

GERAS – Health Sciences and Medicine SIG
Minutes of the October 7th, 2017 Meeting

Present: Meïdi Attere-Kouya (ANEMF), Marie-Pierre Baduel, Christian Bernier, Martine Chauffeté, Martine Fisbach, Sylvie Gautier, Kay Mc Karthy, Françoise Laveille, Solveig Leleu, Rim Makni-Bejar, Philippe Persiaux, Laure-Line Ribaud, Caroline TranVan, Susan Walters-Galopin, Ros Wright

Excused: Cécile Arnaud-Henkel, Christiane Beaufrère, Sylvia Bylinski, Anaïs Carnet, Didier Carnet, Jean-Pierre Charpy, Virginia Clark, Didier Debail, Niall Finn, Lesley Graham, Lucie Maillard, Félicie Pastore, Ileana Sasu

1) New material

✓ Books

Réussite à la LCA, Théo Pezel, Vuibert : teh students like, but tehre are numerous spelling mistakes, among others.

Entrainement à la LCA, Théo Pezel, Vuibert

Annales de LCA, A et J-N Vallée, Ellipses

Soon to be published : *L'anglais pour la LCA, Kit de Survie*, by Pascaline Faure, at Medline, should be published in November

➤ For leisure and pleasure

Trust me, I'm a Junior Doctor, Max Pemberton

Where does it hurt?, Max Pemberton

Confessions of a GP, Benjamin Daniels

Being Mortal, Atul Gawande

✓ Online

Route 66 : a free 20-hour self-training course designed by Félicie Pastore.

Check your smile : a collaborative dictionary underway at Toulouse Ragueil

2) Studies

In-class versus e-learning

The new LCA exam paper again raises the questions of the space dedicated to English in medical studies. Obviously, students and deans disagree with the former supporting conventional teaching whereas the latter find e-learning appealing as very few students will actually be using English in their career (few will become researchers, and most will work as GPs).

Besides, recruitment problems appear as most teachers are actually high school teachers (PRAG or PRCE) while very few are lecturers which means that hardly any research in EMP is (will be) conducted.

LCA results

Students think their current level of English is lower than what it was in high school. They think they are not well prepared for a very constraining paper. They also think English is too discriminatory (some expected to be given a glossary). They are sorry that no change was made to the exam conditions despite the articles being now in English (longer test duration for two articles, or one article only but the same duration as before).

One main problem is that the help students can get varies a lot from one medical school to another (compulsory, optional, in lecture halls or in smaller groups, with pairs of teachers – English teacher + medical lecturer - or with the English teacher alone prior to the LCA lesson).

3) Certification

The Occupational English Test (designed in Melbourne 10 years ago) is becoming increasingly popular in the UK to assess the English level of foreigners wishing to study or work, instead of IELTS. Some versions are specific to healthcare professionals (for doctors 7 is the expected score).

Still no news about Standem ; Ros Wright offers to get us informed.

4) Our partners

The 34th AMFB conference took place in Lille. The students' presentations are getting more technical and professional (not just placement presentations). The membership fee is 30 euros for professionals and 15 for the students whose expenses are entirely covered if they make presentations.

EALTHY will hold its third conference in Bern (Switzerland) over a full day and a half. Numerous posters will be presented and debates will deal with such subjects as ethical issues in hospital and plagiarism. In the future, webinars may be set up. The 2018 workshops will be in London and in Switzerland while Paris may host the 2019 conference.

5) Ethical debates

Philippe Persiaux and Françoise Laveille (Paris Descartes) present their work on ethical debates (as an elective or an extra-curricular activity) according to a standardized format which may be either British or French. They then invited us to brainstorm new motions and debate about 'Drug companies are evil'.

6) Practicals around the two l'ECNi 2017 LCA papers

The English teacher's objective should be to help the students better understand the text – and not appraise it – whether with the support of the LCA teachers (who often merely supply the papers) or not.

Various global comprehension exercises are suggested, MCQs, true or false, gapfilling... in order to help the students scan the text quickly for information, which requires a good working knowledge of the fine structure of a research paper. More language-targeted exercises can also be used to work on word-formation, compound words, linkwords....

Miscellany

- New elections should take place next October to designate the pair at the head of the Health SIG. Candidates should inform the current pair at least a month before the election. Only GERAS members may run and vote.
- Language labs and English-learning online websites may be discussed in October 2018.

Upcoming events :

- 13 October 2017 in Dijon : Approches diachroniques des discours et cultures spécialisés. The agenda was passed on to attending SIG members.
- **15 to 17 March 2018 in Mons (Belgium) :** annual GERAS conference whose overall theme will be « **Diachronic dimensions in specialised varieties of English: implications in communications, didactics and translation studies** ».

Our agenda may cover the following subjects:

- How much translation in English lessons : Place de la traduction en cours d'anglais : la nature de l'épreuve de LCA conduit-elle vers son retour ?
- Impact of telemedicine on EMP.
- Evolution of the doctor-patient relationship over time.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 PM. We would like to thank Martine Chauffeté for the logistical organization.