

It is somewhat after eight o'clock. Caroline, Anna and David are in a corner of the lounge discussing the event that is due to start at nine o'clock.

"Well, we need to start with where we left off in the conference room, so David can start with presenting the poem in Welsh can you show the cards for him?" says Anna.

"Yes certainly, my pleasure." says Caroline.

"Then after that, what happens?" asks David.

"How do you mean?" asks Caroline.

"Well," replies David "if someone in the audience suggests something, then Jim will probably go with that - he's probably given up on reluctance by now - but what if nobody says anything do you want it all to stop or do you have anything that you could do to keep things going."

Caroline thinks.

Anna speaks, addressing Caroline. "You said, in your Quick Talk, that the poem used glyphs from a collection of twenty-six localizable sentences - well, the poem did not use them all - could you present all twenty-six as a list or something, then present another poem?"

"I found the list of twenty-six sentences in the LocSARA webspace." says David, showing the screen of his electronic notepad to Anna. "Could you make it a short poem, maybe just five sentences and present it silently, so as to see if anybody understands it - that way you would be answering the criticism that was made. If people understand a poem from just the glyphs, that would be something." adds David.

There is a pause.

"I could," says Caroline, "show the four symbols for the seasons then use one or maybe two - and the same for the weather and for the colour. I have some sets of symbols printed on card in my room, I can go and get them. I would need to try to write a poem."

"How about if we each write a poem of just a few lines. Then we can each present, so it is not only the same person displaying the symbols then presenting a poem." adds Anna.

"Yes, I like that." says David.

"Yes fine, let's get writing." adds Caroline. "I will go to my room to get the cards."

Caroline leaves to go to her room. Anna and David start writing, independently.

It is ten to nine. Jim enters the lounge and speaks to David.

"Do you still want to do it speak the poem in Welsh?" asks Jim.

"Yes, certainly," replies David "and we have some other stuff as well."

"Other stuff?" asks Jim a little concernedly.

“Yes, some more poems,” replies David, “short ones, five lines each or thereabouts, displayed silently, so as to counter or should I say to test the claims made by that man in the audience.”

Jim replies. “When you say some more poems, what are you suggesting? I was thinking that you were just going to present the original poem in Welsh just to round off the discussion. I thought that I would go along with that, fine, but”

“But what Jim?” asks David. “When I’ve presented, we were wondering what would happen next, whether that man or anyone else will comment or maybe want to have a go in another language, if so then we could go with that, but if nobody says anything then we could present some more poems - just play it by ear as they say. I suppose it depends how many people turn up.”

Jim looks a bit warily at David. Jim thinks that if the four main talks at the Quick Talks session had taken until five o’clock then none of this would be happening. But it is, so best get on with it with a good intent.

It is now just before 9 o’clock. A few people have gathered noticing Jim and the others. The elderly man who helped Caroline get to speak at the Quick Talks session is present, as is the man who commented. Other people are at the far end of the large lounge, chatting generally.

Nine o’clock. Jim stands and then speaks. “Well everyone it is now nine o’clock and as promised we are resuming the discussion after Caroline’s Quick Talk, here in the lounge.” People have stopped chatting and are listening to Jim. A few drift towards that part of the lounge, others gently continue chatting without moving, though turned facing the discussion area as if waiting to hear what happens before deciding whether to move nearer. David and Caroline stand and prepare to deliver their performance. There is no lectern, but there is a table and David and Caroline move behind it.

A short pause while people who are moving settle, either standing or seated.

Jim continues. “So, here is David to say the poem localized into Welsh, with Caroline showing the language-independent symbols.”

David speaks the poem in Welsh. After he finishes there is a little polite applause. People turn to look at the man who commented during the afternoon session, who has in fact just sat and listened: he does not comment. There is a pause as if Jim too was waiting for him to say something.

“Well,” says Jim, “thank you David and thank you Caroline.”

A pause as if people are wondering what will happen next.

A lady speaks. "I had not heard of your organization until you named it just before you gave your talk, but afterwards I searched on the web and found your organization's webspace. I notice that you do far more than poems - indeed it seems that the poems through the language barrier are just a sort of social side to it all. Could you say something about the other work that your organization does please?"

Caroline looks at Jim, who indicates for Caroline to go ahead.

Caroline speaks.

Caroline give a short talk on the work of LocSARA.

Someone asks "Why does your organization even bother with these poems?"

"Well," answers Caroline, "when localizable sentences were first invented, talk about the weather was used as an example. Talking about the weather is part of English culture. It allows polite non-controversial conversation."

Jim speaks. "David, you said you had something else."

"Yes," replies David, "some short poems that we would like to present silently, to test whether we can convey meaning without speaking in a particular language."

"Please proceed."

Caroline gives a presentation of the twenty-six symbols used for the poems. People view the LocSARA webspace where there is a document listing the twenty-six glyphs and their meanings in English.

Caroline explains the four symbols for seasons, the seven weather symbols and the fifteen colour symbols.

David, Anna and Caroline each then silently present a short poem that he or she has written, by holding up, one by one, five cards each displaying one glyph.

David goes first, with his poem.

It is spring.

It is sunny.

The colour is green.

The colour is yellow.

It is spring.

A lady asks "Is it a daffodil in spring?"

"Actually yes, that was what I was trying to convey within the limits of these twenty-six sentences."

“Ah,” says the lady “as you had spoken in Welsh I wondered if that was the case. So I do not know whether I would have thought of a daffodil had I not known that. Yet spring, green and yellow, who knows ... maybe I would have thought of daffodils, who knows. Yet one daffodil, two daffodils, many daffodils?”

Anna is next, with the poem that she has written..

It is autumn.

It is windy.

The colour is red.

The colour is yellow.

The colour is orange.

“Is it leaves being blown around in the autumn?” asks a man.

Anna smiles. “Yes, that’s right.”

Caroline presents her poem.

It is winter.

The colour is grey.

It is winter.

It is snowing.

The colour is white.

“Yes, the grey sky then the white landscape yes, I can imagine it.” says the same lady who asked about the daffodils.

Jim then thanks the participants, there is a little polite applause and then discussion becomes general in groups of two or three or so.