

# *EABNetNews*

*October-November 2007*

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## ***Attitudes.***

Sorry to be critical but it seems to me that there are too many people in the world of Esperanto, just as outside it, who are far too ready to criticise than congratulate. I am not thinking so much of what happens to myself although it did happen recently that someone complained about a grammatical error but never said a word of thanks for the work needed to do what is after all a labour of love.

No, I am thinking about two not very expert, but full of enthusiasm, Esperantists from England who emigrated to Spain and very quickly set up an Esperanto group in their small town and produced a little newsletter which they sent out via the Spanish movement.

Very quickly they received a hectoring email complaining about mistakes in their grammar (chiefly they put 'cîame' instead of 'cîam'). I thought it amusing that the author of this hectoring newsletter was, yes, "Hector"! So Friends, think before you complain, and if you must do so, do it gently!

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I must apologise for the fact that part 2 of Geoffrey King's series on using Esperanto with a typewriter or computer keyboard is so late. I can only accept the blame myself for filing it in my computer and then not being able to find it again. Anyway, here it now is.

## **E-mail, the Internet and Esperanto**

The **internet** is an untidy, messy place. You might not realise this when glossy webpages appear effortlessly before your wondering eyes; but what you see is the latest stage in a piecemeal development stretching back over twenty years.

Certain basic internet essentials are standardised (“protocols”). These do just enough to make everything function; but a lot of what you don't see is a mixture of old (“legacy”) and new things cobbled together like an old-style Meccano set..

When E-mail and related things (message boards, newsgroups, etc.) started, you were restricted to the characters you can see on the keyboard in front of you; the Latin alphabet (probably capitals only), the numbers, and a certain amount of punctuation. You couldn't do quite ordinary words like “café” or “débris”; Spanish users couldn't do their upside-down question and exclamation marks; and heaven knows how Greek and Russian users got on.

Meanwhile in ordinary word-processing things had moved on a bit. Various bright sparks had worked out ways of using function keys, Control, Shift, Grey (now AltGr) and Alt keys to produce a bigger range of characters and alphabets. Twenty years ago LocoScript offered Greek and Russian alphabets and even Vietnamese double accents. But there was a whole rash of competing systems; if you had LocoScript you couldn't read WordStar texts and vice-versa. And then there were Word Perfect, Secretary Bird and a host of others.

This didn't matter too much as long as people used computers like typewriters, to write a letter, print it, and send it off in the post. As more and more people started sending each other E-mails the limitations of the standard keyboard got more and more annoying. If Spanish people couldn't even type the word “España” correctly, something had to be done. Thus it was that *encoding* was created. Put simply, encoding is a system for transmitting characters that aren't on the keyboard. Unfortunately, there are quite a few different encoding systems. Somewhere in the small print at the top of your word-processor's window (probably in “Tools”) there will be an item called “Character encoding” or something similar. If you take a look at that you'll probably see quite a long list. Many of these are obsolete or used only for particular languages, but two are of interest for Esperanto.

The first, and older, one is known variously as Latin 3, ISO 8859-3 or South European. This was the first encoding to be much use for Esperanto. It was quite widely adopted and became used for E-mails and for web sites. Latin 3 persisted for a long while; until quite recently the Esperanto Centre computer had Latin 3 for E-mail and had the “EsperantoPad” version of WordPad which was also Latin 3. You may still come across Latin 3 in long-standing websites and in other unexpected places; for example I have an audio editing program called Magix Audio Cleaning Lab which uses Latin 3 for its text.

A more recent arrival (but no longer all that recent) is Unicode (a.k.a. UTF-8). Unlike Latin 3 this is intended to become a world-wide standard replacing all others. It hasn't quite happened yet, of course, but any program

you have acquired in the last five (or so) years should at least be capable of handling Unicode; in most cases it will be set to Unicode by default, so you don't have to do anything; and the latest version of Open Office apparently *only* has Unicode. So if you look at an Esperanto web page and the accents are wrong, it's probably a left-over bit of Latin 3 rather than something wrong with your computer.

In other words, as far as looking at webpages is concerned, it should come out right without your doing anything, and if it doesn't there probably isn't anything you can do. Authoring webpages is another matter, but most of us don't do that. Suffice it to say that copy-and-paste from Open Office or Word Perfect works pretty well.

When it comes to **E-mail** things are different. You may not know whether the person you are writing to can use Unicode or not. If not, your “ê”s may turn into something incomprehensible like “&365” or whatever. But given that Unicode is “hidden” in most software even though people don't know it's there, it's reasonably safe to assume your accents will get through. **Ek!** will work in Outlook Express, Thunderbird and many other systems, which, surprisingly, means that E-mailing in Esperanto is a lot less bother than E-mailing in French or German. When you are ready to send your message, you may get a pop-up asking whether you want to send the message as plain text, or HTML, or both. Don't choose plain text! (You'll lose the accents and it will come out like old-style typewriter text) It's pretty safe to assume that HTML will work, so choose that.

