



Studying in a foreign country: The best way to learn English or a waste of time?

By **Samantha Rojas**

English has become a necessity for Colombian students, increasing the number of young people who leave the country to English speaking countries looking to learn the language in a natural way while they visit another country. There are people who believe that going to a foreign country, in addition to the fastest way to learn English, gives the students the opportunity to meet people from different countries, visit new places, get to know other cultures as well as giving them more responsibility. However, there are others who believe it is a waste of time because they don't learn enough.

Supporters of leaving the country to learn English believe that it is not only the best and fastest way to learn a foreign language but it is also a good opportunity to meet new people, different cultures, force yourself to speak English, do what you want, travel around, and most important, learn how to do things that you don't usually do in your country such as doing the laundry, cooking, living with strangers and being tolerant with people.

On the other hand, there are others who believe that leaving the country to learn English is the same as being in Colombia and studying in a normal school, because most people that leave the country end up talking to people in their own language because they feel more comfortable. They believe it is just a waste of time and money. Critics also say most of the people that travel are around sixteen to nineteen years old, right after they finish high school, and they are not prepared to assume responsibilities such as living alone, so they can get depressed or become crazy because of the freedom.

In my view, going to a foreign country is a good way to learn English but how much you learn depends only on you, in other words, you are not going to another country to keep talking Spanish and meeting Spanish people, you have to get into the society, meet English speakers and practice as much as you can.

Welcome to the very first issue of **ink**, the Externado university's new English magazine. We've been working hard to put this together for you, and we hope you enjoy the final product. A big thank you to everyone that's helped and contributed, and it would be great if you'd like to contribute something in the future.

Enjoy!
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TO HOPE

"When by my solitary hearth I sit,
And hateful thoughts enwrap my soul in gloom;
When no fair dreams before my mind's eye flit,
And the bare hearth of life presents no bloom;
Sweet hope, ethereal balm upon me shed,
And wave thy silver pinions o'er my head"

John Keats

Passions, virtues and vices

By **Alberto Bejarano**
Professor of Philosophy, Externado University

Cort-zar, Borges, Cernuda, Shakespeare, Artaud, Gómez Jattin have been with us every week since February 2006, when professors of the department of philosophy of the Externado University began to work in these cost-free conferences called Passions, Virtues and Vices.

We invite all the Externado community to come to the library every Thursday at 12 o'clock to share interdisciplinary approaches on ethics and aesthetics. Next year we will present the first volume of Passions, Virtues and Vices.

If you are interested in this subject, you can write to
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The melting pot

By Camilo Pabón Almanza

Law Faculty

“English Only” or “Habla Español” seems to be a point of huge discussion as one of the identity problems of the USA. Language is certainly an important element, and it’s fair to wish that everybody inside the country should, at least speak a little bit of English. However, approaching the next US presidential elections, issues such as the candidates’ willingness to make Spanish the second official language and their immigration policies are top of the agenda. CNN has been broadcasting every night, investigations that reveal some curious situations. On one hand, cities like Illinois are completely unwilling to let Spanish –as a language– cross the town’s boundaries. On the other hand, we have America’s “latino town”, called El Cenizo, in Texas where Spanish is the official language from the supermarket to the bank. It’s been reported by Reuters that ‘El Cenizo’ is a “safe haven” where city staff are prohibited from helping the U.S. Border Patrol to find illegal immigrants or inquiring about a person’s immigration status.

Apart from potential discrimination, the problem seems to be rather part of campaign period strategies due to the importance of Latino voters. We’ve seen political figures like George W. Bush, Rudy Giuliani and Sen. John McCain, among others, trying to speak some Spanish while addressing the Hispanic population but it’s really not part of the agenda when it comes to making the language issue a priority (it’s certainly less important than Iraq troops, health and education concerns, etc.).

[In some places Spanish
is not permitted
but in others it’s the
official language]

Studies show that by the fourth generation of established families in America, the persons who speak ‘flawless Spanish’ is reduced to only 17% of all who claim to have Hispanic roots. However, in places like ‘El Cenizo’ the community has reached a point where even education is in Spanish, causing some trouble again because those statistics won’t be applicable and will be certainly higher each time.

It seems that just like the Roman Empire saw many languages introduced by barbarians, we’ll see in some decades the “American empire” (if the comparison is allowed) as a diverse community with a consequential variety of languages within its own boundaries.



Dear Maggy

Dear Maggy,

I am a young girl that is just starting university and I think I'm in love with one of my classmates. His name is Andres and he is the most wonderful person on earth. My problem is that he is in love with a girl named Yolanda, and they are already dating. What should I do?
Laura.

