

New dictionaries in Interlingua, a language being embraced enthusiastically by scientists.

Will Interlingua Smash the Language Barrier?

This universal language would destroy our modern Tower of Babel, a bottleneck for men seeking world peace.

By O. O. Binder

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This is a sentence in Interlingua, the new universal language that is sweeping the scientific world and holds promise of catching on as a world language where all prior tries failed. Enthusiastic scientists in most of the western world—Europe, North and South America—are now using it, plus groups in Israel, Japan, Formosa, Australia and India. Fifteen international science journals are now published regularly in Interlingua.

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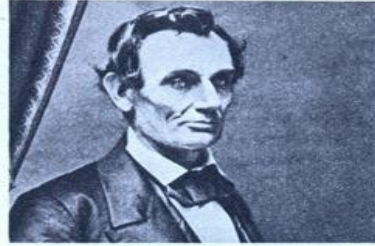
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But finding an acceptable world language is not easy. It has been tried before, some 300 times!

Sample of Interlingua is shown in column at right. See how much you can understand.

September, 1955

Le Discurso De Gettysburg



Presentate al Dedication del Cemeterio
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per Abraham Lincoln

Octanta e septe annos retro nostre patres creava in iste continente un nove nation, concipite in libertate e dedicate al proposition que omne homines es create equal.

Nunc nos es implicate in un grande guerra civil a fin de probar si ille nation—o qualcunque nation—assi concipite e assi dedicate pote longe durar. Nos es congregate in un grande campo de battalia de ille guerra. Nos ha venite pro dedicar un portion de ille campo como ultime sito de reposo pro illes qui dava lor vita a fin que iste nation poteva viver. Il es integremente juste e appropriate que nos face isto.

Sed in un senso plus vaste nos non pote dedicar, nos non pote consecrar, nos non pote sanctificar iste terra. Le homines valorose, vive e morte, qui hic iuctava, ha consecrate lo multo ultra nostre povre potentia de adder o detraher. Le mundo va a pena notar e non longe memorar lo que nos hic dice, sed illo non pote unquam oblidar lo que illes ha hic facite. Il incumbe, plus tosto, a nos, le vivos, esser dedicate hic al labor non-terminate que illes qui hic iuctava ha si nobilemente avantiate. Il plus tosto incumbe a nos esser dedicate hic al grande labor que remane ante nos—que ab iste honorate mortos nos prende major devotion a ille causa pro le qual illes dava le ultime plen mesura de devotion—que nos hic solememente resolve que iste mortos non va haber date lor vita in van, que iste nation, sub Deo, va haber un nove nascentia de libertate, e que le governmento del populo—per le populo e pro le populo—non va disparer del terra.

**Interlingua Uses
Root Words Of
Many Languages**

Interlingua	chocolate
Albanian	çokolata
Arabic	shokolata
Bulgarian, Hebrew, Russian	shokolad
Catalan	xocolata
Chinese	chu ku li ch'iao ko li
Czech	čokoláda
Danish	Chokolade
Dutch	chocolade
English, Portuguese, Spanish	chocolate
Estonian	šokolad
Finnish	suklaa
French	chocolat
German	Schokolade
Greek	sokoláta
Hawaiian	kokeleka
Hungarian	csokoládé
Irish	seocóláda
Italian	cioccolata
Letkish	šokolāde
Lithuanian	šokoladas
Norwegian	sjokolade
Persian	shukulī
Polish	czekolada
Rumanian	ciocolata
Serbo-Croat	čokolada
Swedish	choklad
Turkish	çukolata



Interlingua	capitano
Albanian	kapitani
Arabic	kabten
Bulgarian, Polish, Russian	kapitan
Catalan	capità
Chinese	chia pi tan
Czech	kapitán
Danish	Kaptajn
Dutch	kapitein
English	captain
Estonian, Swedish	kapten
Finnish	kapteeni
French	capitaine
German	Kapitän
Hindustani, Turkish	kaptan
Hawaiian	kapena
Hungarian	kapitány
Irish	captaoin
Italian	capitano
Letkish	kapteinis
Lithuanian	kapitonas
Malay	kapiten
Norwegian	kaptein
Persian	kapudān
Portuguese	capitão
Rumanian	căpitan
Serbo-Croat	kapetan
Spanish	capitán



Since the 1600's at least, thinking minds have tried to formulate a single language suitable to all. Many such languages were laboriously worked out—Solresol, Lingualumina, Spokil, Volapuk, Ido, Occidental—only to become as dead as Sanskrit. Esperanto, launched in 1887, achieved the most success and still has adherents in every corner of the globe. But it has seemingly reached a stalemate, gaining little headway.

