

DANCING THROUGH ENGLISH FOR INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION

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Education breeds confidence. Confidence breeds hope. Hope breeds peace.
(Confucius)

I must admit that the surprising title of this book made me reflect and raised dilemmas in my mind. One of them regarded the keyword of the title: *English ... not again ... then Dancing or Intercultural Communication?* I found the answer by going step by step through this textbook as if following a dance lesson: all the words in the title are keywords. For this book is meant to be a training, a preparation for those using it not only for the correct usage of the English language, but also to clearly define various situations and contexts in which we use it.

The lessons are presented in a ‘symphonic’ structure: four parts, as in a symphony: General English, Social Dance, Professional English, Intercultural Communication. Each chapter includes objectives, grammar notions and vocabulary, adapted to English levels (A1, A2 and B1), activities, and at the end of the textbook, the key. The alert way of presenting the information, the beauty of the illustrations and the almost scientific progression make this textbook an instrument easy to use individually and collectively by those who wish not to juggle with English, but to dance ... maybe...with it.

This is perhaps a textbook which is a bit out of the ordinary, but clearly coherent and rigorous. A textbook emphasizing the importance and the specificity of intercultural communication, with dance as a pretext. Why ‘dancing’? Maybe because there is no dancing without music, there is no dancing without learning the steps, without training, practice, rehearsals. And, in most of the cases, without a partner.

It is also important to underline the modernity of the pedagogical approach, its freshness, the almost playful way in which the reader, the student is lured to

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continue to learn English language per se and its *savoir-vivre* in addition. It is as if I discovered the textbook which could be used in the school dreamt by C. Noica:

*I am dreaming of a school in which nothing is truly taught. To live quietly and decently, at the edge of a town, and the young people, a few young people of the world should come there to free themselves from the tyranny of the professorship. For everything and everybody gives lessons. All must be learned by heart and the only thing which is allowed from time to time is to ask questions. But can't you see that they have something to say, something to confess? And can't you see we don't always have what to say to them? We are only the mediators between them and their 'selves'... States of mind, this is what should be given to the others; not content, not advice, not learning. (Constantin Noica in *Philosophy Diary*, my translation)*

The conclusion? Had I learned from such a textbook, I would have spoken better English myself!