Dear Laura,

I think you should start looking for somebody else. Obviously, Andres is very in love with Yolanda, and you shouldn't mess that up. Besides, there are plenty of men in the world and you'll find yours. I suggest you go out to parties, meet other people and believe me, soon you'll forget about this guy. Be happy!
My best wishes to you.
Maggy

Dear Maggy,

I have a terrible problem; I hope you can help me. I have a crush on my teacher and it is not letting me pay attention to his lessons or study for my exams! I'm worried because his class is very important and I might fail the semester if I don't do well. What do you think I should do?
Please help me, I really need it!
Yours truly,
Adriana

Dear Maggy,

I am a first semester student and I'm so stressed! I'm about to go crazy with the amount of work we have. Since I got to the university I have no time for anything else except to study and I'm not getting the results I want.
I feel frustrated! What can I do?
Yours truly,
Mapis Toris

Dear Adriana,

You should be able to separate your academic obligations from your feeling. Although it may seem like your feelings might be too strong, try to ignore them, you should pay attention to your studies because this is more important right now. This is your immediate future.
Good luck,
Maggy

Dear Mapis Toris,

You have to control your stress or you're going to become sick. You must try to relax and do other things other than just study. Have you heard of Yoga at the university? Have you tried going to a gym? Or maybe go out dancing on weekends? Start by getting some exercise and finding ways to relax. Then, think what you could do differently to get the results you want. Are you studying efficiently? Do you keep a diary and write down the things you have to do in order of priority? You can start by organizing your time better; I guarantee it, that will make a difference!
With love,
Maggy

You study at the Externado University if you...

By Andrés L. Gómez Sánchez

- Know how to prepare excellent coffee with a lot of caffeine
- Have taken a bus whose destination reads Germania
- Have eaten in Parrilla
- Know at least all the capital cities of Europe and America with their location and their presidents or prime ministers.
- Are proud of your university and the people who graduated from it
- Are getting used to having bags under your eyes and going out when you are half asleep
- Study more than your siblings who are studying at the Javeriana or Rosario
- Have gotten drunk at the Manicomio or James.
- Have skipped English class on Friday because you couldn't wake up
- Don't worry about what to wear from day-to-day
- Have slept more than 40 hours in a single weekend
- Have slept on the benches on the E building balcony
- Know about all the current events in Colombia and around the world
- Have read magazines that you didn't even know existed such as 'Le Monde' and 'Clarín' amongst others.
- Have or have had a boyfriend/girlfriend studying in your semester
- Have eaten at San Felipe or at the Manicomio and then got sick because of it
- Have at least one friend who is from the coast
- Have come to class on Saturday in the same clothes as Friday and you're still drunk.

Apocalipsur

By: Paula M. Sierra

In the last few years Colombian cinema has consolidated itself as one of the best in the world with films like “Rosario Tijeras”, “María Llena eres de gracia” and others.

“Apocalipsur” is a film directed by the Colombian Javier Mejía, it is a faithful mirror of the Colombian reality during the year of 1991, a time in which the society was affected by the narcoterrorism. This film is developed through the story of five friends that have lost hope and have found in cocaine and alcohol a way to live and forget their problems. This was shown for the first time in the international festival of cinema in Guadalajara, where it received the best commentaries about the good context and subject.

This film has many expectations inside the world-wide cinema, and could occupy a great place in the roster.

The Bourne Ultimatum

By: Katherine Johana Mosquera Castro

The famous assassin comes back and now stronger than ever, with a luring taste for revenge and an even stronger craving to know his past. Jason Bourne is ready to do anything to overcome the obstacles awaiting him; from being persecuted by the unceasing, unfinished government project called Black Briar (an upgraded version of Threadstone), to being chased by his own memories of past, dreadful killings. Apart from all the action that awaits him, his final goal remains the same: to ultimately find the truth of who he was and who he has become. Get ready to experience the thrill of car chases, hand-to-hand combat, explosions, and everything you expect from the Jason Bourne movie. You will not want to miss one minute of the adventurous ecstasy this movie is about to bring to your screen.

The forgotten that we will be

(El olvido que seremos) By Héctor Faciolince

By Tatiana Uribe

How many times has the world seen people who give their lives and choose to die to defend equality?

This book tells a story about an excellent person that was a teacher and defended the lower social class.

At that time, the Colombian people who tried to know and practice socialist ideas were considered communists, and the head of state killed the leaders.

Mr. Faciolince had difficult moments in his life; his favorite daughter died, he lost his job at university and he and his family were often threatened.

“The forgotten that we will be” is a good story to reflect on and think about options that help to protect human rights.

Napoleon Dynamite

By **Liliana Pabón Duarte**

On the 1st of October the film club presented Napoleon Dynamite, a 2004 independent film starring John Heder.

We spent an hour and a half full of laughter and fun thanks to this amazing movie which is the story of a peculiar teenager who decides to help his new friend win the class election in their small high school while he must deal with his bizarre family.

