



THE AMERICAN LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2007

From the Publisher

I have recently joined the Public Affairs Section as the Information Officer and I look forward to working with the members of the American Library. I am excited to be in South India and want to thank everyone for the warm welcome I have received.

For this issue of our Newsletter, we are focusing on English language. We will specifically explore the concept of "Dynamic English" which examines the forces that shape and change everyday English. The first article in this issue is: What's New? The Effect of Hip-Hop Culture on Everyday English by Emmett G. Price III. This article describes the process of language change and tips for deciphering slang. A full eJournal on the topic of "Dynamic English" can be found at:

<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itsv/0807/ijse/ijse0807.htm>

On another point, as you may know, the U.S. Presidential Election will take place in 2008. As an early start, we would like to bring to your attention another eJournal titled The Long Campaign: U.S. Elections 2008. The journal provides an excellent introduction to the upcoming 2008 elections. The publication can be accessed at:

<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itdhr/1007/ijde/ijde1007.htm>

I hope you enjoy reading these publications. As always we welcome your valuable comments.

In the last few months it has been my great pleasure to meet many members of the American Library. I look forward to meeting and working with more of you in the months ahead.



Wesley Robertson
Information Officer

What's New? The Effect of Hip-Hop Culture on Everyday English Emmett G. Price III

Expressions coined by urban youth have made their way into mainstream English via the so-called hip-hop generation. Emmett G. Price III, PhD, is an assistant professor of Music and African American Studies at Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts. He is the author of *Hip Hop Culture* (ABC-CLIO, 2006) and editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Popular Music Studies*. He is also executive editor of the forthcoming three-volume *Encyclopedia of African American Music* (Greenwood Press, 2008).

Language is the product of society. As a society changes, so does its language. One of the greatest signs of a changing language is the rapid expansion of its lexicons. Over the past 30 years, American dictionaries have grown at unprecedented levels. Words attesting to the rich contribution of global cultures to American culture, words created for scientific use, words recognizing technological advances, and, of course, words representing contemporary culture have expanded the English language. Yet, it is this last category that has altered the English language more rapidly than any other influence.

These changes are sparked by words created by youth and young adults who feel empowered to codify and label their own realities with new expressions: words that represent the new ponderings, new searches, new desires, and new ideas (even if the ideas really are not so new). In *The Hip Hop Generation*, Bakari Kitwana establishes the birth years of 1965-1984 as the criterion for admission into the hip-hop generation. It is obvious that Kitwana's closing year of 1984 is not wide enough, as we have witnessed the emergence of multiple hip-hop generations, each birthing new additions and approaches to the English language.

Hip-Hop Culture

During the 1960s and 1970s — as the streets of New York City erupted in violence, social decay, and economic demise — young, multiethnic, inner-city kids devised their own solution to the traumatic challenges that they continually faced. Unifying the preexisting elements of rapping, graffiti, dancing, and deejaying (a method of using sound equipment and records to create totally new sounds and combinations from those originally recorded — scratching, rapid repeats of segments, remixes, etc.), these diverse youth created an alternative to the hopelessness found in their neighborhoods.

During the mid-1970s, this local phenomenon was ignored by mainstream America; yet by the 1980s, not only did hip-hop culture have a national presence, it was sought globally. Movies such as *Wild Style*, *Style Wars*, and, later, *Beat Street* and *Breakin'* allowed international audiences to experience the many facets of hip-hop culture, including the unique approach to speaking and writing English. By the 1990s, print and broadcast media and even video games were dominated by the presence and effect of hip-hop culture. Corporations such as Burger King, Coca-Cola, America Online (AOL), Nike, and Reebok launched advertising and marketing campaigns featuring hip-hop culture, responding to the popular/hip image of

Dates to Remember

November 11	Veteran's Day
December 1-31	Universal Human Rights Month
December 5, 1901	Walt Disney: Birth Anniversary
December 10, 1830	Emily Dickinson: Birth Anniversary

these elements and, at the same time, helping integrate them into the broader culture. Amidst the dancing, fashion, and numerous musical elements, what quickly struck the ears of many were the new rules for speaking, reading, and writing English.

