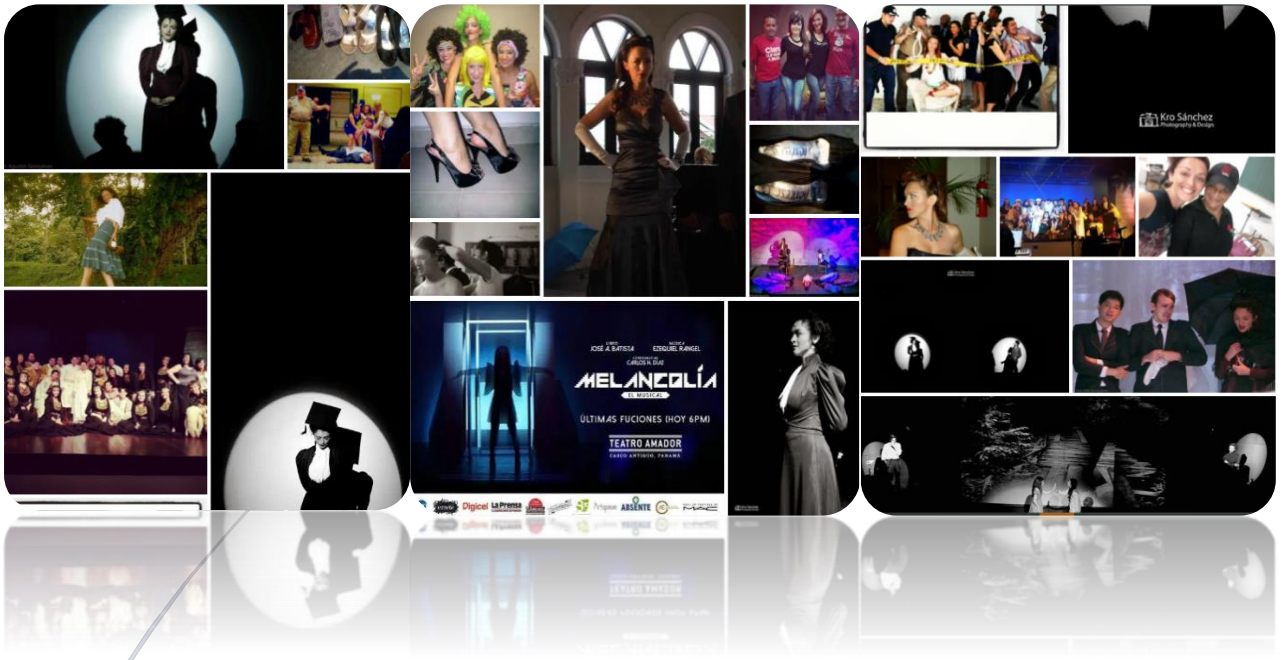


Portafolio Artístico

Claire Hazel
(Claritza Basabe)

Febrero 26, 2020



Portafolio Artístico

Claire Hazel

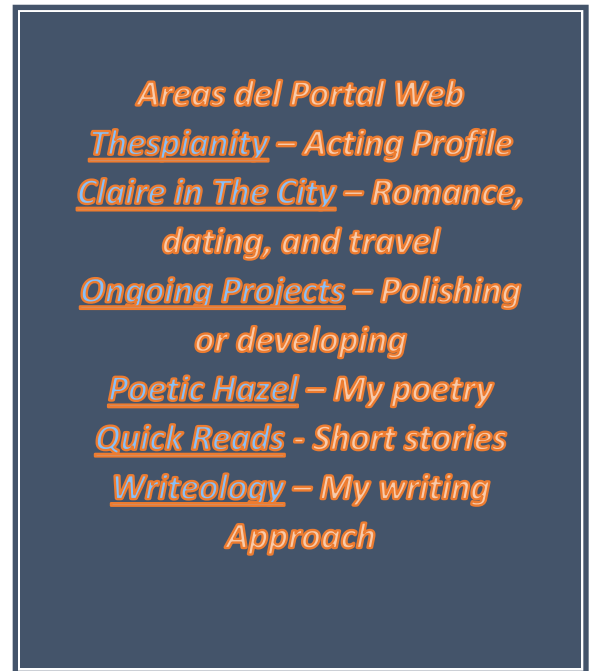
(Claritza Basabe)

Mi portafolio de actuación y otros ámbitos dentro del mundo artístico, se encuentran en mi [pagina web](#), con resumen detallado de mis trabajos, enlaces cuando estén disponibles, fotografías y videos de mi canal de YouTube.

Mi portafolio escrito es más extenso en inglés y se encuentra en mi [página web](#), un archivador de Contently, ambos enlaces incluidos en mi CV. De cualquier forma incluyo aquí unos ejemplares de mi Newsletter, entre otros trabajos escritos que ya no están en línea, escritos bajo mi nombre Claritza Basabe.

Lo que se encuentra en mi página web es traducible a español con simplemente presionar el botón de Google en el pie de la página.

De ser necesario traducir estos, por favor requerirlo por medio de email a mi cuenta cmhazel.writer@gmail.com



My acting career

with some images from film fests and my personal character creation files

Thespianity is the way I chose to name my belief when it comes to acting, as in my *religiosity*. I have a view that comes from my experience and training, but also has developed over the past years as a result of my learning and growth through writing. A *methodist* actor as the basis of my approach, I rely mostly on the way the characters feel for me, often using the same method or techniques to develop the character for writing.