Napoleon finds it hard to make friends and get along with everybody, even his family, but he meets Pedro, a Mexican boy, who wants to be president of the class and becomes his best friend.

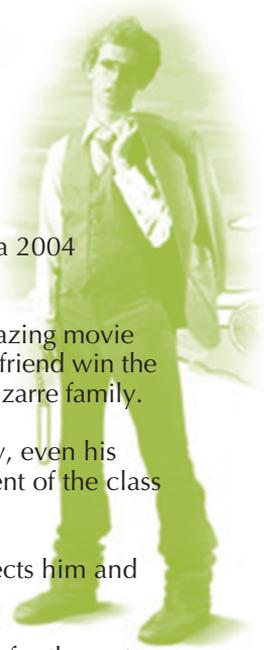
In the meantime Napoleon tries to get a date with Trisha but she rejects him and he ends up dating Deb, Pedro's date.

The day comes and all the candidates have to present their speeches for the rest of the class when Napoleon and Pedro suddenly are told each candidate has to perform a skit. Napoleon decides to give his tape to the DJ and walks on stage to perform his routine. The dance is really successful and Pedro becomes the president of the class as he had dreamt of.

Pedro's triumph is attributed to Napoleon and it is this event that fortifies these two guys' friendship.

This is a funny story about friendship, loyalty and persistence which taught us to be there when someone needs our advice and brilliant ideas to achieve their goals; a unique film which we had the opportunity to enjoy even though it is not easy to find.

Let us hope we continue enjoying these kinds of movies which make the difference and besides make you laugh and teach you about cinematography.



Easy health tips

By: José David Camargo Galvis

Lots of people are worried about health, especially old people, so, it is very important that you know the environment where you live in. For example, hot weather is better than cold because people who have problems to breathe or heart problems can do better in another place like this one.

Health is an important thing and one tip to have a long life is the food that you eat. You need to eat many fruits and vegetables and you shouldn't be worried about weight.

Another tip is that you have to practice some sport in your free time, most sports help you with health problems, you can choose soccer, tennis, volleyball, it doesn't matter.

One big problem with health is "stress" which is not a good thing because it doesn't let you be happy, for example in your work activities, in your home and wherever you are it is a disadvantage.

Finally, the best tip to be healthy is that you should never smoke or drink alcohol, these are the worst friends of the health.

A traveler on the steppes met another traveler and asked, "Where's home for you?"

The man pointed to his wife carrying a child and said, "Wherever she is".



City tour

The streets of La Candelaria

By: **Hernán Felipe Toro**

La Candelaria is the common name given to the historic center of the city declared a National Monument in 1963. It is the group of old districts or parishes of La Catedral, Egipto and La Concordia which grew around churches of the Roman Catholic tradition. La Candelaria is located to the east of Bolivar square and since the 16th century when the first buildings were built there, it has been a political, religious and administrative center.

La Candelaria is a unique place of Bogota where you can find culture and art



The culture is given especially by the theatre for example: Colon Theatre, Teatro Libre, La Candelaria theatre and others.

The tour begins in the Chorro de Quevedo Plaza at calle 13 with carrera segunda. In the tour the guides show all of la Candelaria, the streets, the houses, the buildings, everything because

La Candelaria is history.

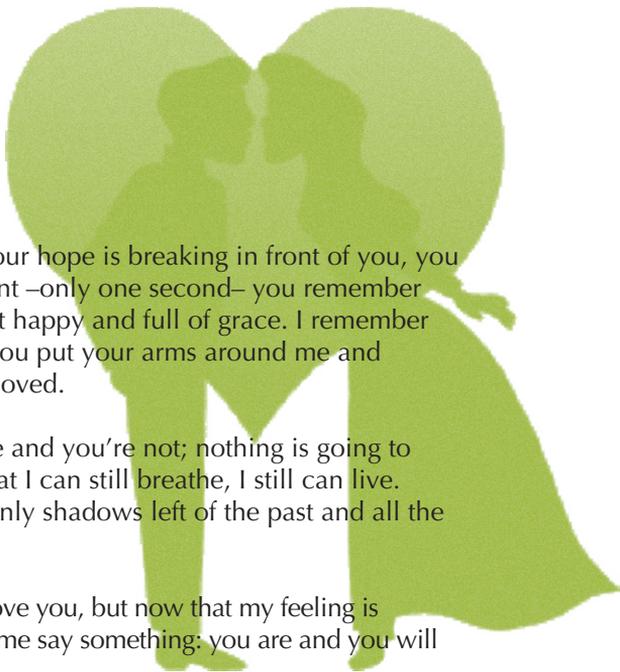
First Love

By: Laura González

When there is nothing else to do, when your hope is breaking in front of you, you feel alone in this big, dark hole... an instant –only one second– you remember that feeling; when for the first time you felt happy and full of grace. I remember now, yes... you were me and I was you; you put your arms around me and without saying a word you made me feel loved.

