

CONTRASTIVE LINGUISTICS

Turning confusion into order



ESL classes are composed of students from different countries.

It takes a tremendous effort for the teacher to explain English grammar and expressions to students who inevitably think in their native language.

The Italian student will invariably ask why “I have gone to the sea” shouldn’t be “I am gone to the sea”, because he is translating literally from his mother tongue.

The Spanish student has no quandaries about the matter at all because, in this case, the sentence structure in Spanish is identical to English.

Teachers often lose precious time correcting some students mistakes while other students are anxious to move ahead. Classmates would progress at a more even pace if they could all study the same dialogues, readings, and sketches in English while following the grammar explanations in their own language.

Unless teachers are fluent in the languages of all of their students it is impossible to understand their difficulties. For this reason we have written “English for Italians” and “Inglés para Españoles”. We cannot erase our students language imprinting from birth. But we can explain English grammar rules and sentence structures by comparing them to the students native language.

This is the technique of “Contrastive Linguistics”.

In our Courses we use literal translations to compare English and Italian (or Spanish) sentence structures. In each Unit we pinpoint and explain the students common mistakes.

The Courses are written exclusively by the authors. We followed the studies of the renowned linguist Harold E. Palmer, who created a list of about 1000 English words that are difficult for the foreign student.

We have incorporated these words in our dialogues, sketches and readings, while simultaneously introducing basic and, eventually, advanced grammar rules.

There is no “copy and paste” from the Internet in our English Courses. Throughout each Unit, we present the rules and vocabulary in various contexts thus facilitating memorization. Even the “Translation exercises” are composed of new sentences bound together by a common theme, referring back to the rules and vocabulary that we expound in our dialogues, readings and sketches.

“**English for Italians**” and “**Inglés para Españoles**” are 100% recorded in mp3 format, using 10 different voices. Text and audio files are transferrable to a wide variety of devices.

Most of our students have studied English before.

They say that "English for Italians" and "Inglés para Españoles" turn their confusion into order.

In collaboration with foreign teachers of English we would like to adapt our work for students of many other native languages.