My second semester of college in 2004, included a briefing on the beginning of theater, genres, styles, and techniques, from past to present, with an introduction to acting, theater production, playwrighting, and an end of semester essay on a theatrical presentation of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

In 2013 and 2014, I further developed my technique with Voice and Physical Technique Workshops with Cristina Contreras and Alejandra Arauz as part of the Producciones Talingo Troup – Training and workshops continued during the plays I participated in, with focus on breathing and singing techniques, such as the Fitzmoritz practice and trembling, and voice projection, while Alejandra Arauz coached the team in character development for the stage.

The plays:

La Ciudad de Piedra – **Ensamble -2020**

Production Company

Contraseñas

Director

Edwin Cedeno

The story of the country of Panama is told through the voices of the immigrants who founded the city and its people, represented on stage through the Tower of The Old Panama monuments, as the center of the narration and the changes the nation went through. A Show with musical arrangements and dance, songs and narrations, designed to entertain an audience visiting the area as a cultural fair.

Melancolia: El Musical – **Elizabeth McFadden – 2014**

Production Company

Producciones Talingo

Director

Jose Batista

The life of a singer-songwriter is changed abruptly when her music and lyrics are taken for another singer. She is whirled into a world of fame, debauchery, and manipulations. I played the owner of a PR firm with a team of associates who merge forces to find a way to support the artist.

A Fond Farewell – **Dawn – 2014**

Production Company

Canada Plus

Director

Carmen O'Neil

A murder mystery dinner theater comedy about a man with three possible wives and a confused police detective who finds himself questioning the reason why a profitable financier would end up dead during a reunion to read the last will and testament of another deceased family member.

Despertar de Primavera – (*Spring Awakening* – *Mujeres Adultas*) – **Adult Women – 2013**

Production Company

Producciones Talingo

Director

Jose Batista

A modern take on the play (*Frühlings Erwachen*) by the German dramatist Frank Wedekind, produced and set to music and lyrics in Spanish.

Jose El Soñador (*Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*) – **Wife/Ensemble – 2013**

Production Company

Fabrega Productions

Director

Edwin Cedeno

The classic rock opera *Joseph and The Technicolor Dreamcoat*, with a live orchestra and a cast of dozens of people, in its Spanish version. The family of Joseph and his father's clan are all chasing after a colorful coat that belongs to Joseph, who is part of God's prophets and chosen children. He runs to Egypt and finds himself nestled in the womb of the pharaoh, the advances of his wife and her court, to later become the most important person in Egypt because of his dreams and their revelations.

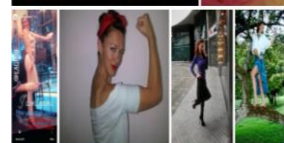
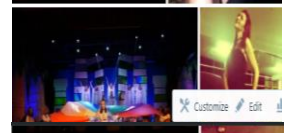
Last Call at Chez Mort – **Lady Lelu – 2012**

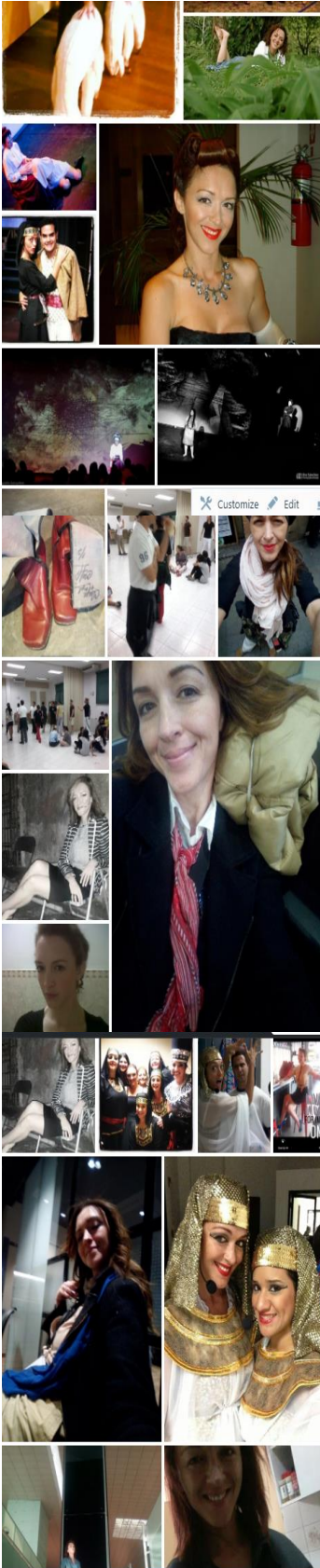
Production Company

Canada Plus

Director

Lady Lelu is the jazz singer of a prestigious establishment, *Chez Mort*, that is suddenly the scene of an electric murder where a singer is murdered and the rest of the group is incriminated in the murder mystery presentation, with a singing act and many more questions than innocent people.





The Movies:

Escobar: Paradise Lost – **Town's Person** – 2013

Production Company

Chapter 2/Jaguar Films

Director

Andrea Di Stefano

Role Description

Extra in the barrio scene, where a large number of people chase Pablo Escobar while he drives through the crowd and into a helicopter with his guards and new business partners.

Francisco de Miranda – **Sarah Andrews** – 2010

Role Description

Wife of Francisco de Miranda announcing the visit of Simon Bolivar and other men in the revolutionary war that freed the Americas, known then as The great Colombia.

The Telenovela

El Cuerpo del Deseo Extra – **Mujer en la Boda** -2004

Production Company

Televisa/Univision

Executive producers

Aurelio Valcárcel Carrol/Alejandro García

for Telemundo Internacional

A Telenovela, where I played a guest in the wedding party.

