

Practical World Language

Interlingua is a new auxiliary tongue for all the world, a natural language with regular, simplified grammar that has root words from national languages.

► FOR CENTURIES men have dreamed of an international language whose words and sounds everyone could understand no matter what native tongue it used every day.

In the last century over 300 international languages have been invented. Some of these like Esperanto, Ido, and Occidental have enthusiastic devotees and even considerable literatures. But no world language has as yet become an international tool for communication and understanding.

A new international language is making its bow. It is not really new in the words that it uses. It is rooted in many languages of the world. The troublesome intricacies of grammar have been discarded. There is only one verb form in each tense, and nouns, adjectives and verbs do not agree as they must in some more complex languages.

Interlingua is the name of this new international language.

Not Overnight Creation

Interlingua is no overnight creation of one linguist or even one group of linguists. No one sat down and theorized as to what an international language should be. Instead three decades ago, in 1924, an ambassador-to-be, a chemist, several radio engineers, several educators, editors and linguistic experts started a long and detailed inquiry into what an international language should be.

Dr. Frederick G. Cottrell and Ambassador and Mrs. Dave Hennen Morris inspired a distinguished group to cooperate in the International Auxiliary Language Association, suggested by the International Research Council and financially supported by the Research Corporation, Mrs. Morris and others. In 1953 IALA asked Science Service to carry on the application of Interlingua, which is being done from offices at 80 E. 11th St., New York City, with Dr. Alexander Gode as chief.

Now this work on an international auxiliary language has progressed from the stage of research and theory to a practical auxiliary language ready to be used to bring order into the chaos of world tongues.

Interlingua is going to work in various ways. Businessmen are beginning to use it in writing their letters. Pamphlets for world distribution eliminate the need for a dozen linguistic versions by being written in Interlingua. Interlingua abstracts are being used in journals of international circulation in order to make the material available to all readers without the necessity of costly multiple translations into various national languages.

Among the journals that are using Interlingua abstracts are: "Blood, The Journal of Hematology," "The Quarterly Bulletin of Sea View

Hospital," "A Journal of Tuberculosis and Chronic Pulmonary Diseases," and the "Journal of Dental Medicine." Two journals appear published completely in Interlingua—"Spectroscopia Molecular," monthly, published by Dr. Forrest F. Cleveland, Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago, Ill., and "Scientia International," monthly edition in Interlingua of SCIENCE NEWS LETTER, published by Science Service, 1719 N Street, N.W., Washington 6, D. C. Abstracts of the communications to the 2nd World Congress of Cardiology, Washington, D. C., September 12 to 15, 1954, are presented in Interlingua.

Science Service Interlingua Division will cooperate with editors of journals and conferences in similarly applying Interlingua to their international communications.

The amazing thing about Interlingua is that the average American looking at it thinks at first glance that it is Spanish or perhaps French or Italian. It is very easy to read for anyone who knows a little of another language and even those who feel that they have neglected foreign languages find themselves understanding the gist of it at sight.

A Spanish-speaking person is likely to say, as he reads it with fluency, "What funny Spanish!" The Frenchman and the Italian will find Interlingua quite familiar. Chinese, Japanese, Arabs, and others who speak Oriental languages will find pleasing the lack of difficulties with grammar.

There is good reason why Interlingua seems so familiar to those who know something about national languages. It is developed from the consensus of three major sources of naturally international words. It uses the vocabulary of science and technology which is common to almost all the languages of the world, both East and West. It uses English roots where these are common to other languages. It has borrowed fundamentally from the Romance languages, Spanish, French, Italian, Portuguese, etc.

Millions will find the Interlingua vocabulary basically familiar to them, for it is not a new artificial language, but a natural language without being a national language.

For those who feel that peace in the world will come closer if peoples talk to peoples in a language that all men understand, Interlingua has great emotional as well as intellectual appeal.

In the early stages of the use of the new language most of its use is likely to be written. In writing Interlingua the bother of complex grammar does not get in the way of expression.

Example of Interlingua

Interlingua does not look too strange to eyes accustomed to reading English, and it reads relatively easily, as demonstrated by this excerpt: *Energia es necessari pro toto que occurre in*

le mundo. In tempores passate le plu grande parte del energia applicate esseva fornite per le fortia muscular del homines e del animales domestic.

Hodie carbon, petroleo, aqua, e ligno nos da le grosso del fortia motor. Vostre musculos e mies es exempte de labor nimis dur.

Fundamentalmente toto le energia de nostre terra veni del sol. Le calor e le lumine del sol—octo minutas distante de nos in tempore de viage del radiation—es cosa vital.

Now here are the three paragraphs above in their original English.

Energy is necessary for everything that happens in the world. In olden days, most of the applied energy was furnished by the muscle and brawn of men and domesticated animals.

Today coal, oil, water and wood give us our gross power. Your muscle and mine are spared from working too hard.

Basically all the energy of this earth of ours comes from the sun. The heat and light of the sun, eight minutes away from us measured by radiation's travel time, is a matter of life.

Interlingua Books Available

While Interlingua can be read with little difficulty by almost anyone, books are available which will give a formal acquaintanceship with this international language. The following books are recommended and can be obtained, post-paid, at the prices indicated, from the Retail Book Department, Science News Letter, 1719 N Street, N.W., Washington 6, D. C.

For an amusing introduction to Interlingua, read INTERLINGUA A PRIMA VISTA (Interlingua At Sight)—Alexander Gode—*Storm*, 82 p., illus., \$2.00 Pictured explanations and without any English text at all allow the beginner to learn Interlingua. Pronunciation table and seven-language list of grammatical words are included. This book is in the same style as the very successful SPANISH AT SIGHT.

Enrich your vocabulary with the 27,000 word INTERLINGUA-ENGLISH DICTIONARY — prepared by Alexander Gode and Hugh E. Blair—*Storm*—411 p., \$5.00. An important aid in reading, writing and speaking Interlingua. This dictionary contains a liberal, all-purpose vocabulary including abundant selections from the terminology of many special fields.

Master Interlingua's easy construction with the INTERLINGUA GRAMMAR—prepared by Alexander Gode and Hugh E. Blair—*Storm*—118 p., \$3.50. This valuable book enables you to master Interlingua completely in a fraction of the time it takes normally to learn only one of the many foreign languages Interlingua contains.

These are the standard books on this new tool for international understanding.

Science News Letter, July 17, 1954

Inquiries about Interlingua are invited and cooperation in the application of this auxiliary language is desired.