**Message boards and newsgroups** are the real pain in the proverbial. Some of these have been running since the year dot and their set-up has never been updated to allow for the possibilities of Unicode or even HTML. This means that most do not allow attachments, and not many let you insert pictures or graphics. Many of the groups to be found in Yahoo Groups and Google Groups are inherited from the days of CompuServe 20 years ago. Others are not native to Yahoo or Google but are copies (“mirrors”) of groups located in the veteran Usenet network (a survivor from before the days of the World Wide Web). This is doubtless why Unicode is not supported by default in many more recent groups such as, famously, <esper-brit>. So, frustratingly, in a lot of Esperanto message boards you still have to resort to those unsightly “x”s and “h”s. This is particularly annoying when the messages are flanked by full-colour advertisements which obviously use much more intricate devices than the Unicode that we can't use in the messages!

So when you join a group, look at existing messages to see what is being used, and if anybody at all is getting accents to appear, then so can you. If they clearly aren't available, then there is nothing you can do about this as Yahoo in particular seem to be singularly unresponsive to customer complaints. If, on the other hand, you want to see it working quite well, just subscribe to *Gazetaraj*

*Komunikoj de UEA* which arrives by E-mail from <abonu.com> in pristine condition. So it can be done; where there's a will there's a way. It isn't even difficult, it's just stick-in-the-mud attitudes. As Esperantists we are, of course, well used to that.

Geoffrey King

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Fractured English (5)

In a Japanese Hotel: You are invited to take advantage of the chambermaid.

In the lobby of a St Petersburg Hotel opposite from a cemetery. (must be the Moscow Hotel)

You are welcome to visit the cemetery where famous Russian and Soviet composers, artists and writers are buried daily except on Thursday.

In an Austrian hotel which caters for skiers: Not to perambulate the corridors in the hours of repose in the boots of ascension.

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**Ideas wanted for a film!**

The Wakefield and Leeds Esperanto Group are thinking about trying to make a very modest film with a videocamera. But they need ideas - have you got any? If so send them direct to [hecate@pucksgrove.com](mailto:hecate@pucksgrove.com)

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**See the New year in at an International Party in Poland.**

Morgaŭ finiĝas sekva aliĝperiodo por Ago-Semajno! Uzu la okazon - aliĝu tuj por pagi malmulte :)

Ago-Semajno okazos ĉi-jare en bela urbo Malbork, kiu famas pro mezepoka brika kastelo. Ni preparas por vi ricxegan programon kaj multajn surprizojn. Certe vi ne enuos. Tion ni garantias!

Por ne tedi vin per tro longa mesaĝo mi nur invitas vin viziti nian paon kaj spekti filmetojn: [www.as.pej.pl](http://www.as.pej.pl)

This is a holiday to cover the New Year period in Malbork, Poland, famous for its Teutonic Knights castle. Look at the web-site for more information.

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## Why English is so hard to learn (4)

The wind was too strong to wind the sail.

I had to subject the subject to a series of tests.

There is no egg in eggplant, nor ham in hamburger; neither apple nor pine in pineapple.

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Raporto pri Aylesforda Semajnfino Septembro 14 - 17.

Denove okazis la ferio ĉe la mona hejo en la SOEF-a regiono, bonan okazon. Tiel kutime Anica kaj Terry Page aranĝis ĝin, eĉ ili ne longe loĝas en la sud-orienta sed ĉe mil;ton °eynes. Ni informis la anojn en nia Federacio kaj pluraj homoj ĉeestis ankaŭ aliaj el la londona Esperanto-Klubo. Bedaŭrinde ne alvenis francojn ĉi jare.

La temo estis 'Arboj' kaj ĉiuj kontribuis per prelego, ludado dum 3-4 tagoj. Ni ekzercis la lingvon kaj lernis pri multaj interesaj temoj el la evoluo kaj interago de arboj kaj homoj. , la uzo se Ciferoj (Ivor Huetin), Sorobano japania (Kimrie Makarian). Teo kaj Tizanoj (Anica Page) la Tertremo en Folkestone (Gordon Hawker) ktp ktp. Tiam por fizika agado Terry Page instruis pri Petanque (Tradicia Glob-ludo el Francio). Ni havis 3 teamojn kaj ludis sur malebena herbo 3 rondojn. Tre amuza. Ni fleksis la kruroj, streĝigis la brakojn kaj klopodis ĵeti la pezegajn pilkojn. Poste ni multe ĝuis manĝi la kutimajn bonajn lunĉojn. Mi aldonas ke la loĝejoj estis komforta, kaj la manĝo estis tre bona (ne la pano kaj akvo de mona hoj). Estas parko, ĝardenoj kaj la rivero Medway fluas ĵus ekstere.