The Radio and Voicework

Radio – **Guest Spot** – 2010

Description – **Guested on a spot to speak about institutional and academic programs for English students of a Venezuelan-American center.**

Radio – **Guest Host** – **Pala EL Ojo** with **Zito Bares** and **Jess Laforgia** – 2013

Description – **Guest hosting as an appearance to promote Jose EL Soñador.**

Voicework – **Secretary** – 2010

Project Name **Historia de una Oficina**

Production Company **Centro Venezolano Americano del Zulia**

Director **Ilse Chemaly**

Description – **An old fashioned radio-style story recorded for an ABLA presentation where a group of office employees describes a day in their lives.**

The Hosting and MC Presentations

Presentations – **MC.Presenter** – between 2008-11

Company **Centro Venezolano Americano del Zulia (CEVAZ)**

Director **Ilse Chemaly**

Description – **Presenter for various workshops, such as the Teaching of English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) congress and in-house forums during the National Convention Ventesol. Including grammar and TEFL presentations, technology application for English students, Teaching Approach and Innovative class design, Creation and use of an Intranet Virtual Resource Center for Teachers and Professors, Commercial presentation of a TEFL certification program from the University New York. Character readings and special activities for children and adults, Co-creation and management of the Cevaz Idol show, Jeopardy hosting, various graduation speeches, classes directed at Teachers, and events for language learning in the outdoors or during sports activities.**

Vids and Demo Reels

[Audition reel](#) – An introduction to me and my interests as an actress, my collaboration ideas, and where I am looking toward in my future plans.

[Night of the Conversation](#) – A short film based on a story I wrote. Directed and produced by me. (Con subtítulos en Español)

[Melancolia El Musical – Elizabeth McFadden](#) – Una obra original de Producciones Talingo, dirigida y escrita por José Batista

[Someone to Watch Over Me](#) – Last Call at Chez Mort – La Cancion de el Murder Mystery Dinner Theater producido por Canada Plus

[Last Call at Chez Mort](#) – Second Act/Segundo Acto

[Cover of I have Nothing](#) by Whitney Houston

[Character Creation – Chronicles of Rhea – Fleck Moves](#) – Free Style Choreography

[Character Creation – Chronicles of Rhea – Introducing Reve](#) – Introduccion del personaje

[Character Creation – Chronicles of Rhea – Hymn to Mother Rhea](#) – Cantico escrito por mi para mi historia en linea

[Character Creation – Chronicles of Rhea](#) – Choreografia de escena– Reve

[Reciting Poetry – Beautiful](#) by Claire Hazel – Mi poema

[Why Dreams are Cleansing](#) – A narrative by Claire Hazel

[Once Upon a December](#) – Canto y performance de la canción del musical Anastacia

[Dancing as Princess Leah](#) – Belly Dance Fusion

Singing

Cover of [Then You Can Tell Me Goodbye](#) by Joss Stone

Cover of [Colors of The Wind](#) from The Movie Pocahontas

Cover of [Te Quiero](#) by Luis Miguel

Cover of [Bed of Roses](#) by Bon Jovi

Cover of [Don't Stop Believing](#) by Journey

Cover of [In Case You Didn't Know](#) by Brett Young

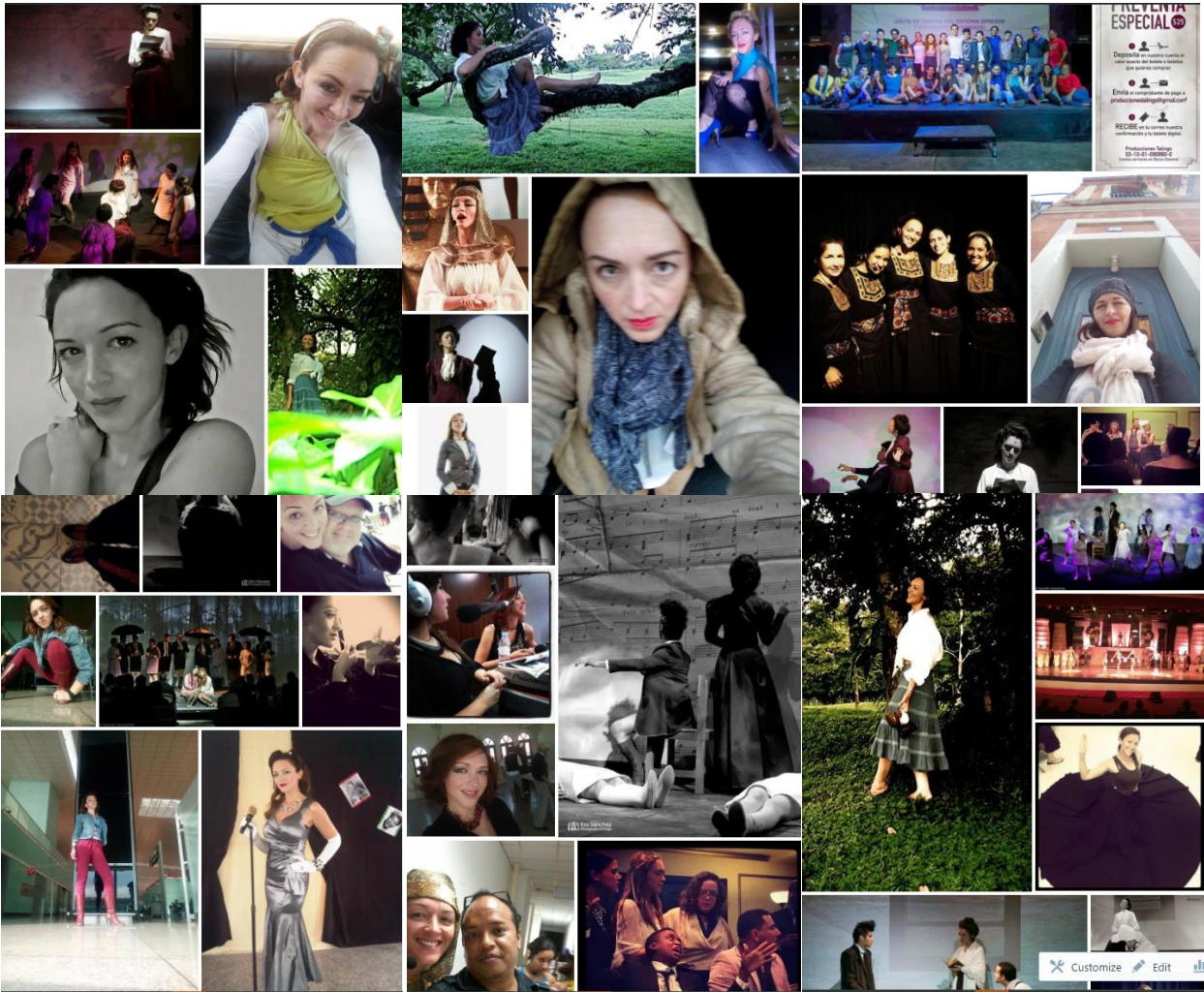
Cover of [Glitter in The Air](#) by P!nk