But that time does not exist now. I'm here and you're not; nothing is going to change that. It is time for me to realize that I can still breathe, I still can live. When I am thinking about you there are only shadows left of the past and all the pieces of paper are lost.

I'm sorry but I have to move on. I used to love you, but now that my feeling is ending, you have to let me go. But first, let me say something: you are and you will always be my first love.



Thai food: the ideal choice for a first romantic date

By: Carol Carreño Ortiz

Thai food offers a variety of seasonings and flavors. The delicate mixing of herbs and spices and market-fresh ingredients makes dining a special culinary experience.

A survey in a recent student's class asked what type of restaurant men would most likely take a woman to on a first date. The answers were then cross-referenced to reveal certain personality types: Italian food meant they were traditionalists, Chinese they were economical, while Thai food suggested they were open to new things, smart and even sexy. The recent popularity of this flavorful, spicy, sweet and sour cuisine is also evident in the number and variety of Thai restaurants springing up in nearly every city center across Colombia.

The badly-told story

By: César Gil

The documentary of La Sierra as well as La vendedora de rosas and La virgen de los sicarios have stigmatized the image of Antioquia and at the same time the image of our country. The violence and the prostitution that Margarita and Scott Dalton show with their films only leave something to desire in my concept: the intention of entertaining and affecting thousands of Colombian people who are resigned to see the mass media is convenient for them; the morbidity, the illness and the incredible stories of cruelty that exist in some neighborhoods immersed in absolute poverty.

Apparently, we are accustomed to laughing at ourselves and feeling ashamed of our own brothers without bearing in mind that behind the wall of drugs, mafia and assassination is not only in Medellín, but exists in our memory as a historical inheritance rich in traditions, customs and cultural diversity.

So, how can Colombia become a social state of right, as is proclaimed in the Constitution, or how can it be based on the beginning of solidarity and respect to human dignity, if every moment celebrates these films that make fun of the poverty in the country?

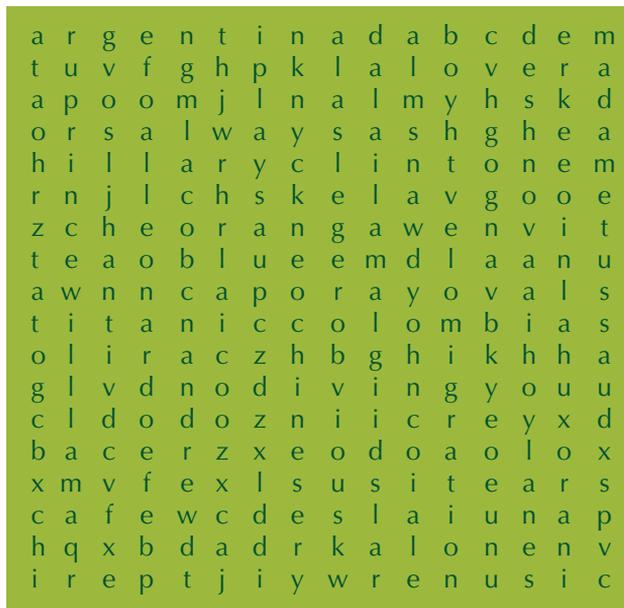
It would be better to see images of enterprising women and brave men that left their past behind, instead of seeing blood and death. They should rescue lessons from their experience and not be content with so little.

Finally I want to say that the image projected by these types of documentaries is not good enough; it is true that we are a violent and insecure country, but I think that the job of the journalist is to attempt to improve the image of the country without forgetting the reality.

Wordsearch

By Viviana Alvarez Morales

1. Who is the wife of ex-president Clinton?
2. What is the name of an English prince?
3. He is a wise man!
4. What is the most expensive film ever made?
5. Who painted "Sunflowers"?
6. What is the first name of the main actor in "Titanic"?
7. A sport that you do in the sea.
8. Its capital is Bogota.
9. The opposite of never.
10. When you move to another country.
11. She started to cry and the _____ ran down her face.
12. Not many.
13. Easy to see.
14. What can you see at the theatre?
15. What are you if no-one else is there?



Answers: 1. Hillary Clinton 2. Andrew 3. Dalai Lama 4. Titanic 5. Van Gogh 6. Leonardo
7. Diving 8. Colombia 9. Always 10. Migration 11. Tears 12. A few 13. Obvious 14. Plays 15. Alone

The FIGRI English Area now has its very own website! You can find a variety of different things on the site, such as events and notices, exercises to practice your English, and even teacher profiles, so it's a really good idea to be familiar with this new tool that's been made especially for you!

Go to www.uexternado.edu.co/english and have a look around!