

Title of Session: EuroLang Forum - Slavery, Past and Present

Moderator: Bee Dieu

Guest Speaker: Laurence Bernard

Title of File: 20030518Elang

Date: May 18, 2003

Tappedin transcript 2003.05.18 14:21:44

Room: ASO

BeeD: So... let's start our Euro Language Forum ...

BeeD: Welcome to our Euro Language Forum. Tonight the topic for discussion is Slavery in the Past and in the Present.

BeeD: Would you please introduce yourselves?

BJ: Hi, I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania, US and a helpdesk volunteer for TAPPED IN

LaurenceB: I'm an EFL teacher in Martinique

JPGuest1: JP Raud Dugal from France, history and geography teacher!

AlainGuest2: My name's Alain Krizic, I teach English as a foreign language to 15-18 year-olds, in Orleans, France

LornaB: I'm an ESOL teacher in the UK.

JoAnneC: This is my first chat; I teacher K-8 French at the International School of Luxembourg.

BeeD: Barbara Dieu - EFL teacher in Sao Paulo, Brazil

KeikoSc: Hi, I am Keiko Schneider. I teach ESL in New Mexico, USA

BeeD: Welcome all!

BJ . o O (a reminder to click on the ACTIONS drop down menu and scroll down to make the text larger or to detach your text window to make it easier to read)

BeeD: What brings us here tonight is Slavery...some of us have done this subject either as History teachers or in EFL. The question is...what have you done, what are you doing and how is it going?

BeeD: I think that Laurence has a lot to show us....

JPGuest1: I did some worksheets, some work on films (Amistad..) on music ..

BeeD: Would you mind taking the floor, Laurence?

AlainGuest2: I haven't done anything on the topic this year, no time

LaurenceB: To begin with, I wanted to say that Martinique celebrates the end of Slavery on May 22nd, that is next week (Thursday)

BeeD listens attentively

LaurenceB: What I did is I started telling my students about our project as soon as it was on, I can't remember the date, but that was about end of December..

BeeD: How did they react to it?

LaurenceB: and then, some time elapsed, and I started working on slavery in class using Guy's files, which were great material: slavery sound file + Uncle Tom's Cabin

BeeD: So you started first on Slavery in America...

LaurenceB: At first, their reaction was "No, not again!" as it is part of the curriculum here. But then, I told them we would try to make things a bit differently... web pages so as to show the world, and they liked the idea...

JPGuest1: Did they make them by themselves?

BeeD: The result is fantastic....could you tell us how you organized them, how long it took and how you conducted it?

LaurenceB: Yes, I started with slavery in the US although I didn't really focus on this. I just focused on slavery

BeeD: you mean...slavery as history

BeeD: or slavery in general?

LaurenceB: Well, we worked on Guy's worksheet in the whole class, and in "module"(that is in groups) in the multimedia room, I asked them to create hot pot exercises. They had all the skills required to be able to get to work on such a software

BeeD: this is wonderful! How did they create the exercises? In group, individually...did you correct them beforehand?

LaurenceB: Yes slavery in general. I didn't want to be too specific at the beginning. I wanted them to be able to use what they had learnt in class (voc especially) and to use what they had done in their previous years

VirginiaM joined the room.

BeeD: It would be perhaps a good idea if we got the site...there are people here who do not know it...here it is...so you can follow http://perso.wanadoo.fr/absolutenglish-972/slavery%20project/students_web/home.htm

VirginiaM: This is the first time that I have join in

LaurenceB: Yes, first, I showed them Hot pot, and it didn't take long for them to understand what to do (again, as I said, their option is 'mesures physique et informatique", which means they are quite at ease with computers and softwares

BJ: that url is a hyperlink...click on it to open a new window

LaurenceB: In fact, everything started with the hotpot exercises, then the rest was added.

LaurenceB: http://perso.wanadoo.fr/absolutenglish-972/slavery%20project/students_web/exercises.htm

KeikoSc nods solemnly

LaurenceB: Of course I tried to correct as much as poss. All the work was done during our modules

BeeD: How many students do you have in this class Laurence? and how often?

LaurenceB: I copied everything on floppy disk and all the rest (editing) was done by myself from my home because we didn't have the material to do it from the school

LaurenceB: There are 32 students in the class, which makes it 16 in group for a multimedia room with 15 computers

LornaB: How long did it take the students to create the exercises?

JPGuest1: I know this problem Laurence ;-)

LaurenceB: about 4 hours altogether, very quick

LornaB: Amazing!

LaurenceB: yes, but they are very skilled students, I wouldn't have done it that way otherwise

LaurenceB: Then, So as to motivate them on the subject, I decided to organize a day out

BeeD: With the history teacher if I am not mistaken...you see...I followed your steps attentively...lol

LaurenceB: which would take place a few weeks after but keep them motivated, it took place on Feb 14, St Valentine's day. I involved the history teacher who chose the place since it is part of the History curriculum

LaurenceB: Yes Bee you've got it right!

