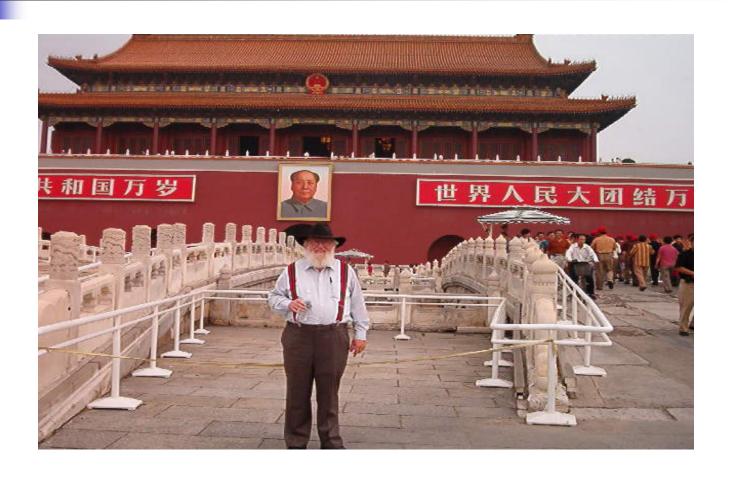
AILA 2011 — Beijing, China World Language Process Proposed Symposium

Bruce Beach
WLP International Coordinator

A picture from 2005





The unity of the world is important.

When my guides told me their translation of Mao's quotes, I was so impressed that I had my picture taken with it. The quote over his right shoulder says –

"The unity of China is important."

And the quote over his left shoulder says –

"The unity of the world is important."



The Purpose of this Conference

Harmony in Diversity: Language, Culture, Society

Unity (Harmony) of the World
through a universal language
taught in each country
as an auxiliary language
in addition to the DIVERSITY
of mother tongues
in each culture and society.



Goals of The World Language Process

 A Universal Auxiliary Language & Script

that will be taught in all the schools in the world

 and that will be easy for the present adult population to learn.



A Universal Auxiliary Language needs to be:

- Easy to acquire
- Easy to teach
- Inexpensive to teach
- Basic language acquirable in 30 days
- Extendable for all scientific disciplines
- Compatible with all humanistic pursuits





Tower of Babel Confusion

Whether seen as mythical, allegorical, or historically factual – the present Tower of Babel confusion of languages has divided humanity.

Humanity **now** needs the unification of a **Universal Auxiliary Language** (UAL).



Poor Alternatives to a UAL

- There could be cultural area languages
 - Asia, Middle East,
 - Europe, North America, etc.
- There could be discipline languages
 - English for business, German for science,
 - French for diplomacy, Italian for music, etc.



This Presentation is in THREE Parts:

- One Selection of a UAL (Universal Auxiliary Language)
 - Selection of a matching script

Two - Selection of a teaching method

Three – Selection of teaching technology



Part One

Selection of a Universal Auxiliary Language (UAL)



Criteria for Language Selection

A Simple Syntax

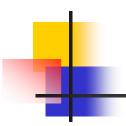
- no gender
- no plurals
- no tense

B. Simple PHONEMIC Spelling

- One Sound per character
- One Character per sound

C. Simple Basic Vocabulary

- Consisting of function words
- Infinitely expandable form words



The WLP will support any language the world selects

- It is hoped that the language selected will meet the WLP recommended criteria.
- Any language that meets the WLP recommended criteria will be beneficial
- Some languages, however, would have more alignment with the criteria and would therefore be more beneficial.



Some languages would have problems being a UAL

- **Tonal** languages like Chinese
- Click languages like in Africa
- Languages that must be represented by a <u>logographic</u> orthography
- Languages without an adequate vocabulary to deal with current scientific technology.



Languages like French and Spanish would require numerous modifications that would undoubtedly be unacceptable to their native speakers – in such matters as dispensing with gender.



There have been many proposals for totally new languages based upon principles of mathematics, music and other devices.

One popular suggestion has been to create a language by gathering words from all the presently existing languages.