Hip-Hop Language

Popular culture in the United States has had a unique effect on everyday English for many generations. African-American music, in many ways, has played a demonstrative role in this evolution. From the days prior to the emergence of the spirituals and the blues, African-American music has informed its listeners (early on, mostly black) of the current events and liberation strategies, using alternative language understood only by those within the cultural network.

Through the years, many of the words and phrases became integrated and used by outside communities who had figured out the context and definitions of these words. This process of cultural adaptation happened in many of the ethnic communities and enclaves within America, yet it was African-American music, containing much of this language, that informed much of American mainstream culture.

The language of hip-hop culture is an extension of past and recent vernacular. Words like "hot" (1920s), "swing" (1930s), "hip" (1940s), "cool" (1950s), "soul" (1960s), "chill" (1970s), and "smooth" (1980s) have been redefined and usurped into hip-hop language. Hip-hop language is the next generation's answer to the age-old question — What's new?

The Impact of Hip-Hop Culture

The greatest impact of hip-hop culture is perhaps its ability to bring people of all different beliefs, cultures, races, and ethnicities together as a medium for young (and now middle-aged) people to express themselves in a self-determined manner, both individually and collectively. Hip-hop culture has influenced not only American English, but numerous languages around the world. Multicultural nations have vibrant hip-hop communities who have had to figure out what to do with these new words and phrases. From German Hip-Hop to Australian Hip-Hop to Pinoy Rap (Philippines) to Azeri Rap (Azerbaijan) to Rap Nigerien (Niger), hip-hop has had its effect on the languages of these nations and cultures.

Whether it is the addition of the phrase "bling-bling" to the Oxford English Dictionary in 2003 or the inclusion of the term "crunk" in the 2007 volume of the Merriam-Webster Collegiate Dictionary, hip-hop culture is changing the nature, the sound, and the rules of the English language. Words such as "hood" (short for neighborhood), "crib" (which translates as place of residence), and "whip" (meaning car) have become commonplace within everyday conversation. Phrases such as "what's up" (hello), "peace out" (good-bye), and the extremely popular "chill out" (relax) are frequently used in television shows, movies, and even commercials for Fortune 500 corporations. American English

is a living organism, and with vibrant mechanisms such as hip-hop culture and the rapid growth of technology, who's to say what we will be saying or writing in the next 30 years. Whether the United States is a "Hip-Hop Nation," as declared on the cover of the February 5, 1999, issue of *Time* magazine, or not, it is clearly evident that English has been greatly influenced by hip-hop culture.

Source: <http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itsv/0807/ijse/Price.htm>

Books

Clark, Raymond C. *The ESL miscellany : a treasury of cultural and linguistic information* / Raymond C. Clark, Patrick R. Moran, Arthur A. Burrows. Brattleboro, VT : Pro Lingua Associates, c2004. (374.012 CLA)

Klippel, Friederike. *Keep talking : communicative fluency activities for language teaching* / Friederike Klippel. Cambridge, New York, NY : Cambridge University Press, 2003. (418.007 KLI)

Liberman, Anatoly. *Word origins-- and how we know them : etymology for Everyone* / Anatoly Liberman. Oxford, New York, NY : Oxford University Press, c2005. (422 LIB)

Kèovecses, Zoltán. *American English : an introduction* / Zoltán Kèovecses. Peterborough, Ont.: Broadview Press, 2000. (427 KOV)

Baker, Joanna. *The English language teacher's handbook : how to teach large classes with few resources* / Joanna Baker. London, New York, London L: Continuum: VSO., 2000. (428 BAK)

Larsen-Freeman, Diane. *Techniques and principles in language teaching* / Diane Larsen-Freeman. Oxford : Oxford University Press, 2000. (428.007 LAR)

