

## Re: accents

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Date: 29 Mar 2005 06:53:31 -0800

Ruud Harmsen wrote:

> 29 Mar 2005 02:45:16 -0800: "Iain" <[iain\\_inkster@hotmail.com](mailto:iain_inkster@hotmail.com)>: in  
> sci.lang:

>

> >How would a traditional linguist view the role of text in all this?

I

> >always disagreed with people who merely see written English as a  
lo-fi

> >misrepresentation of spoken English. To a somewhat deaf person like

> >myself, who once could hear and whose inner monologue is maybe

> >fading(although it's hard to tell), written English is a visual

> >language with no warts and a logical correspondance with meaning.

>

> To me too. In English and in my native Dutch.

As a Scot, I can pick up Dutch fairly easily. The Dutch words for "now"  
and "know" are the same as the Scots dialect ones(aurally).

> I /can/ mentally or

> physically pronounce the words while reading, but I often don't, and

> it doesn't make comprehension harder, perhaps even easier, because  
the

> brain has fewer tasks to accomplish at the same time.

>

> In a language I know less well, say Portuguese, I find that

> pronouncing while reading really hinders the comprehension process,

> instead of helping it. Visually reading and understanding is easier.

>

> >Although language is an innately vocal instinct, wouldn't you say  
these

> >instincts have been successfully transferred to the much more hi-fi  
and

> >design friendly world of text, and that it is having a prescriptive

> >effect upon the spoken word, such as the reappearance of the /t/ in

> >"often" coinciding with increased literacy? Isn't text the real

medium

> >for standardisation? Cannot spoken English be construed as a lo-fi

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> *>misrepresentation of text?*

>

> *I think spoken and written languages are two separate entities, each*

> *in its own r*