- A totally new language does not have the dynamic character of a living language
- A totally new language does not have the existing extensive vocabulary of a major language
- A totally new language does not have an existing speaker or teacher base



Benefits of a modified natural root language Part 1/4

- Present second language speakers of the root can learn the UAL in a few hours.
- Native speakers of the root could also learn the UAL in a few hours if they were so inclined.
- All the extensive vocabulary of the root would be available in the extended versions of the UAL.



Benefits of a modified natural root language Part 2/4

- It would eliminate whatever problems (gender / spelling) exist in the root language.
- It would provide a simplified syntax which would be much easier for new learners.
- In its extended forms it would make available all the scientific and humanistic literature available in the root language.



Benefits of a modified natural root language Part 3/4

- There is an existing base of the root language speakers who can quickly be trained to be UAL teachers.
- Teaching materials, standards for pronunciation, motivational and entertainment materials can all be rapidly modified from the root language.



Benefits of a modified natural root language Part 4/4

- Learners whose native language is other than than the root language will be able to learn the UAL quickly.
- Learners of the UAL, who do not have literacy in their own languages will gain a literacy.
- Speakers of the root language will be able to understand the UAL speakers.



The unacceptability of unmodified English as a UAL

Unmodified English is *unacceptable* for a number of reasons

- 1. Its spelling is horrendous
- 2. It heavily uses idiom
- 3. It has an inadequate script
- 4. In much of the world, it would be viewed as an imperialistic imposition

C

Changes English Would Need

1. A new orthography represented by a new script.

2. A simplified syntax

3. A defined basic vocabulary



Americans would NOT accept as English a language that:

- Has a *DIFFERENT* syntax
- Has DIFFERENT spelling
- Has a DIFFERENT script
- Restricts the use of idiom and vocabulary



Americans wouldn't accept changing English in order to make it a UAL.

American speakers of English would *not* see a changed English *as being English*. They have been highly resistant to change in the past and before would never accept any proposal, *no matter how reasonable*, to change even their spelling system or, as another example, the change of their measurement system to metric.



The WLP Position

 The World Language Process has examined the advantages of creating a UAL language based upon the root language of English – HOWEVER, the WLP will support, promote and contribute in any way that it can, to any UAL that is authoritatively selected.



Benefits of English as the root

- English is the most widely spoken second language in the world having more second language speakers than native speakers
- Most of the world's scientific literature is available in English
- Much of the world's humanistic
 literature has been translated into English



Reminder:

Three subjects (parts) being discussed

One: UAL Linguistic theory & Script Selection

Two: Pedagogical theory

Three: Pedagogical technology



Continuation of the First subject (part): UAL Linguistic Theory and Script Selection

There are also three *principles* of UAL Linguistics and Script Selection:

First principle: Phonemization

Second principle: Regularization

Third principle: Elementalization



First Principle of UAL Linguistics *Phonemization*

Sounds to be both:

a. pronounced as spelled and

b. spelled as pronounced



The Simplified Spelling Society (SSS) or (TSS) started in 1908 with the aim of updating English Spelling.

Over the century of its existence, The Spelling Society has seen and examined numerous proposals for phonetic / phonemic spelling.



Phonemic versus Phonetic

The distinction between phonemic and phonetic is that a phonemic system **prescribes** how words are supposed to be pronounced –

Whereas – a phonetic system simply describes how words are pronounced. prescribes versus describes

