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Classification: ~~CONFIDENTIAL//REL TO USA, AUS, CAN, GBR, NZL//20320108~~
 3 December 2008 CLArion

1. English Is a Language Too
2. Latest Conversation Groups
3. Jewish Film Festival
4. Three December Language Programs
5. Presidential Language Trivia
6. Lost in Translation (Translating Chinese Poetry)

[REDACTED]
 CLArion Editor

1. English Is a Language Too

(Editor's Note: Since these are ACTUAL HEADLINES, don't shoot me...I'm just the messenger (there is no intention to offend anyone):

As language analysts or friends of language, we are well aware of how humorous or embarrassing it can be when you misuse your non-native tongue. But it happens in the mother tongue (English) too. Here are four headlines that are a case in point:

1. Iraqi Head Seeks Arms
2. Prostitutes Appeal to Pope
3. Panda Mating Fails; Veterinarian Takes Over
4. British Left Waffles on Falkland Islands

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(The following are from [REDACTED])

"Father of 22 Fined for Failing to Stop"

"Traffic Dead Rise Slowly"

2. Latest Conversation Groups

(Editor's Note: [REDACTED] he conversation group POC, is looking for somebody to replace her. If interested, contact her or CLA Chair [REDACTED] Thank you [REDACTED] for your contribution to CLA!)

(U) Greetings,

(U//FOUO) Please find the most recent Conversation Groups schedule in the link below.

[REDACTED]

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[redacted] email [redacted] to receive a text version of the schedule.

(U//~~FOUO~~) Conversation Groups are sponsored by the Crypto-Linguistic Association (CLA), and participation in these activities is considered to be work-related, thus attendees are not required to take leave if they have supervisor approval. For more information about attending or starting a conversation group, visit the CLA website by entering "go cla" in your web browser or contact the CLA Conversation Group Coordinator, [redacted]

**For information on how to obtain language training credits for conversation groups, contact your group leader on [redacted]

3. Jewish Film Festival

(Editor's Note: Item courtesy of [redacted])

The 19th annual "Washington Jewish Film Festival: An Exhibition of International Cinema" starts this Thursday, 4 December. The festival will present 59 features and documentaries -- more than I can list here. Many are in foreign languages, including Hebrew, French, Arabic, Spanish, Russian, and German. All the info is on www.wjff.org on the internet. Venues are in the Washington, D.C., area, including one presentation at the French Embassy.

[redacted]
CLA Film Librarian
969-0209 [redacted]

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4. Three December Language Programs

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(U) Strengthen Our Nation: Discover Languages

(U) December 2008 Language Events

(U) For a more global perspective on ushering in our holidays, this month's theme will be "Holiday Celebrations" and will include insight from native language analysts into customs in Central Asia and Mexico.

(U) To view these two live VTC broadcasts from your desktop, as well as to view them there after the event, "go language" and hit EVENTS.

For Newsmagazine viewing:

[redacted]

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(U) NEW YEAR'S IN CENTRAL ASIA

(C/REL) Come hear [redacted]

[redacted] perspective on Navruz (New Year's), its history, which

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countries celebrate it, and how differently they do so throughout Central Asia. Not to be missed!

(U) Thursday, 4 December 2008

1300-1400

(U) THE SIGNIFICANCE OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE TO MEXICAN CULTURE

(~~C//REL~~) Have you ever wondered why the Virgin Mary is so important to Mexican culture? Multilingualist [REDACTED] will explain how the Virgin Mary got the name Our Lady of Guadalupe, the story of the appearance of Mary to St. Juan Diego, how she was the link that changed a nation, and the effect that she continues to have today. Mark your calendar now!

(U) Monday, 8 December 2008

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1300-1400

(U//~~FOUO~~) POC: Office of the Senior Language Authority; [REDACTED] 968-8154,

(EDITOR'S NOTE: [REDACTED] has reserved a VTC room for the above two events for the FIRST TIME in FANX 2. Good going, [REDACTED] The events will still be available live and delayed at the desktop, as well as on Newsmagazine).

(~~C//REL~~) You are invited to attend a very popular cultural presentation by [REDACTED] on:

"The History of Language In Egypt"

Tuesday, 16 December 2008

1130-1300 hours

His 50-minute powerpoint talk covers almost 5,000 years of language in Egypt, from the ancient language of the pharaohs -- as seen in hieroglyphs -- through all of the invasions, of other cultures and the influences of other languages over the millennia, culminating in the language used in Egypt today. You won't want to miss his pictures of beautiful, ancient manuscripts written in a myriad of languages, of monuments that have stood for centuries, and of people whose names will survive eternity.

(U) Encourage your friends and co-workers to take the time to attend this unusual educational and cultural experience. Mark your calendars today.

(~~C//REL~~) Please make your reservation by contacting [REDACTED]

5. Presidential Language Trivia

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With President Chester Arthur (21st President, 1881-1885) in attendance, which prominent Native American leader's insults were mistranslated into flattery (at least into something less offensive):

- A. Red Cloud
 - B. Sitting Bull
 - C. Quanah Parker
 - D. Captain Jack
 - E. Geronimo
- Answer at end of issue
-
-
-

6. Lost in Translation (Translating Chinese Poetry)

For those of you who have ever translated freelance (or even for the Agency!), there are ways of doing it. Should you translate it literally or should you paraphrase? When it comes to translating Chinese poetry though, things should NOT be translated literally. For example, an expression such as "I think" in English could be poeticized to "I think to myself." This is at least the view of Dr. Liang Huichun and Steve Schroeder, who spoke about LOST IN TRANSLATION: COLLABORATIVE TRANSLATION OF CHINESE POETRY on 8 November at the National Museum of Language (NML). Dr. Liang and Mr. Schroeder explained how they have collaborated in recent years in translating the poetry of China's Li Nan and also poetry from "Two Southwests," an anthology of 27 poets from the southwestern United States and southwestern China. Their collaboration, as demonstrated to the audience, included simultaneous translation of poetry and Southwestern scenes (United States and China) put to music.

In making their point about literal translation, Liang and Schoeder claimed that countless discussions were held before deciding how to best translate ??? ??? (taken from Li Nan's poem called "In the Wide World"). Schoeder, a professional poet (but admittedly not knowledgeable about Chinese), went on to say that Chinese characters written as poetry do not necessarily make poetry. Moreover, he opined that any poem, even famous ones, are open to literary interpretation/poetic license. For example, the view's of Li Nan, the target of their collaboration, were not necessarily even solicited in determining what she meant by ??? ???. In the end, it was translated as "All beings are one."

LOST IN TRANSLATION, by the way, comes from the quotation by Robert Frost: "Poetry is what gets lost in translation." As part of the Marian M. Jenkins Memorial Speaker Series which kicked off this Fall at the NML, this presentation was unique because Mr. Schoeder participated remote from Chicago (creating all kinds of technical challenges). Among those attending were students of Dr. Liang (a University of Maryland professor) and professional Chinese translators, resulting in a lively exchange of views.

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