

## The 21st Century Flux

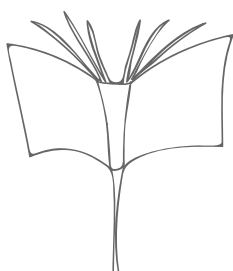
English. The new disease?

It pours out of television speakers and computer screens  
 Disregarding Babel with its very cocky fluency  
 Sticking on its labellings at every opportunity.  
 Nothing's safe; it won't stop when it begins to spread  
 it dominates the airwaves and reigns/rains on the internet  
 leaving cultures altered and confused as to what's what  
 turns the dialecting of the youths to a hotch-potch  
 rag-tag scrabble bag; everyone's affected  
 the little languages will not survive unprotected.  
 So hold your own, but get a firm hold of English  
 and every last one of us shall be a multilinguist:

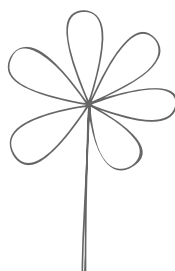
Sing it!

Shampoo juggernaut moolah hullabaloo  
 ad infinitum, pow-wow, kudos, déjà vu  
 Won ton, billabong, beef, potato, hobo, dream  
 Wha gwan with the wigwam boogie  
 Mr. Chimpanzee?  
 Welcome to the twenty-first century flux  
 for now, English is the language of choice  
 and when it dies, as every tongue eventually must  
 let it be said you added your voice.

The professor said, "Pif! What language is this?  
 Degenerate slang isn't Standard English!  
 We at the top must establish limits."  
 I said "Prof! Language is the people that live it."  
 Get loose, give it some vision and foresight  
 and juice; we can fling the dictionary door wide.  
 I live in a city where it seems like  
 every single idiom is intermingling stream-like,  
 Like streams, that know no barriers  
 No matter what dams and channels are established –  
 they are irrelevant. What matters is the message that is put across,  
 and the passion that's invested in it. Nothing's lost  
 it merely mutates, and lets the people speaking it  
 tweak it in new ways.



learn English



live English



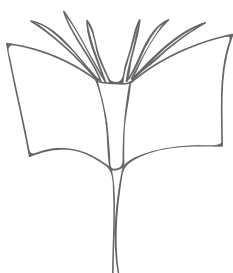
love English

Meaning that meaning is whatever you say  
Jilly, Jack, Hussain, in Iraq to the UK ...  
to all corners; through all twists and bends  
Six billion personal versions of events  
It's thrilling when you think of all the tongues on a jostle  
to express their puzzle in the best words possible.  
The more words we have, the more ways we have  
to express the world we have to co-exist in.  
And if the English language is the lingua franca of this planet,  
never say that it should be a closed system.

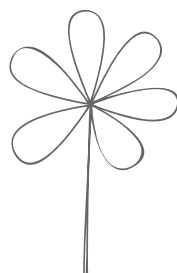
Welcome to the twenty-first century flux  
for now, English is the language of choice for the performers  
But when it dies, as every tongue eventually must  
let it be said you added your voice to the chorus.

Cos English isn't English; it's an elastic patchwork  
A fantastically insane confederation  
a very strange tapestry of foreign vernaculars  
borrowed from Norse kings, and fettered slavemen  
So if language is linked to the land which it springs from  
English is linked to the globe in entirety  
With fragments of every language you'll think of  
Roots in every type of society:  
Welsh, French, Jamaican, Indian, Italian  
Dominican, Hispanic, Germanic, Norse, African,  
Norman, Dutch, Latin, Greek, Japanese, Yiddish,  
Native American, Antipodean and Finnish...  
The list could continue till my tongue went blue;  
what I'm saying is the owner is you.  
It lives as it's spoken, and it mirrors the truth  
and there isn't any owner but you...  
Welcome to the twenty-first century flux  
for now, English is the language of choice  
but when it dies, as every tongue eventually must  
let it be said you added your voice.

Written and performed by Dizraeli for [macmillandictionary.com](http://macmillandictionary.com)



learn English



live English



love English