LaurenceB: And this held them motivated... we would tackle the matter differently , that is to say from their own personal point of view

BeeD: What kind of comments and impressions did you get from them?

AlainK joined the room.

LaurenceB: And Until then, I asked them to give me whatever would be linked to the subject: any production on any aspect of the problem of slavery. And I told them that their text would be on the web...which highly motivated them

LaurenceB: Some didn't respond, some , on the other hand, waned to do as much as they could

LaurenceB: Then, I asked them during an essay in class to tell me what freedom meant to them, and I published the essays, and they loved it

BeeD: I saw you have been adding material to your site...I loved the poetry and essays...are you still working on it?

LaurenceB: http://perso.wanadoo.fr/absolutenglish-972/slavery%20project/students_web/freedom.htm

LaurenceB: Now, I told them Anything is welcome, and I would like them to add stuff about Martinique and some are still highly motivated

JPGuest1: What about sharing their experiences with students from other part of the world?

LaurenceB: on Feb 14, we visited a former Sugar Plantation. one student took all the pictures, and I did a web gallery with her photos, including the students' comments

LaurenceB: I wanted them to exchange on viva, but unfortunately, this project was not possible, you know why....

LaurenceB: Visit of the sugar plantation http://perso.wanadoo.fr/absolutenglish-972/slavery%20project/students_web/day_out.htm

BeeD: I started on Modern Slavery....and am narrowing down to Modern Slavery in Brazil...the students have done work on Past slavery with their history teacher in Portuguese...we are planning to put it online as you did...

LaurenceB: I also asked them to draw a logo for the project and they really enjoyed it

JPGuest1: no Laurence, explain on viva?

LaurenceB: well, as there was no response from the other teachers, I didn't know who they could chat with...

BeeD: Yes I understand Laurence...for me it was a matter of timing...you were way ahead when I started

LaurenceB: It may be my own fault...

AlainK: No, it isn't...

BeeD: You did a wonderful job...and I will try to give it some follow up...

BJ . o O (is everyone here familiar with VIVA?)

LaurenceB: Maybe we could have done something, still They enjoyed it, they like the idea of being on the web, and that's something

LornaB: No, I'm not.

LaurenceB: That's a first experience for me too!

VirginiaM: No I'm not either

BeeD: And we could perhaps have all this work in one site...the different points of view and work from different countries together

BJ: do you have the url handy, Bee or Laurence?

LaurenceB: By the way, we'll need to log in now for Viva

BJ: closest I have is <http://www.ardecol.ac-grenoble.fr/english/index.htm>

JPGuest1: It's our fault Laurence because you did such a great job! I announced that to my students and they wanted to do it but I was working on Europe andtoo late.. sorry again

AlainK: <http://www.ardecol.ac-grenoble.fr/viva/>

JPGuest1: They included some passwords etc etc

BeeD smiles

LaurenceB: There's so much we've got to do, I don't bear anybody any grudge. And I'm so Glad I managed to do what I did, don't worry

AlainK: I feel better, already...

LaurenceB: Did you receive a log in?

BeeD: I'd like to know what problems you faced as an EFL teacher to present the topic...i.e...if you had any

JPGuest1: You're an angel Laurence :-)

AlainK: Yes, I've got a password

LaurenceB: What are you talking about Alain. This Is what I mean, you do so much already...

LaurenceB: How did you get that password? you requested it and give it to your students?

LaurenceB: Everything but an angel, I can see you've never seen me... everyone would say I'm the opposite of an angel

BeeD: You have to request it...I was stuck with a class in the computer lab...Christine Nucci sent me a password later...

JPGuest1: They didn't send me this password even if I participated many times on Viva...

JPGuest1: I'm sad...:-)))

AlainK: I haven't used viva since I've received it, but I guess I'll have to give it to them if i want to use viva

LaurenceB: Poor JP,

AlainK: I only got it two days ago, don't worry

LornaB: Sorry but could you explain what viva is.

BeeD: Viva is an interactive village...where students can post on forums

AlainK: Phil, where art thou, old brother?

LornaB: Thanks.

LaurenceB: By the way, about forums, I put on a forum on my site, that we'll be for next year? I found the link on Annie Gwynn's great site

BeeD: Phil Benz and Christine Nucci are responsible for Viva

JoAnneC: Thanks for the Viva URL; looks like something I can use with my little ones.

yawn It's bedtime here in Luxembourg! Nite :)

BeeD: Good night Joanne...thanks for coming

LaurenceB: Phil seems to have had enough with it all... I understand him somehow

JoAnneC left the room (signed off).

VirginiaM: I am sorry to have to leave this wonderful group, but if I don't I'll be locked in my school.

VirginiaM: Thanks for letting me in today

BeeD: Ciao Virginia...I hope it was of some use to you

LaurenceB: Bye , see you soon

VirginiaM: bye!

