

Re: Let's talk about langages (Advice/Help)

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From: Olivers (*olive_at_LOSETHISalpha.com*)

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Icono Clast extrapolated from data available...

> LEE Sau Dan <danlee@informatik.uni-freiburg.de> wrote:
>> I don't think it makes any sense to watch a Hollywood
>> film in a dubbed language which I'm less familiar with than English.
>> (I'm more familiar with British English than American, though.) I
>> have to catch the occasional time slots where the local German cinemas
>> would show an "o.V." (original version).
>
> In Germany, I met a young man (well, my age at the time) who spoke
> excellent English with good grammar, excellent pronunciation and
> accent, and an enormous vocabulary. He claimed he "learned from the
> movies". He was also a voracious reader. During the month or so we
> lived in the same dormitory, only once did he ask me to define a word.
> I could not. He was reading science fiction; the word had been created
> by the author.

During one of my college years, I lived next door to a women, just into her post grad studies, who had learned "good" French from years of attending the then common "French w/English subtitles" flicks at the local "art house". She had a little accent problem, presumably due to the film distributors' (or maybe the French producers') 1950s/early 60s predilection for noir-ish tales involving "lower class" French life, orphans, prostitutes, gangsters, never an aristo among them.

My exposure to foreign languages was not very effective...bad (obsolete words and verb forms) TexMex Spanish as a child/teenager, four years of Latin in high school, a year of French, one of Spanish and one of Italian in college (and little gained from any one of the three except some basic grammar), but then a couple of tours with the US 6th Fleet after which my Italian and French, still circumscribed in scope, had become workably effective in the rough end of the marketplace or tourism, while the Spanish had remained confused and old fashioned. I had the mischance to pick up a little Vietnamese (which amazingly gets used some here, in restaurants, small businesses, and Gulf seafood markets/shrimpers, although second generation Vietnamese in th