

sci.lang: Re: Told today

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Fri, 27 Aug 2004 12:14:12 GMT: "Peter T. Daniels"  
<[grammatim@worldnet.att.net](mailto:grammatim@worldnet.att.net)>: in sci.lang:

>Nigel Greenwood wrote:

>>

>> Non-native speakers of English quite often find it difficult to  
>> distinguish correctly between "said" & "told". The BBC may be doing  
>> its bit to add to the confusion.

>>

>> On several occasions I've heard a BBC Radio 4 announcer say something  
>> like "The Prime Minister told today that ..." -- & it takes some  
>> background knowledge to realize that the sentence is really "The Prime  
>> Minister told 'Today' that ...", referring to the "Today" programme,  
>> which is broadcast every morning from 6:00 to 9:00.

>

>I've only observed "told" for "said" from Russian-speakers. Do you hear  
>it in others as well?

I could easily confuse them (although I never do) from my Dutch background. "XXX vertelde dat ..." and "XXX zei dat ..." are equally possible in Dutch (although the meaning slightly differs), while English 'tell' requires an indirect object: XXX told me/him/us/them that ....

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