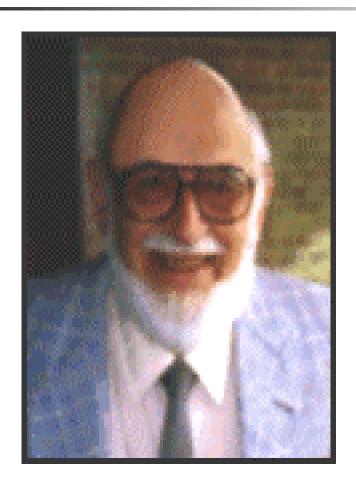


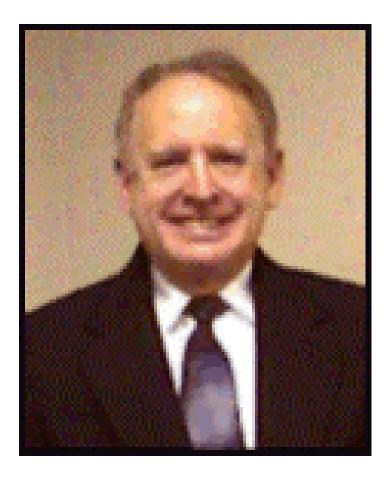
Dr. Steve Bett (b. 1939 -) WLP Phonemics Coordinator



For many years Dr. Steve Bett, Founder of the Phonology Forum and a SSS director and editor has been a pillar of the WLP project.

WLP investigation and effort received **direct** assistance from **Dr. Edward Rondthaler** and **Dr. Edward Lias** who developed the American Spelling Dictionary.







Second Principle of UAL Linguistics *Regularization*

Syntax to *ideally* have NO exceptions



Universal Grammar

The concept of a a **universal grammar** is a relatively new concept that developed largely from the work of **Noam Chomsky**.

While there are a number of researchers there is still little that is universally agreed upon.



One Concept of a Universal Grammar

One concept of a **universal grammar** is that the human brain is naturally wired for speech in some specific way.

The universal grammar would be the way in which children would 'naturally' form their syntax if it was not modified by their hearing the cultural exceptions and examples of others around them.



Pidgin and the Universal Grammar

Applying the rules of a **universal grammar** may make a basic universal auxiliary language sound very much like a **pidgin**.

No matter – it will still be understood by native speakers of the root language and extended / modified / advanced versions of the UAL can be learned by **gradually acquiring** the grammatical exceptions.



Simplified syntax with few or no exceptions will greatly enhance and expedite the acquisition process.

A similarity to universal grammar can be seen in parent/baby talk and the speech of care givers.



Use of Simplified Syntax

Native speakers of a root language will be able to **understand** speakers of a UAL that use simplified syntax.

New speakers of a basic UAL will be able to **read and pronounce** the most complicated syntax and vocabulary of a root language if it is represented in their phonemic system, so there are ways for enhanced communication.



Comprehension of advanced text by new UAL learners may be another matter but comprehending the meaning of meaning remains an abstraction.



Third Principle of UAL Linguistics *Elementalization*

Levels of the language as to:

Syntax used

b. Phonemes used

C. Vocabulary used



Elementalization

While the concepts of phonetic / phonemic spelling and syntax simplification (aside from universal grammar) have been around for a long time, the current concept of elementalization is relatively new.

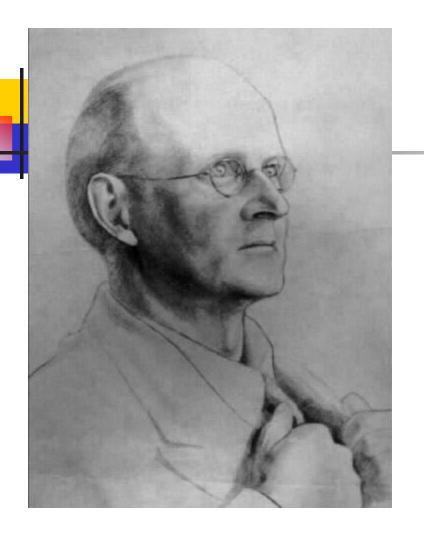
Elementalization –



Categorization of vocabulary into basic elements.

The initial concept of **elementalization** was developed by Ogden and Richards in their work "**The Meaning of Meaning**" (1923) – and

"BASIC English (1930) where they presented an elemental list of 850 words. Many researchers later presented alternate lists.