Davies, Paul. *Success in English teaching* / Paul Davies with Eric Pearse.-- Oxford : Oxford University Press, 2000. (428.0071 DAV)

Orr, Thomas. *English for specific purposes* / edited by Thomas Orr. Alexandria, VA. : Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages, c2002. (428.0071 ENG)

Burton, Jill. *Interaction and language learning* / edited by Jill Burton and Charles Clennell. Alexandria, VA : Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages, c2003. (428.0071 INT)

Brown, H. Douglas. *Strategies for success : a practical guide to learning English* / H. Douglas Brown. White Plains, N.Y. : Longman, c2002. (428.24 BRO)

Articles

20 WAYS TO INFLUENCE VOCABULARY ACQUISITION FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS by Elizabeth A. Swanson and Dauna Howerton. *Intervention in School and Clinic*. May 2007 pp. 290–294

GRADUATES' REPORTS OF ADVOCATING FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS by Luciana C. de Oliveira and Steven Z. Athanases. *Journal of Teacher Education*, May/June 2007 pp. 202-215

IMPACT OF AN ENGLISH-AS-A-SECOND-LANGUAGE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM by Barohny Eun and Audrey L. Heining-Boynton. *The Journal of Educational Research*, September-October 2007 pp. 36-48

IPODS AND ENGLISH-LANGUAGE LEARNERS: A GREAT COMBINATION by Kathryn B. Patten and Dorothy V Craig. *Teacher Librarian*, Jun2007 pp.40-44

MAKING WORDS MATTER: VOCABULARY STUDY IN THE CONTENT AREAS by Scott C Greenwood. *The Clearing House*, May/June 2002 pp.258-263

A SEVEN-STEP INSTRUCTIONAL PLAN FOR TEACHING ENGLISH-LANGUAGE LEARNERS TO COMPREHEND AND USE HOMONYMS, HOMOPHONES, AND HOMOGRAPHS by Julie Jacobson, Diane Lapp, James Flood. *Journal of Adolescent & Adult Literacy*, October 2007 pp.98-111

TENSE PRESENT: DEMOCRACY, ENGLISH, AND THE WARS OVER USAGE by David Foster Wallace. *Harper's Magazine*; Apr 2001 pp. 39 – 58

Web links

U.S. Government

U.S. Department of State
Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs
English Teaching Forum: <http://exchanges.state.gov/forum>
Publication Catalog
<http://exchanges.state.gov/education/engteaching/pubs/>

Voice of America
VOA Radio English Course: <http://www.dyned.com/voa/>

Non-Government

American English
Public Broadcasting Service: <http://www.pbs.org/speak/>

English Daily: <http://www.englishdaily626.com>
Urban Dictionary: <http://www.urbandictionary.com>

Note; Internet sites listed in this listing, other than those of the U.S. Government, should not be construed as an endorsement of the views contained therein.

New at the American Library

Books

Aburdene, Patricia. *Megatrends 2010: The Rise of Conscious Capitalism* / Patricia Aburdene. Charlottesville,VA: Hampton Roads Pub. Co., 2005. (658.408 ABU).

Achacoso, Michelle V. *Alternative Strategies for Evaluating Student Learning* / Michelle V. Achacoso. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass, 2005. (378.12 ALT).

Fukuyama, Francis. *America at the Crossroads: Democracy, Power, and the Neoconservative Legacy* / Francis Fukuyama. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, c2006. (327.73 FUK)

Collins, Billy. *The Best American Poetry, 2006* / Billy Collins. New York, NY: Scribner Poetry, 2006. (811.6 BES).

