

Letter to the editor

Dear editor,

Many thanks for the chance given to me to go through the interview, wherein Mr. Robert Bellarmine speaks not about English but 'the' English!

I started reading the interview as any student would, but completed it, as a learner. Here are my thoughts:

I remember having read that the best sentence in English is the shortest. As learners of English language, we struggle a lot to shorten a sentence. If we have a look at the laws of the country, gazette notifications, legal contracts and agreements, unsurprisingly, this struggle and the failure rate will be glaring. Mr. Robert's interview brings out that this struggle was so severe that "the English Studies policy of the British Council did not recognize Plain English experts in the UK as experts to be invited to host countries like India." However, that institutions like LIC and National Law School, Bangalore warmly embraced his workshops on Plain English must have had a refreshing effect for his later initiatives on Plain English.

In the private, Tamil Medium High School, where I studied English as one of the subjects, I was initiated to English literature. That touch gave me some courage to speak and write understandable /readable English, later in the college. I think, not only in English, in any language, inclusion of literature is of a great help for the learners to know the cultural background and to improve communicative skills. I do not know how seriously the present educational system addresses these needs. Drawing from his winning experience, Mr. Robert Bellarmine succinctly brings out his support for inclusion of literature in English Language Teaching.

Mr Bellarmine's acknowledgement of God's grace, the help and support received through association with the number of luminaries cited in the interview, remembrance of the sweat and sacrifices of his parents and his wife, and the modesty in attributing his splendid achievements to luck give a great reading pleasure.

Please convey my warm regards and sincere appreciation of this thought provoking interview, to Mr. Robert Bellarmine.

Thanks again for sharing such a memorable interview, with valuable messages to all those who read them.

M.S.Rajasekaran