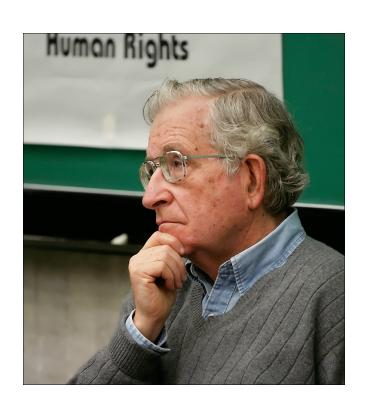


Charles Kay Ogden (1889-1957)

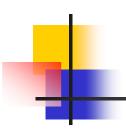
Ivor Armstrong Richards (1893-1979)



Noam Chomsky was the source of the revolutionary idea that modified the concept of elementalization into the two categories of:



Function Words and Form Words



Only a few hundred function words – but many thousands of form words:

Function Words

Function words are words like:

to, and, the, of, that are used in all speech.

Form Words

Form words are words like:

car, house, dog that are used to discuss particular subjects.



UAL only needs to teach the function words.

A student has only to learn a few hundred function words — and then they can 'speak' the language.

HOWEVER -



Still, in a hotel, a waitress may only need **a hundred form words** about food and the dining room in order to be able to speak the language usefully with customers.

Different form words would be necessary for the desk clerk, the bellman, maid, doorman, or other service persons.



Functional UAL versus expanded language

A person who can **usefully speak the UAL** in their employment may over time wish to **expand** their vocabulary and syntax so that they can discuss and read and understand other subjects.

The principle **form** word elemental structure should be one of a **hierarchical tree** where from the trunk, one could proceed out along any branch to more and more detailed concepts.

The total of all the branches comprise the words in the language.

Linguistic Theory



Selection of a matching script

first subject (part 1) continued



Criteria for Script Selection

- A. Simple to write for small children and new learners
- B. Easy to learn
- C. Easy to distinguish characters
- D. Non-duplicate use of symbols
- E. Technology compatible
- F. Aesthetic

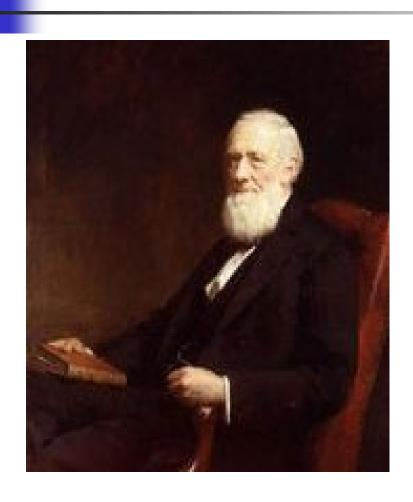
There have been numerous proposed new scripts for English.

A **new script** is distinguished from a mere font or style change of the Roman font commonly used to represent English.

Very often a **new script** offers an expanded number of characters so as to permit the representation of each sound in English by a unique character.

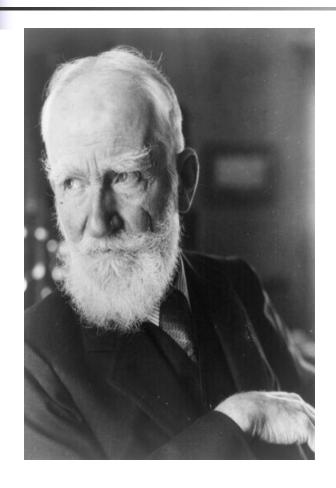
Sir Isaac Pitman 1813 – 1897 Shorthand

Sir James Pitman 1901 – 1985 ITA



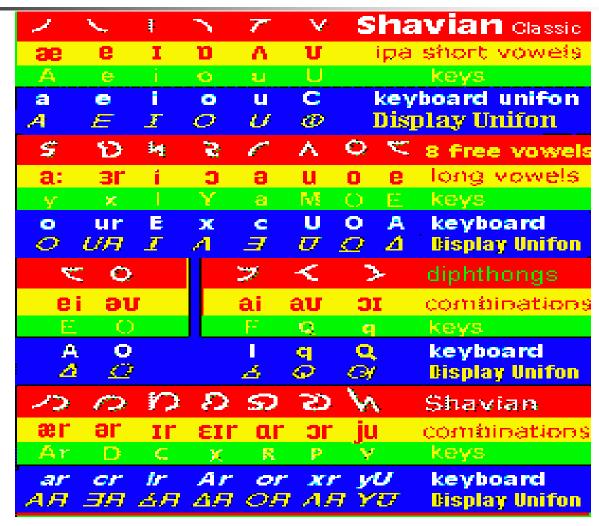


George Bernard Shaw (1856 - 1950)



Famously sponsored development of Shavian by Kingsley Read (1887 – 1975) and ridiculed traditional English showing that fish could be spelled 'ghoti'.