Cover of [La Vie en Rose](#) by Edith Piaf

Cover of [Care for This Love](#) (Cuidar Nuestro Amor) by David Bisbal with a translation in English by me

Cover of [Cuando Te bese](#) by Thalía (with a translation in English by me)

Cover de [You and I](#) by Michael Buble



Trabajos Escritos y Publicaciones

(no en mi página Web)

DE INTERÉS

Culture can be defined as a set of social values, such as customary beliefs, social forms, and material ways of living. In sociology, it is considered the most human influence on the most sophisticated medium of expression. All of the government factors play a significant role and influence. The way in which people think and behave, if one takes in mind that culture affects all areas of knowledge, one could then imply that most studies enter the world of learning in a language with a predominant focus on social aspects on the study of a culture (as a theory) and not on its study on the learning path with its own piece of information (as a particular set of cultural rules and standards). It is not to be confused with the linguistic approach in which the language is seen as a tool to express ideas and feelings, and not as a social aspect that can be studied back to the beginning of language.

As a social research, the study of language has become a science with the help of many sciences on the way. This is because the study of language has become a social science in its own right. It is a science that studies the social aspects of language and not just the linguistic aspects. It is a science that studies the social aspects of language and not just the linguistic aspects.

The Influence of Culture in the English Learning Classroom

English is a global language, but its learning is heavily influenced by the culture of the learner. This is because the way in which people think and behave, if one takes in mind that culture affects all areas of knowledge, one could then imply that most studies enter the world of learning in a language with a predominant focus on social aspects on the study of a culture (as a theory) and not on its study on the learning path with its own piece of information (as a particular set of cultural rules and standards). It is not to be confused with the linguistic approach in which the language is seen as a tool to express ideas and feelings, and not as a social aspect that can be studied back to the beginning of language.

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DE INTERÉS

What is truly important for English learners to understand about culture is the following:

A country's language can be defined and characterized by its customs, beliefs, traditions, and values. It is not just a set of words and grammar rules that define the country's language, but the way in which it is used and understood by its speakers.

Being an English learner means understanding the culture of the country whose language you are learning. It is not just about learning the words and grammar, but about understanding the way in which the language is used and understood by its speakers.

Integrating and accepting the cultural differences of the country whose language you are learning is not just a matter of respect, but of necessity. It is because the language is a reflection of the culture, and without understanding the culture, you cannot truly understand the language.

A certain level of cultural openness is necessary for English learners to understand about culture. It is because the language is a reflection of the culture, and without understanding the culture, you cannot truly understand the language.

Knowing a country's culture is not enough to understand about culture. It is because the language is a reflection of the culture, and without understanding the culture, you cannot truly understand the language.

FOR CLARIETA BASASE

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DE INTERÉS

From time to time, we adults think back to the days when we were children and how we learned to read and write. It is a wonderful memory, and one that we often wish we could relive. The way in which we learned to read and write is a reflection of the culture of the time and place. It is a reflection of the way in which we were taught and the way in which we learned. The way in which we learned to read and write is a reflection of the culture of the time and place. It is a reflection of the way in which we were taught and the way in which we learned.

LEARNING ENGLISH AT ANY AGE

Learning a new language is a challenging task, but it is not impossible. It is a challenge that can be overcome with the right approach. The key to learning a new language is to be patient and to practice consistently. It is not just about learning the words and grammar, but about understanding the way in which the language is used and understood by its speakers. It is not just about learning the words and grammar, but about understanding the way in which the language is used and understood by its speakers.

DE INTERÉS

might see the image and try to put it together, but the real work is done by the brain. The brain is the most complex and powerful organ in the human body. It is the brain that allows us to think, feel, and act. It is the brain that allows us to learn and to grow. It is the brain that allows us to overcome challenges and to achieve our goals. It is the brain that allows us to be the best that we can be.

There are no obstacles when it comes to learning a new language. It is a challenge that can be overcome with the right approach. The key to learning a new language is to be patient and to practice consistently. It is not just about learning the words and grammar, but about understanding the way in which the language is used and understood by its speakers. It is not just about learning the words and grammar, but about understanding the way in which the language is used and understood by its speakers.

