

Re: Substitutes for English /T/ and /D/

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<phoglund@xxxxxx> wrote...

Ruud Harmsen <realemailons...@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

I just heard an old sketch on the radio, by the late Wim Kan (http://nl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wim_Kan) where he talks about a (hypothetical, I suppose) violinist named Kenneth Johnson. Then he says> (in a folksy accent) "dat mot een kennis van Johnson wezen" (= "that must be an acquaintance of Mr. Johnson"). Dutch kennis (/k'En@s/ = acquaintance. In other words, he speculates that his Dutch audience hears Kenneth as kennis and would themselves pronounce Kenneth the same as kennis.

Now this was a rather old recording (1960s? 1970s?), the joke would not be very funny any more now, because younger people learn English in school, including pronunciation, whereas older people learnt to read and write, but little else. Many people now often use a correct [T] (but not a correct /D/!). But if they do substitute it by anything else, it is by [s], not [t].

I guess we use mostly [t] and [d] here in Finland. The good old days when "the" was rendered as "röh" are regrettably gone.

Why do French speakers from France use [s] and [z], while those from Quebec use [t] and [d]?

John.

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