Dozois, Gardner. *The Year's Best Science Fiction: Twenty-Third Annual Collection* / Gardner Dozois. New York, NY: St. Martin's Griffin, 2006. (YEA)

Henderson, Bill. *Pushcart Prize XXXI, 2007: Best of the Small Presses* / Bill Henderson. New York, NY: Pushcart Press, 2007 (808.3 PUS)

King, Leslie. *Environmental Sociology: From Analysis to Action* / Leslie King. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2005. (333.72 ENV)

McWhorter, John H. *Winning the Race: Beyond the Crisis in Black America* / John H. McWhorter. New York, NY: Gotham Books, 2006. (305.896 MCW)

Nadasen, Premilla. **Welfare Warriors: The Welfare Rights Movement in the United States** / Premilla Nadasen. New York, NY: Routledge, 2005. (362.582 NAD).

Smith, Karl A. **Teamwork and Project Management** / Karl A. Smith. Boston, MA: McGraw-Hill Higher Education, c2007. (658.404 SMI).

Szwed, John F. **Crossovers: Essays on Race, Music, and American Culture** / John F. Szwed. Philadelphia, PA: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2005 (780.89 SZW).

Articles

ARE JOURNALISTS THE 21ST CENTURY'S BUGGY WHIP MAKERS?

By William Dietrich. Nieman Reports, v. 60, no. 4, Winter 2006, pp. 31-34.

<http://www.nieman.harvard.edu/reports/06-4NRwinter/p31-0604-dietrich.html>

GOOGLE'S MOON SHOT

By Jeffrey Toobin. New Yorker, v. 82, no. 48, February 5, 2007.

INDIA'S PATH TO GREATNESS

By Martin Walker. The Wilson Quarterly, v. 30, no. 3, Summer 2006, pp. 22-30.

SPICE HEALER

By Gary Stix. Scientific American, v. 296, no. 2, February 2007, pp. 66-69.

DVDS

JACK WELCH: ICON OF LEADERSHIP

57 Minutes, 2004

General Electric's former chairman and CEO shares his commonsense philosophy and the leadership initiatives that transformed GE and revolutionized the world of business. MBA students and faculty from the University of Michigan Business School ask questions about the difference



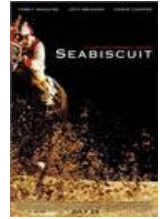
between creating an edge and creating fear, whether the GE leadership model can be transferred to governmental agencies, and Welch's worst professional decision.

Feature Films available for viewing at the Library only:

- Accidental Tourist
- Casablanca
- Citizen Kane
- Color Purple
- Declining By Degrees
- Emperor Waltz
- Ernest Hemingway's To Have and Have Not
- Fried Green Tomatoes

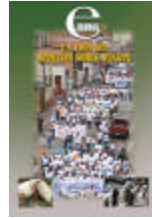


- Jazz Singer
- Joy Luck Club
- Man Who Came to Dinner
- Neil Simon's California Suite
- Ray
- Rebel without a Cause
- Seabiscuit
- Titanic



U.S. Food Aid: Reducing World Hunger

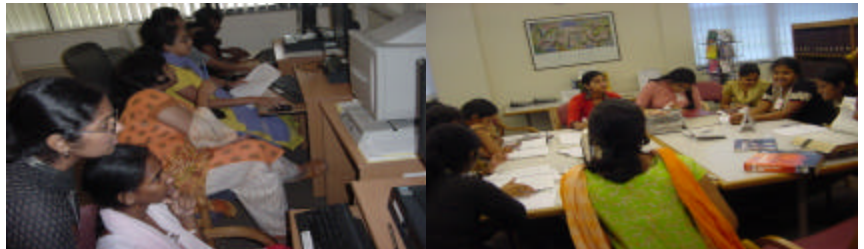
Through articles written by NGO representatives and U.S. government officials, this edition of eJournal USA describes some of the ways in which the United States government works through its agencies and in conjunction with international organizations and NGOs to provide food and assistance to save lives and to help hungry people feed themselves.



<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/ites/0907/ijee/ijee0907.pdf>

EVENTS

Stella Maris College Students of Documentation and Information Science course at a training session



Library Orientation



Traveling Exhibition at S.D.M. Law College, Mangalore