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CHRISTMAS JEER

By Claritza Basabe

(Written for my personal Blog)

Based on the title, you may think I am a sour, Grinchette cynic who does not like Christmas. But, that isn't really the case. It's just that whenever Christmas and the holiday season are near, I always wonder with bewildered about how the Holidays are celebrated and how strangely people behave nowadays. Just thinking about it, makes me clench my teeth with intense dread and foreboding. It always makes me wish I could spend the holiday season on a Caribbean-bound cruise ship. Conservative traditions and moderate celebrations are no longer an option, it is within the noisiness of the modern Yuletide that we have forgotten wholesome family dinners, staying close to our friends, helping the less fortunate people around us, or simply celebrating the joy of being alive and loving each other. I remember these things fondly and get nostalgic whenever I reminisce about my childhood holidays. The smell around the house, the holiday music, the tree, the dinner...so wonderfully jolly! Is it just me, or has it all become about irrational shopping, excessive spending, and generally, pointless and frantically running to and fro in order to make our neighbors elf-green with envy with our latest acquisitions? Even decorating our houses - inside and out- is a full-time endeavor that requires costly trimmings and ornaments, not counting the weeks or even months we have to spend preparing for the sole purpose of being the most adorned and scandalously flashy home in the neighborhood. Take a look at this one; for example. Although beautiful, it's a little over the top, don't you think? The decorating process is only the star at the top of the Christmas tree. Below the shiny tinsel



The RRC Newsletter

A monthly publication from the Resource and Research Center

A Book: ALWAYS better than a pair of Golden Sandals...really!

So, we find ourselves at this juncture yet again. Lights are going up all around the city, nativities are being set, the sound of gaita and the smell of hallacas are seeping out through kitchen windows, and inexorably, billboards and ads announce the coming of the hectic days of...what else? Shopping for the perfect Christmas present! This makes me ponder about what I would like to receive. People are amazed that I would love nothing more than a great book (Hint to my Secret Santa), and why not? A book can be a constant companion during a convoluted family vacation, when we want to get away from it all and read peacefully in a secluded area of wherever we may be. An ugly sweater or a pair of overly decorated sandals, on the other hand, won't help you escape; I assure you. If you don't believe me, ask my very loud children.

A good book can become an escapade for anyone, anytime, anyplace. Books are portable and there is no need for a remote control to pause over the good scenes. And, in any case, it will save you the embarrassment of being halfway exposed at some dinner party because the top you received was too small to cover your midriff. Best of all, books are one size-fits-all, there is no need to guess your aunt's dress size based on the humongous girth of her hips. The reason I come to this practical conclusion is very simple; I depart from the notion that reading has been, is, and will always be part of our lives. We learn with it, get informed through it, and can sometimes be exquisitely entertained by it. We read, period. Even if we do not like it; street signs and billboards, those little, meaningless captions about the stock market, doctors' prescriptions (well, we try), assembly instructions (while we scratch our heads), ingredients for our favorite recipe, but most importantly, regardless of age, race, or creed, most people are familiar with some form of reading. So, why are books so frighteningly foreign to

most people? I am very glad to see that this is changing.

We all have been witnesses to the recent explosion of social and interactive media that has dwindled the interest to read solely for entertainment; we have displaced books for an insatiable need to read everyone else's ridiculous ideas (please, refrain from thinking about this article in that content), as opposed to finding good literary work or enjoying a rich and gruesome murder novel on a sleepless night. The result is an obsessive compulsion to communicate and relate with others everything and anything; I've actually read 'Tweets' about bowel movements! The problem is that if it is longer than 140 characters, nobody wants to read it anymore; for stories and biographies, people resort to watching movies. So, the need to read has become a need to know about other people, a thirst for uncovering and revealing people's dirty little secrets, burying deeply the true qualities of what I personally consider written works of art, which is quite scary, but I digress.

Fortunately, a recent explosion in book sales about crazy teens lusting after sparkly vampires has changed all that, if only slightly. Maybe this glorification of bloodsucking creatures is not so bad after all. In any event, it's a good thing people are reading again and leaving their electronic toys, if only momentarily, by the way side. So, I guess my point is that, this coming Christmas, you should try to give the people you love books instead of toys or electronic devices. There is a book for everybody on your list. As much as you think they'll hate you, you'll be contributing to the literacy of our nation, which will help the world at large anyway. Hey, if you still feel like giving a tech toy as a Christmas present, you could give an e-reader, a far better choice than a flashy pair of opulent gold sandals any day, not just on Christmas.

Issue 7 December, 2010



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"Do give books - religious or otherwise - for Christmas. They're never fattening, seldom sinful, and permanently personal."

Lenore Hershey



ENTERING GENERATION-NOW-LAND

By Claritza Basabe

(Written for the Resource and Research Center Newsletter at CEVAZ)

July, 2010

I think we can all agree that although technology is a great thing, it has its difficulties. Take for example a class of young learners. They are part of what has become the revolution of the "Generation Now." Have you ever heard of that term? There is a superb song by the Black-Eyed Peas with that name as its title. If you ever listen to the song, you will hear that it refers to the series of things that young people are interested in. Rather than being focused on just one area of interest or two -as my generation used to be- they have many interests; they are passionate multitaskers, but the most important thing is that they, as the song aptly says, want everything NOW!

Young people no longer see the road that leads to success as a diverting journey in which difficulties are expected and must be overcome. They are adamant about getting instant gratification. Moreover, they believe that they will conquer the world by simply wanting something because surely this means that they will get it, as if by magic. Youths have an incredible sense of uniqueness that separates and alienates, rather than uniting. What *does* unite them is the things they watch, listen, and dance to. And together in this unification, they shun everyone else out, especially if you are over nineteen. I think that barrier is the single most difficult hurdle that we as teachers must overcome.



The RRC Newsletter

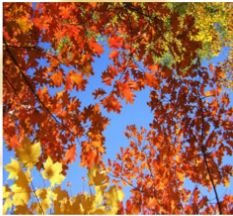
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A monthly publication from the Resource and Research Center

November, 2010

A time to be thankful...