Certe ni loĝis en 'Esperantujo' sed 'Esperanto' komence estis sur reklamo sur nia tablo en la manĝejo. La literumado ne estis korekta kaj ili ĵustigis ĝin! Je dimanĉo okazis ion kiu interesis min kaj Mike Wade kiu havis intereson kaj laboras kun skoltoj. La polaj skoltoj el Britio kaj Pollando celebris la centjaran datrevenon de la skolta movado fare de Baden-Powell kiu estis esperantisto kaj rekomendis ĝin al la movado.. Estis sub-ĉiela Meso dum sunbrilo kaj poste, sporto sur granda ludkampo. Mia edzo estis skolto kiam li estis ĉe lernejo en Pollando. Ni ne povis longtempe tie resti sed interŝanĝis kelkajn vortojn kun homoj. Ni ne havis tempon por serĉi esperantistojn sed tiuj al kiuj ni mparolis certe nun scias pri Esperanto!  
Anis Srajban, Mitcham

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## A Message from the birthplace of Zamenhof

Bjalistoko, 6.11.2007

Estimataj gesinjoroj!

En la jaro 2009 okazos la 94-a Universala Kongreso de Esperanto en Bjalistoko. Jam nun ni deziras komenci elsendi programojn en Esperanto per la interreta televido ITVC. Nia celo estas transdoni gravajn informojn por esperantistoj ne nur el Bjalistoko, la naskiĝurbo de la kreinto de la internacia lingvo, sed ankaŭ el aliaj partoj de la mondo, kie delonge la ideo de Esperanto estas konata. Ni elsendos programojn pri esperantistoj, iliaj sukcesoj, kluba agado, kongresoj, renkontoj ktp. Ni prezentos la plej interesajn libroeldonaĵojn, Esperanto-teatrojn, muzikajn ensemblojn, filmojn kaj vizitindajn lokojn. Tial ni petas vin helpi realigi ĉi tiun entreprenon. Bonvolu sendi mallongajn filmajn raportojn, novajn eldonaĵojn kaj muzikaĵojn, kiuj povas esti senpage prezentitaj en la interreta televido.

Prezentado de la materialoj, recenzoj kaj popularigado de via agado estos ankaŭ promociado de Esperanto.

La materialojn oni povas sendi per interreto al la adreso de la televido: : [redakcja@itvc.pl](mailto:redakcja@itvc.pl) aŭ perpoŝte al la adreso: Bialostockie Towarzystwo Esperantystów – Bjalistoka Esperanto-Societo, 15-282 Bialystok ul. Piękna 3, skr. pocz. 67, Polska / Pollando.

Ni estos dankemaj pro viaj sugestoj, opinioj kaj interesaj proponoj.  
Kun salutoj, Stanislaw Dobrowolski

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### Pen Friend wanted!

Claudio.Dominioni@snamprogetti.eni.it

Mi ŝatas literaturon, lingvojn, vojaĝojn. Mi havas 73 jarojn kaj deziras korespondi perletere kun personoj el Europo.

Branka Leontic, Trg Djackog Bataljona, 3/I-8, 15000 Sabac

Serbio

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## EUROPEAN COMMISSIONER FOR MULTILINGUALISM

Leonard Orban, the **European Commissioner for Multilingualism**, who opposes Esperanto because he claims it, "is not a living language", is now seriously embarrassed by his own blog.

<http://forums.ec.europa.eu/multilingualism/languages-for-young-people/en/>

Commissioner Orban's most used blog language, after French is Esperanto.

Yet people in high places still claim that Esperanto is not a living language.

Information received from [esperantolobby@hotmail.com](mailto:esperantolobby@hotmail.com)

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### Unua gazetara komuniko pri IJK 2008

Finfine: decido pri Junulara Kongreso

En 2008 – de la 26-a de julio ĝis la 2-a de aŭgusto - IJK, jam la 64., okazos en la romia hungara urbo Szombathely, je kelkaj km de la aŭstria landlimo. La aranĝo kunligos la tradicion de la IJK – ekz. gravaj debatoj en pleno kaj diskutrondoj (ĉefe pri la ĉefa temo de IJK: minoritataj rajtoj) - kune kun la kutima juneca etoso, en kiu brilos sportoj, akvobatalo, dancoj, ekskursoj, naĝado ktp. Ĉio tio en la esperantista klimato de internacia amikeco sen lingvaj problemoj.

Preskaŭ urbocentre situas la studenta hejmaro, kiu gastigos la junularan kongreson. Tie la gepartoprenantoj povos tranokti je la modera prezo de meze po eŭroj 5 nokte.

En la pasintaj jardekoj kelkmiloj da gejunuloj ĝojis partopreni en la gajaj IJKj. (Internacia Junulara Kongresoj) Espereble granda nombro da ili veturos post kelkaj monatoj al Szombathely.

Por pliaj informoj kontaktu la oficialan retpaĝon de la 64a IJK ĉe <http://esperanto.net/ijk2008>, aŭ serĉu informojn en via plej ŝatata E-amasmadio!

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**Our ever-active correspondent David Curtis** writes to recommend that you take a look at the web-page below. On it you will find an interview with Claude Piron, well-known Esperantist from Switzerland. He gives an interview in English about the advantages of Esperanto. Both picture and sound quality is very good. If you have the means, you might like to record this interview on a CD on your computer.

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_YHALnLV9XU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_YHALnLV9XU)