

Language Notes: 10

Last Update

It is great to see individual SCE countries develop their own language programs. My days of giving a little bit of guidance to each country have officially come to an end. Please just send your monthly language log to your designated country L and O person. No need to send them to me. Thanks!

Regrets

Do you ever look back and say, "If only I had done it this way!" You might have this experience in language study from time to time. I have been studying Hungarian now for 5 years. I cannot tell you how many different things I have tried to improve my skills. But this one thing I know, I have had some really good ideas from time to time, and for whatever reason I stopped using them.

If you can benefit from my mistakes, let me tell you about two of my regrets. During my second year into studying, I started reading a children's picture dictionary that all Hungarian children use in school. It is like a second grade reader that most schools in any country. I started reading it a little each day, looking up every 3rd word. Then I recorded a reading of the first section, about 30 minutes worth. One day I made the mistake of telling my language teacher about this. She said, "Why would you do this! That will never help you. You will never end up speaking at an advanced level if you just read simple level things like this book." Not long after that I quit. What a mistake! That book has so many basic Hungarian phrases, idioms and a huge vocabulary that I still have not mastered. Secondly, given that it is a picture dictionary (and I am a visual learner) I can easily recall everything in it.

My second mistake: During my second and third year of study, several times a week I wrote a journal entry and had it corrected. It was very simple at first and it got better as I went along. Whatever happened, I wrote about it. Then I would write on a 3 x 5 card a few of the new, hard to remember phrases from the journal entries and review them. I just found those old cards the other day. I have not seen them in over two years. I have no idea why I stopped. But this I know, had I continued this one method of studying Hungarian, I would be much further ahead of the game now.

Moral of the story: I am reading my old favorite picture book again and writing down my experiences. Blessing to you all! It was a pleasure to serve you. Evan