This chart is a comparison of Shavian and Unifon, a phonemic alphabet developed by John R. Malone in the 1930s on a contract from the Bendix Corporation.



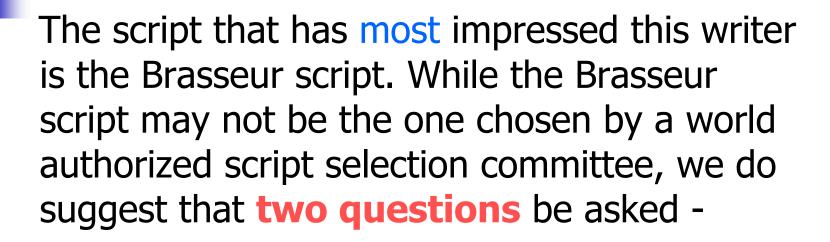


Dozens of systems have been investigated -

In sum then, the WLP has investigated dozens of **phonemic / phonetic schemes** and their accompanying scripts.

Everything from Arabic based phoneticism to the Mormon Deseret.

The Brasseur Script



- 1. Does the selected script have all the benefits of the Brasseur script?
- 2. Does the selected script have benefits that the Brasseur script does not?



Larry Brasseur





Brasseur's Binary System

(Explained in more detail in a separate presentation)

"CANADIAN ALPHABET"

FRITE TERM LITE ALLER TERMS TRANSPORT TO THE TERMS ONE 1 TWO 2 THREE 3 FOUR 4 FIVE 5 SIX 6



An Open-ended Script elementalization

Some contributors to the World Language Process have suggested that a basic UAL should begin with a limited set of sounds

But -

our **main conclusion** has been that whatever script is selected – it should be one that is **open-ended** so that that there may be added when wished –

a variety of sounds to reflect the world's different cultures.





Selection of a teaching method



Criteria for a Teaching Method

- A. Must be enjoyable for the student
- B. Student must rapidly sense accomplishment
- C. Must be learner paced
- D. Must provide incentive to the student to practice and improve
- E. Must not be time consuming



- Linguistic insights such as that function words should be stressed and that one should start with natural grammar.
- Improved teaching methods that stress acquisition rather than rote-learning.
- New technology that –
 now make it possible to acquire
 a BASIC UAL in 30 days



Mothers are the best teachers

Although the best way of teaching a language is by **mothers** — as a **mother tongue** - the UAL will have to be taught in the schools as a second language until such time that the UAL becomes so widely accepted that **mothers wish to teach it** to their children.



Traditional language teaching methods won't work

A. Simply because **traditional methods** are **too slow**.

B. Because there **will not be enough** teachers who will know the UAL in order to quickly implement it.



Three Important Teaching Concepts

- 1. Write to read (quickly teaches the student to recognize and use characters).
- 2. Act to comprehend (especially in regards to the function words).
- 3. Pleasure Driven Learning (ensures extensive practice).



Write to Read

Individual student effort that involves **brain / hand / eye coordination** by writing in workbooks is one of the most efficient ways of assuring letter shape recognition and comprehension.

The same principle applies to **word recognition** and **sentence structure.** For this reason - short writing exercises need to accompany each lesson.



Read to Write

Once the student has **mastered** the phonemic **decoding system** – which should take less than a week – they can read (sound out) anything presented in the script.

This ability to **read** the phonemic script (which must be distinguished from **comprehension**) is very important for the second language learner because they often have difficulty **'hearing'** a new language.