Why did all such artificial languages fall by the wayside?

This was the question the Interlingua founders asked themselves. Shrewdly, they sensed that language is a personal thing with every people. And by tradition, our native tongue becomes a Sacred Cow that, despite its most glaring faults, we hang onto stubbornly. A new streamlined language may be better but seems foreign, to be mistrusted.

For this reason, human nature being what it is, an even worse solution than invented languages was the suggestion to make the best existing language universal. Ah, but which is "best?" English is highly expressive—but with vile grammar and wild pronunciation. German is thorough, precise—but sounds hideous. Spanish is melodious—but lacks a wide range of subtle meanings. And so on. All current languages have faults. None is perfect.

But more significantly, any choice would run head-on into national pride. Choosing French, for instance, would delight 50 million Frenchmen but insult 2,000 million others on Earth, for ignoring their own "beautiful" and "superior" tongue. A mass language strike would almost certainly result, if any one language were declared official and rammed down people's throats willy-nilly.

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The Interlingua pioneers found theirs in a striking historical fact about human speech. All the Romance and Teutonic languages of Europe today stem from a previous mother tongue—Latin. This, in turn, was an offshoot of an Indo-European tongue of antiquity that covered India, Persia, Greece and the Russias. All this embraces a gigantic mass of humans in one language form, including half of Asia, all of Europe, the entire Americas, North and South—well over half the world.

This ready-made basic tongue of the majority of mankind inspired Italian Professor G. Peano, in 1903, to lay the groundwork for Interlingua. Knowing it senseless to revive the dead parent tongue, he ingeniously boiled down all its mod-

ern derivatives to a speech structure of the most common morphemes — root meanings — that were on the “tip of the tongue” of some 1,500 million Occidentals.

However, Professor Peano did not single-handedly perfect Interlingua to what it is today. That long, hard job was carried on by many devoted disciples. In 1924, Interlingua got its real start when a far-sighted conference of linguists, seeking an international language, chose Peano’s basic concept. The International Auxiliary Language Association was formed to promote research and development on Interlingua. In 1953, the IALA asked Science Service — a non-profit organization famed for promoting science in the best public interests — to carry on with Interlingua. This is now being done from offices at 80 East 11th Street, New York City, under the able leadership of Alexander Gode, Ph.D., Chief of the Interlingua Division of Science Service. Incidentally, you may write to Dr. Gode at that address for a free information kit on Interlingua.

In an illuminating interview, Dr. Gode stated that Interlingua is not being promoted as a possible world language. They believe it can serve as such some day, but will not attempt to force it down the world’s gullet unless it is wanted. He believes that its phenomenal success in the science world points to its eventual progress into other fields.

Why? Because it is a natural language, not a manufactured one. It has existed in basic form all along and has only been tailored to serve a practical purpose. And that far from being rigidly set, Interlingua is a living, growing language, constantly being changed and improved, following only a few necessary basic rules.

For example, pronunciation of any word, old or new, is always according to the majority of Romance-Teutonic speakers, or the Standard Average European. The special “th” sound, which occurs tongue-twistingly in English only, is therefore not accepted since it is a minority form.

Their dictionary of some 27,000 words need not be expanded, Dr. Gode says, for it forms the basis of Interlingua, from which all other added words can be easily derived by their simple system of word formation. Any new word can be proposed for adoption from outside sources, at any time.

And the grammar! [Continued on page 194]

Some of 15 international science journals published regularly in Interlingua are displayed at right.



McCahill Tests Porsche

[Continued from page 192]

ruler. Whiteman, as stated earlier, has owned some of the most exotic cars in the world but he is thoroughly satisfied that now, at last, he's got the perfect car for him. Unfortunately for Porsche, it takes a real automobile connoisseur to appreciate its qualities, which don't always appeal to the Mechanical Mugwump. •

The Language Barrier

[Continued from page 79]

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Dr. Gode said, very wisely I think, that Interlingua cannot solve all world problems, only some. But that at least a world language would eliminate the tangle of multiple tongues which hinders the development of a more peaceful and homogenous human society.

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When answering advertisements please mention
MECHANIX ILLUSTRATED

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(published in *Mechanix Illustrated*, September, 1955)

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