

English, Video Games & the Future

By Roger A. Harman, MBA

On the November 29, 2004 Forbes magazine printed a piece, page 39, by Paul Johnson entitled "Must the Whole World Speak English". The article present a compelling argument that English is and will continue to be the international language of choice. I would pose that video games, the bane of parents, are the foundation for the "*lingua franca*" with English as the second language of choice. of the future. We already know, as confirmed by studies, those surgeons who play video games more than an hour a day have a higher success rate than those who do not. Plus, surgeons who use simulation software on computer screens, game developed technology (Sims City), with pictographic images are even more skilled as the video gaming enhances dexterity while simulation provides mental acuity. The military's new "technological force" is effectively attracting gamers by emphasizing technology skills resulting in a cost savings for each 300 additional recruits. India is the second most populated country in the world and may become the most populated with 1.6 billion compared to China's 1.4 billion. India is a polyglot of languages with an English language heritage. It is high tech that is moving the Indian economy and sucking up western jobs. The new Jeep Commander (2006) is loaded with "gaming technology" with satellite, GPS, video and other features, both wireless and hardwired. Aramaic is now breaking out of its secluded part of the world as is Chinese, both are doing so because the web can handle pictographic characters.

There is good and evil to video games. The good is training for the future in a world where reading as the information window may be supplanted or even outpaced by pictographic activities. Look at the travel industry, the reservation system was a jumble of acronyms and text, more and more pictographic communications now replace the text on the screens so that global workers of many languages can communicate and execute transactions. Studies show that video gamers are more aggressive in real life, person-to-person situations than non-gamers. Content is important. Rifles were made for war. Rifles fed a nation of explorers and pioneers settling new lands across America. We need to recognize the good and the evil, the healthy and the unhealthy. In so doing black and white stands (change or no-change), for and against serve no one well. Soon we will have more non-indigenous English teachers than those born into the English language cultures. English is a clear, favorite language, but, I am not sure it is the future. Maybe the video games we detest will enhance the safety and efficiency and lower costs of a pilot flying a airliner from his cockpit in Houston that has a flight plan from New York to Bangladesh, for him flying will be akin to Microsoft's old but effective Flight Simulator..

The following are personal thoughts stimulated by this article and shared in hopes of stimulating my readers' critical thinking.

HOW THIS RELATES TO YOU AS A CITIZEN:

Graphic representations are non-discriminate and hide any information about gender, age, education, language, culture, color, race or other human discrimination factors that have proven to impede rather than enhance economic efficiency. Irish and Protestants will work together, Muslims and Jews too, Chinese and Japanese, Blacks and whites too will enjoy the fruits of their labor if they but educate themselves. Politicians world wide will have to increase their emphasis on good for the whole as they lose the ability to

identify special interests so as to practice democracy for the benefit of “their special interest friends” at the expense of the citizenry. Employment and income will soon become based on merit and information age skill sets, whether handicapped, in a village in r a condo in Miami.

HOW THIS RELATES TO YOUR MONEY:

Money and finance is becoming more and more complicated. Since Al Capone was incarcerated for his failing to pay taxes on his ill-gotten gains the money flow has become the key to terrorism control and the future of a cashless, credit based society. Quicken provides complicated bookkeeping comparable to a CPA of 10 to 20-years ago for the average citizen through pictographic journals, T-accounts and checks. Such an environment breaks down the doors of wage discrimination. Your money and your income are becoming more and more dependent on “gaming” each and every day you address a cash machine, an automated check-out at a retail store and your home computer with banking, bill paying, retirement account management and stock transactions (you now have a floor seat, or close to it, on the New York Stock Exchange).

HOW THIS RELATES TO YOUR ESTATE:

Estate planning even for the lower income people with housing appreciation, social security, company retirement and the Wal-Mart job requires you watch and manage your dollars, that you check out before you transact and more-and-more, that you transaction over the Internet using screens filled with icons, bots and other graphic images.

HOW THIS RELATES TO YOUR LIFE STYLE:

The younger and the older are staying home, the center for entertainment like in the pioneer days. Expense, safety concerns and a polyglot society requiring more parental control are all driving people back to the home. However, the exercise machine in the entertainment room is important as obesity among youth has been tied to TV of 5-hours a day or more. Whether TV or a computer screen, sedentary work will require more and more exercise. In the coming 20-years 77-79 million American retirees need to exercise for joint, muscle and other aspects of physical health if they are to have both quality and quantity of life. The gifts of a continued or increased sedentary life style require personal discipline, accountability and effort as to exercise, diet, meditation and sleep for a healthy, active, quality life for longer durations than experienced before. One can extrapolate this thinking to interpersonal relationships, sex life, social skills, marriage arrangements non-married arrangements and other, maybe yet-to-be-defined, interpersonal matching, relationship building and partnerships.

HOW THIS RELATES TO YOUR FUTURE:

Already advertising is shifting from the traditional ads to being imbedded in entertainment story lines and images. Many see the changes coming and are taking vacations at learning institutions whether for BBQ skills, computer skills, personal investment skills, gardening skills, home repair skills or a wide-range of many other activities. The Information Age Requires continued education. Moore’s Law has

technology changing every 18-months however data quantity increases are taking place at 700% to 1,000% per year. There is far more information available than we can ever memorize as we did the U.S. History or world battles in the last century class room. Fortunately 60,000 cameras with a very large amount of data stored, gave Scotland Yard the pictures that with technology searches were analyzed to assist in the capture of terrorist perpetrators in London. We now need to learn how to access what we need when we need it and how to apply what we learn. Graphic imagery and simulation, both from gaming technology help us to do that.

HOW THIS RELATES TO YOUR CHILDREN:

I think this relates to your children and you together. Parents can no longer have children and pass them on to others (teachers, baby sitters and day care) any more than they can let them play in traffic or talk to strangers. Parents must learn and adapt if they are to guide their children past the evil and into the future for their personal and economic benefit. In the past parents raised their children for a world that new was going to be 90% the same as they lived through and that their mistakes could become their children's' gifts by showing the right way. Son rode the tractor, went to school and learned from Dad and grew to live life mostly the way Dad did, girls went to school, thankfully in America, and then spent their life in the kitchen and laundry with Mom and grew to live their life generally the way that Mom did until technology, cities and manufacturing, attracted them to the cities. The labor intensive factories are generally gone or dying in America, no parent knows the future for their children except that it will be a future of more change at a more rapid pace. What they learned and experienced is no longer the best they can pass on to their children.

The above are the unsubstantiated opinions and observations of the author. If they stimulate your thinking then please do your own "due diligence" and "risk and return" analysis before making any decision or taking any action. It is suggested you always consider the 1% to 5% expenditure for professional help for anything where value is measurable in dollars. Decisions over 10-years in length and over 10% of your wealth need to be analyzed in the modern. Life behavior and child raising are a personal responsibility. Think, learn, and act but do so on your own internal clock, not on mine, thank you. information age by a professional, anything less is like the professional who represents themselves or serves themselves; they have a fool for a client.

Author: Roger A, Harman, MBA, is a licensed WA State Real Estate Broker, WA State Certified General Real Estate Appraiser, Licensed U.S. Customs House Broker, WA State certified real estate instructor, educator, author and consultant specializing in values, negotiations and bridging gaps between operations, buyers and sellers, mergers and acquisitions as well as strategic planning. He can be contacted by email at rhorman@ubiconnect.com. Web site <http://www.ubiconnect.com>