Written by Claritza Basabe



Well my dear friends and colleagues; the year is slowly winding down and we only have a few days left. Thanksgiving is just around the corner and before you know it a year of being part of this great team will end. I reminisce about the days in 2010 that have already parted us and I am thankful. I think it is only when we are

at the end of a particular road when we have time to look back and reflect on all we have achieved and resolved. Having reflected on my experiences in this most exciting post, and in honor of the upcoming thanksgiving holiday, I will try to objectively point out what we can all be thankful for. Complaining about those things we dislike is somewhat easy. Harsh words and disdain roll easily off ones tongue more often than it should, for those words are remnants of the stress we endure daily. If we did not do that from time to time, we'd be perfect, and certainly, perfection is unattainable by us imperfect humans, yet I've been witness to many examples of hard effort; people who strive with unrelenting discipline in their profession. Recognizing and stating excellence in people is more challenging than pointing out their flaws; recognizing achievements is something we seldom do. We dwell on the imperfections of others without realizing that like us, people want to be heard, understood, regarded as unique and important individuals. I for one, am aware of this and try to be thankful for the job I have, for the many concerned

teachers who come through my door hoping to find an answer to their queries, for my tireless team who hustle and bustle as I ask them to do tasks, and for the entire CEVAZ family by which I am inspired each and everyday. Being grateful for actually having a job in this insane economy is not that hard, actually. But, by solely being grateful I do absolutely nothing. By committing to those around me is when I can connect my gratitude to a purpose. It is because of this fact that I ask you today not to read this expecting to be entertained, not to debate whether anyone around you is perfect or even deeply trying but inevitably failing, not to impart knowledge gathered in these pages, I ask you simply to look around you and find some time in your busy day to be thankful, to other teachers when they offer a simple solution to a dilemma about your students, to your supervisors who work hard every day and ensure you are heard and commended, to the ladies who serve your food in the cafeteria when you are hungry, to the maintenance personnel that make the building a comfortable place in which to work, to the people who handle your issues and resolve them with professionalism, to the students who bring out the best in you, and to all the people whose faces you see more than your own in the mirror, I entreat you to be grateful if only for a single day this month. Thankfulness should not be applied to one yearly event while having dinner, but everyday with each person you encounter. I dare you to smile and be courteous for a full day in November, regardless of the response you may receive. I'm sure you'll be happy to tell me your stories and tell others what a wonderful feeling a day of thanksgiving can bring.

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THE RRC NEWSLETTER

A Monthly publication from the Resource and Research Center

SCARY STUFF

BY CLAUZIA BASABE



Changing or adapting to new things can be scary to some people, as scary as a ghost or a big black spider. I have never been particularly afraid of the newness of change. I personally think change is exciting! Think about it: the window of possibilities of all the challenges that will surely bring out the best in us. Now, I can hear it. Why change? Routines are good, ready, comfortable. Like a fluffy couch we've had since we were children or just recently married.

You know it. There is a perfect spot right in the middle that has your name all over it. Maybe it isn't a couch. Maybe it is a dress or a suit that still fits like a glove, no matter how many pounds you put on. Now bear with me a second. I entreat you to explore the realm of your imagination. Try with all your might to imagine that couch, suit, or dress even. It's a powerful ally that you always turn to in a jiffy, whether it is to take a quick cat nap or dance the stress away at your sister's wedding. It's loyal and patiently awaits you when you most need it. Now, your friend Maria (we all have one) takes you to Sambil for an afternoon stroll or to watch a movie. You don't want anything. You're fine with your reliable couch or suit. All you want is to relax. But lo and behold, you spot the picture of absolute perfection behind a shiny store window. With a gaping mouth you approach the window, not intending to buy anything, you're just looking. But, a little crazy thought goes through your mind and you instantly picture yourself wearing the outfit or lying peacefully on that couch on a lazy Sunday afternoon. You turn to your friend Maria who is shocked by your dumb found expression. Your resort to making all the excuses necessary to convince yourself out of the purchase, and yet, some time later, you wake up in your new couch wearing the dreamy outfit, surrounded by the wonderful smell of new leather. The question arises, "why in the world did I drain my bank account for this spectacular new stuff?" The reason why we shop compulsively is and forever shall remain a mystery to most of us. The fact is that while we did not need this extravagant luxury, we realize our life would not be as perfect without it. It is in that instant that we realize that changing one thing for another was not so bad after all.

So you see, change is good. Perfection is only found in those things that fill the needs we did not think we had. Somehow, we find that the newly acquired purchase made our dance more stylish or our living room more inviting. Being acceptant of the change is part of the evolution process, it should never be scary. It is only scary when you perceive it to be so and because we find comfort in the things that are familiar to us. As my favorite scientist would say, Albert Einstein, everything is relative.



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The Terrifying Truth About Dracula

How a 15th-century Walachian prince became a frightening modern legend

The rugged Transylvanian Alps provide one of the most spectacular landscapes in Europe. Howls roar around the craggy, snow-covered peaks, while bears and chamois take refuge in the dense forests below. Medieval villages and the ruins of ancient castles can abruptly materialize through the mist, as if daring outsiders to uncover their secrets. Transylvania also produced a leader known as a defender of the Christian faith, a Romanian hero, and a subhuman monster. His name was Prince Vlad, but the world knows him by his nickname: Dracula.



The Order of the Dragon

Vlad, or Dracula, was born in 1431 in Transylvania into a noble family. His father was called "Dracul," meaning "dragon" or "devil" in Romanian because he belonged to the Order of the Dragon, which fought the Muslim Ottoman Empire. "Dracula" means "son of Dracul" in Romanian. Therefore young Vlad was "son of the dragon" or "son of the devil." Scholars believe this was the beginning of the legend that Dracula was a vampire.

