 10-year old Amartya is studying at the Khan Lab School in California
 - His Maths is "pretty strong" but he needs to work on his writing.
 - He will practise grammar online [using machine learning], *book a slot with an English teacher* and consult his mentor.
- Technology is not replacing the teacher(s), but changing the model.

The Economist, 22nd July 2017

Questions


- What significant technological changes have you or your institute introduced in your teaching in the last few years?
- What are their successes and failures?
- What changes do you plan in the next year or so?
- Do you see yourselves reducing the number of teaching staff or contact hours?
 - If you plan to reduce hours will TEC/NZQA approve?
- Given the inherent tendencies for humanity to value heritage and nostalgia, will the role of the teacher be safeguarded into the future?
- How will we achieve this?

The March against Change




The March against Change

- In fact King Canute (ruled England 1016-37) is said to have been "the most effective king in Anglo-Saxon history"¹
- His action was to demonstrate to flattering courtiers that the secular power of a king was nothing compared to the power of God.²



¹ Green, H. The Chieftains of the Middle Ages, 1395, 164
² Herold of Wurtzberg, The Emperor, a 197

- The English Language Teacher will be the Omega Man of international education



Charlton Heston, 1971

Postscript:

- The 2007 remake of The Omega Man was: *I am Legend*
- It has an alternate ending ...