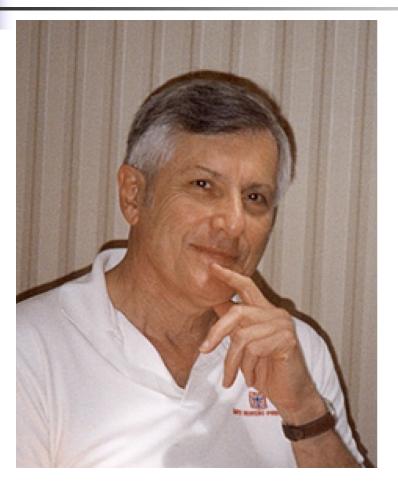
Read for Enjoyment

Captioning and entertainment video then become a major component of the pleasure driven educational process. Because of phonemic captioning, the student will watch videos for pleasure and thus actually spend a lot of time in language practice.

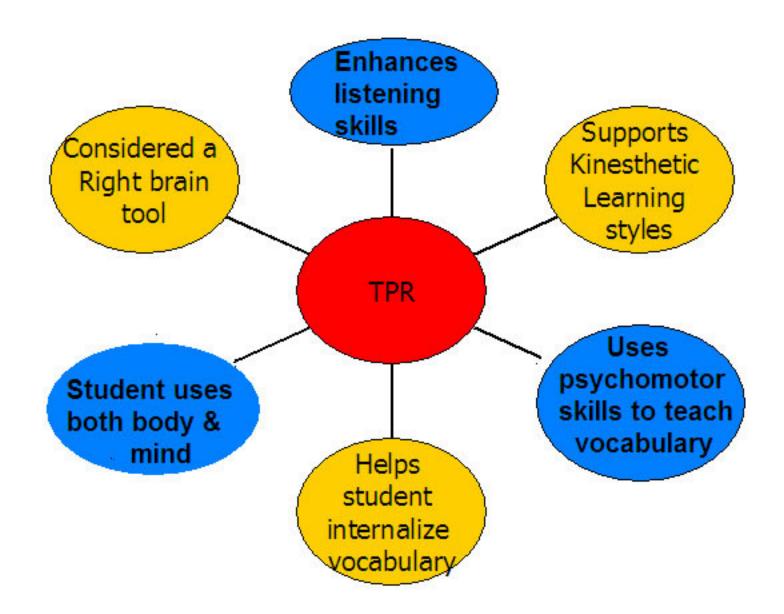
A second similar practice is in applying this **phonemic** capability to **music and songs**.



Act to Comprehend



The Total Physical Response method as developed by Dr. James J. Asher is very important in regard to the student acquiring the UAL — so that they can apply the function words.

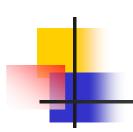




TPR practices: use enjoyable games

Since one of the **primary skills** that the student needs to learn in the basic UAL is to **comprehend the meaning** of the **function words**, there is a major focus on teaching these.

This is done primarily through games that involve time, space, matter interactions.



A replicable teaching process

The games – like everything else in the teaching system – are demonstrated through entertaining animation video.

This permits the system to be **replicable** and someone who has been taught through the system **can teach others** by using the videos and not have to go through a long involved teacher education process.



Pleasure Driven Learning

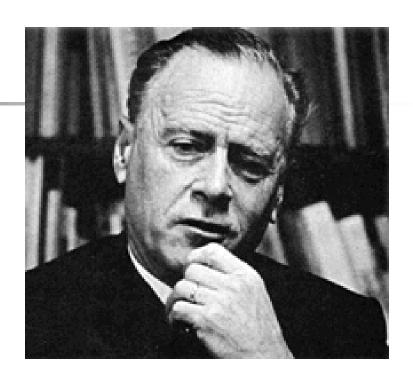
- * Captioned **Entertainment** video
- * Captioned **Music** video
- * **Animated** instruction video
- * TPR individual practice in **groups**
- * TPR competitive team **games**
- * Entertaining workbook exercises

Everything is designed to bring

the **pleasure** of rapid achievement



Marshall McLuhan (1911-1980)



What we are talking about, **both** with **TPR** and with **captioned video**, is McLuhan's hot medium 'right brain learning' being applied to what may be more correctly termed **language acquisition** rather than **language learning**.