Warrior in Chains

Dracula lived in a time of constant war. Transylvania was at the frontier of two great empires: the Ottoman Turks and the Austrian Hapsburgs. Treachery, vindictiveness, and revenge ruled the day, so young Dracula soon discovered. Dracula was imprisoned, first by the Turks, who headed him away in chains, and later by



the Hungarians. Dracula's father was murdered, while his

Vlad the Impaler

elder brother, Mircea, was blinded with red-hot iron stakes and buried alive. From 1443 until his death in 1476, Dracula ruled Wallachia and Transylvania, both part of Romania today. Twice he lost and reclaimed his throne, once by fighting his own brother, Radu. Although the Vatican once praised him for defending Christianity, it disapproved of his methods, which soon became infamous. Dracula earned another nickname, "Vlad Tepes" (pronounced tep-pees), which means "Vlad the Impaler." Dracula's favorite method of torture was to impale people and leave them to rot in agony, often for days. As a warning to others, the bodies would remain as rods as vultures and blackbirds nibbled the rotting flesh. During one battle, Dracula retreated into nearby mountains, impaling people as he went. The Turkish advance was halted



because the sultan could not bear the stench from the decaying corpses. Another time, Dracula was reported to have eaten a meal on a table set up outside amidst hundreds of impaled victims. On occasion he was also reported to have eaten bread dipped in blood.

Defender of the Faith

At that time it was believed that religious charity, and a proper burial, would erase sin and allow entry to heaven. Dracula surrounded himself with priests and monks and founded five monasteries. Over a period of 150 years, his family established 50 monasteries. Killed in December 1476 fighting the Turks near Bucharest, Romania, Dracula's head was cut off and displayed in Constantinople.

The Corpse Disappears

Dracula was buried at the isolated Snagov Monastery near Bucharest, which was also likely used as a prison and torture chamber. When prisoners prayed before an icon of the Blessed Virgin, a trap door opened dropping them onto sharp stakes below. In 1931 archeologists searching Snagov found a casket partially covered in a purple shroud embroidered with gold. The skeleton inside was covered with pieces of faded silk brocade, similar to a shirt depicted in an old painting of Dracula. The casket also contained a cloisonné crown, with turquoise stones. A ring, similar to those worn by the Order of the Dragon, was sewn into a shirt sleeve. The contents were taken to the History Museum in Bucharest but have since disappeared without a trace, leaving the mysteries of the real Prince Dracula unanswered.

Taken from an article in www.factcenter.com/spot/dracula



When owls hide in the tree tops,

When fields are stubble and bare,

When geese fly high in the cool, clear sky

And the days are sunny and fair,

When pumpkins appear on the porches

And shadows chase after the day,

When runaway leaves dance in the breeze

Autumn is on the way.

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The Advantages of Films for the English Learner

By Claritza Basabe Written for the CEVAZ Review Magazine

As an English as a Foreign Language (EFL) student, you may be at a loss for finding ways to continue to learn beyond what you learn inside the walls of a classroom. "What do I do to improve my English?" is a question I am asked more often than anything else. If you are anything like me -a great fan of films- you will surely appreciate my next piece of information. As teacher and researcher, I have had the opportunity to utilize this medium while teaching, as well as showing other teachers how to use it to their advantage. But, as a student, it may be likely for you to think that there is only so much you can receive from a movie-watching experience, or is there? I am unable through this short article to explain to you how untrue that statement is. What I will do instead is tell you how you can utilize it to your advantage and gain more knowledge than you ever thought possible. Not only can you achieve incredible improvement in all areas of language acquisition, but you can also be certain to be entertained through favorite characters and stories, which will undoubtedly make the learning experience a more enjoyable one and be your best outside-of-the-classroom source for reaching your goals. Read on for five useful tips on what to do or avoid.

1. Use movies as an ENGLISH resource, and by that, I mean a useful resource. I do not mean to be facetious, but the reason I am stating this so redundantly is that you cannot sit through a movie passively and expect to gain more than any other individual. Watch and listen purposefully. You must tune in to what you are watching to find the gist or main idea of the story. That will give you understanding beyond what is being said. Do be careful not to overly engage in the story or the vocabulary; the story line and the words go hand in hand for a language student. You must maintain balance among the two to get acclimated with the language and what is happening in the film.
2. Talking about getting acclimated; if you concentrate or focus on the complexity of this learning exercise rather than on the simplicity of the medium you are using, you will unavoidably overlook the obvious and not grasp the overall idea. This is without a question the fastest way to get bored of the movie and not understand its storyline. My best advice here would be to watch something you already know and love in your own language. Say, for example, that you have seen Peter Pan a million times since early childhood. You know the storyline, the characters, the ending, etc. So, that taken care of, you can concentrate on speech patterns, vocabulary, intonation, and all the rest. And, dare I say this, be sure to include children films in your repertoire, especially old ones. Why in the world would you watch cartoons and family films if you are 45? Because of practical reasons; the language is simple and to the point, has the least amount of idioms or slang, which can be a challenge, and will keep you happy by reminding you of your childhood. In any case, if you are a grown adult and have children, they will enjoy it as well and spend precious time with you by also learning a new language.
3. Remember that technology is your friend. Use that remote often and freely. Use subtitles (Spanish) only as a starter but do switch them off once you have watched a film several times. If you still would like to read for better understanding, resort only to captions (English). That way, you can stay tuned to one area of your brain only - the English area! Many people will reach a peak of learning, and unfortunately are unable to climb any higher, because they try to learn a new language as part of the already existing one. It sounds strange, but it is true. Language that is

When The Reservoir Dogs Get Close To Home

By Claritza Basabe

Written for Newsroom Panama, a digital publication

Fans of the Quentin Tarantino cult-classic film *Reservoir Dogs*, have a rare opportunity to see those infamous villains live as they come together to try and pull off the perfect crime at The Theater Guild of Ancon.