JPGuest1: I can open all the forum I want with my new website Laurence...and the students can do the same. It could be an option for next year too?

VirginiaM left the room.

AlainK: Maybe I'll lock myself in my school tomorrow :))))

BeeD: I loved you new website JP...are you the webmaster? do you know how to use php?

JPGuest1: yes Bee...

BeeD: You have to tell me how then...

JPGuest1: I learnt, not that difficult...

LaurenceB: New website??? what is the URL?

JPGuest1: I will if you have some time

BeeD: If you learnt...then I can do it...lol

JPGuest1: yes dear master lol

LaurenceB: Show us JP

JPGuest1: <http://apella.ac-limoges.fr/lyc-perrier-tulle/europeanclass/index.php>

BeeD: Is the software expensive?

JPGuest1: It's just the beginning... I would like to share it

JPGuest1: free Bee

LaurenceB: Is this a spip site?

JPGuest1: Free not a spip one PHP Nuke last version (April 25th)

BeeD: wonderful...so you just download it..and what are the hot tips?

JPGuest1: You have to activate a mysql and that's it. The administration is very easy..

LaurenceB: How do you get mysql with wanadoo? does anybody know.?

BeeD: mysql? what is that?

LaurenceB: I wanted to try a spip site, but was stuck with mysql

AlainK: Data base or sthg

JPGuest1: yes, it allow to generate web ages without any html thing...DW Front page etc... Such a pleasure

LaurenceB: one of my colleagues in French who doesn't know anything about creating a

JPGuest1: and 10 times quicker!

BeeD: sounds difficult to me...data means maths...and maths just sends electric shocks down my spine!

LaurenceB: creating a htm page has got a site, je suis verte!

JPGuest1: All my students have their own desk, webmail, profile etc etc

LaurenceB: Yes, spip does the same

AlainK: No, no, as far as I know, you store what's important and the soft[ware] does everything

BeeD: this is the nice thing about it...it's much more interactive

JPGuest1: There is no math Bee just install it and it will autogenerate by itself..

LaurenceB: JP, you ought to publish some fiche d'atelier*

AlainK: It's just a convenient way of organizing things and having them ready for the soft[ware] to use*

JPGuest1: what so you mean Laurence?

LaurenceB: How do you do get your mysql stuff, and the rest...

JPGuest1: They can publish from the computer room! and I moderate it with notes and marks!

JPGuest1: I asked for it but I can give you. Your provider do it automatically for you if you ask

BeeD: I am going to download it tonight...do you need some special requirements?

LaurenceB: I know it's great stuff. As I told you, one of my French colleagues who doesn't understand a bit about htm has got her own site, and it gets hundreds of visits everyday

LaurenceB: www.serieslitteraires.org

JPGuest1: No Bee, just asking and they will do it!

JPGuest1: <http://phpnuke.org/>

BeeD: Well...so I think that we will end our Euro Language Forum tonight. Thank you Laurence for sharing your work with us...congratulations on the result. We will try to give it a follow up!

JPGuest1: you have tutorial etc

AlainK: Bye all, it was very nice meeting you tonight

BeeD: Thanks JP for the tip...I will try to download it and work on it during my July holidays. No time now...

BeeD: Good to see you again Alain...wonderful work on the sportsquest...I must finish mine one day...:-)

JPGuest1: Do you want to see how it works? from administration point of view Bee?

LaurenceB: Just one thing I wanted to add. My administration didn't care about our work... I told them about those links on the web... So I had to create panels to expose in the school to make the community know about the project, that's a shame.

BeeD: I would love to JP...if you are not too busy

AlainK: Thanks, it was thanks to all those who took part in the discussion

LornaB: It was a really interesting insight as to what can be done if your students have good IT skills.

JPGuest1: That's all right Bee! Marion is in Austria :-)))

LaurenceB: Marion is in Australia? what is she doing there?

BeeD: I know Laurence what you feel...the French system administrators do not give a damn about what you do or not in class...it's a pity

BeeD: Thanks for coming Lorna

JPGuest1: Austria Laurence :-)) you know beer, brezel..

LornaB: Bye all.

LaurenceB: If it goes on, I will stop everything... I wonder If Phil didn't get out of it because of this?

LornaB left the room.

BeeD: Do not stop Laurence...you are doing it for your students, yourself and for us!

JPGuest1: It's the same for me.. when you are too much alone..

JPGuest1: You re right Bee!

BeeD: And we love what you are doing!

AlainK: Yes, that's great, honestly

LaurenceB: Thank you, without you, I'd be nothing

BeeD: Nobody at school, with the exception of the people who wrote a testimonial for me know that I am among the GSN finalists...

LaurenceB: Really

AlainK: OK, I need some sleep, and WE need our summer holidays apparently

AlainK: See you soon

BeeD: Thanks for coming Alain...and hope to see you again next Sunday

AlainK: I think I'll make it, Bee

AlainK left the room (signed off).