Part Three – (our third subject)

Selection of teaching technology



Criteria for Teaching Technology

- A. Easily modifiable and up-datable (Evergreen)
- **B**. Easy **replication** and distribution
- C. Consistent speaker examples computer generated
- D. Consistent pronunciation examples computer generated

Evergreen

The feature of modern media technology that most permits the **continuous advancement** of a teaching system is what we categorize as being **EVERGREEN**'.

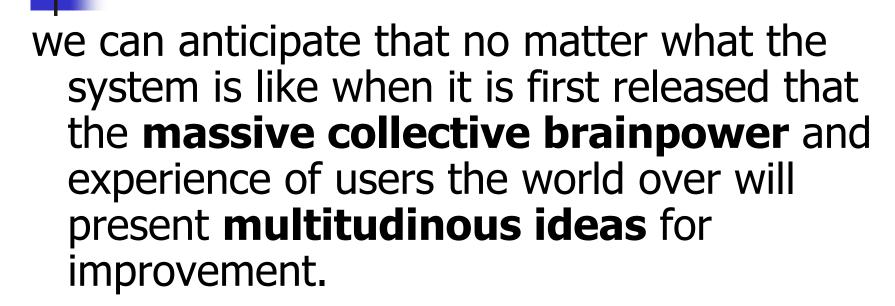
This means that a system can be **continuously updated** as experience dictates and those with new insights and skills wish to contribute.



Before digital technology made **evergreen** possible – once a system was developed, it was **usually set in stone.**

Because the cost of major revision was prohibitive, there was an inclination to **stick with outdated systems** and there was little incentive to make **incremental changes** that **cumulatively** would have been very significant.





This is a **totally different** approach to system design and usage than has existed before.



Standardized UAL

While it will be important to maintain a standard for the **UAL** itself – the manner of teaching it will be what is called an '**open** system' concept.

People will be permitted – indeed encouraged with the EVERGREEN tools – to improve their teaching systems and presentations in as creative ways as they can.



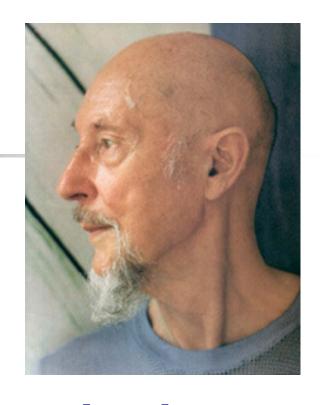
Animation

Computerized animation permits the creation of examples that would be impossible in real life.

It also means that the examples are evergreen and can be enlarged upon or modified at any time, which is something that couldn't be done if real sets and people were used.







Walt Disney (1901-1966) Producer

Len Lye (1901-1980) Director

The power of animation for teaching languages was recognized early on. A pilot video was created by **Disney Studios** to teach Ogden and Richards **BASIC English**.



Evergreen NOW makes it economic

While educators at the time were greatly impressed with the result – the film stop motion cell animation method was prohibitively expensive, when compared to present day computer generation.

Even more unfortunately, digital evergreen was not available for modifying the experiment then.



Consistent speaker examples

Realistic animated speakers present the speech with whatever emphasis, tone or **speed** that is desired, with whatever desired accompanying expression.

Because of the evergreen factor, the animated actor's tone, expression or speed can be modified at any time.



Natural Voice Standard Pronunciation

Through 'voice slicing', the same natural voices will always be available for new words, new phrases, new presentations - and all of this relatively instantly.

Our experience recommends one **average age** male and female voice, selected for the most **ideal**, not overly dramatic tone and pronunciation possible.



Summary

The World Language Process

Proposal

What the WLP proposes is that after a UAL is authoritively chosen that there be committees to select and standardize:

- The phonemic sound list
- **b.** The writing script
- The function word set
- d. The syntactical set
- e. The form word set
- f. The script for the teaching videos
- g. The material for the workbooks
- New games and TPR practices



Fin

Thank you