In a production sponsored by Converse, the play takes you through the winding tale, in which the cast will keep you glued to the edge of your seat with all the complications of a jewelry heist that goes awry. The *colorful* characters “subtly” named Mr. White, Mr. Orange, Mr. Blonde, Mr. Pink, Mr. Blue, and Mr. Brown, is a sextet of professional thieves that are brought together by the not-so-subtle Joe Cabot, a man who will create the atmosphere in which they will all test their alliances to one another in pursue of a dishonest reward, and although their intentions are not honest, audiences will have no choice but to admire their criminal efforts.

The adaptation of the play by Rob Rivera, who has written other adaptations such as *Great Expectations* and *La Nuit*, has given *Reservoir Dogs* a twist by daringly setting the plot in Panama with the big heist taking place in a Panamanian

Vocabulary Acquisition and Context

By Claritza Basabe for the CEVAZ Review Magazine

How often have you heard or even used the word **statutory**? If you actually have, then you are among the lucky minority. But that may depend on a series of factors. Can you guess its meaning? Here, it is completely out of context. If you know it or can guess it based on deduction, you may belong to an industry that uses this word, or more specifically, you may be a lawyer, or even more frighteningly, a criminal. In reality, the word is used as an adjective and it means something that is controlled by a law or *statute*- which is the root; in other words, something that is legal, or legally defined and regulated, or imposed by law. Now, is it of additive value for English learners to know the meaning of such a word? Not necessarily, unless you are an attorney or a legal analyst, it may be useless. So I guess my point is, do English as a Foreign Language (EFL) learners need to include more vocabulary in their agenda? Or, if so, does it need to be basic language that will be used in everyday life or a more intricate and varied repertoire? That will depend on your expectations and personal requirements.

In my opinion, it will depend on each individual case, but an increase in vocabulary is an excellent way to become a competent English learner. As opposed to common belief, understanding the use and meaning of a great amount of words will not only increase written understanding and writing abilities, but it will also give students the ability to interact in English within many situations, be it spoken or written. People that seem to be more at ease in their ability to express themselves liberally seem to be those that can elaborate and expand their ideas, including as many words and descriptions as they can. The concept is that when a person wants to express an idea, he or she will need to understand the words being used, but more importantly, understand the context –or situation- in which it is being used. In linguistics, this is called Communicative Competence, which refers to the ability “...to use the language correctly and appropriately to accomplish communication goals; [that] the desired outcome of the language learning process is the ability to communicate competently, not the ability to use the language exactly as a native speaker does” (<http://www.nclrc.org>).

As you see, communication may depend on many different factors, vocabulary acquisition and expansion being one of them, yet it is important to point out that knowing an immense amount of words is not all that is required in communication, the ability to use them in the right context is just as important. But going back to my original question; is it of additive value for English learners to know the meaning of such a word as **statutory**? My answer to this is a firm and definite yes! But not immediately as you start

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Learning Styles: Using Personal Strengths to Become an Autonomous Learner

By Claritza Basabe

There is a debate in the EFL world regarding the amount of time a teacher or instructor should spend with an English student, aiding him or her in the learning process. Many different things have changed over the years. Students have evolved tremendously from the inception of criteria for teaching languages, becoming more independent and self-sufficient with an immense array of technological tools at their disposal. The concepts and methodologies have also changed. These concepts have become more centralized around the student, not the teacher like it used to be when I was growing up, and maybe more so in previous decades. The world has become a confusing place where we are all trying to define what works in our personal learning struggles, with an interminable source of learning at our finger tips. But I digress. There are so many reasons why students rely on guidance that it would be impossible to determine a specific one. But students are in a unique position to change the way they receive and absorb information and ideas.

EFL students need to begin by understanding their own capabilities and discerning what is appropriate or matches their learning style. Styles can vary from one student to another, but it invariably falls within several categories. The visual learner that needs constant visual stimuli and accumulates mental images of everything he or she experiences, the auditory learner that can quickly retain information by simply paying enough attention using listening strategies, the kinesthetic learner that needs to move to the rhythm of what is being learned, or the analytical learner that is in desperate need of dissecting definitions and structures in order to assimilate concepts, among many others. None of these are better or worse than the

YOUR SELLING POWER AND WHAT YOU ARE WORTH

By Claritza Basabe (Written for the CEVAZ Resource and Research Center)

As some of you may have heard, I have some background in sales. I spent six years of my young life developing a keen eye for what people needed in order to provide the best service possible. During that time, I was constantly being trained and retrained in customer service and sales. Why am I mentioning this here? It is surely not that closely related to teaching, or is it? I will come to that later, but first, let me relate my reason for bringing up the "salesperson" in me.

A few years ago, I recommended a close friend of mine to go into sales after losing a prominent desk-job with a cellular company in the US. The economy had become stagnant and there were few jobs available, especially those in the administrative ranks. My friend was adamant about being in an office environment and not having to deal with pesky customers. She'd much rather stay with the already settled business clientele of the aforementioned cellular company. I asked the reason why, and she countered -in a frustrated tone- to argue that the world of sales was not her "thing," that she would not be able to sell a diamond ring for one dollar in a mob of soon-to-be brides. I sat there in astonishment as I heard that statement, to which my reply was "How can you say sales is not your *thing*? Everything in life *IS* SALES!" She quickly gave me the typical roll of the eyes, followed by a smirk and a *puh-lees* look.