A word game to communicate in any language
Ted talk by Ajit Narayanan

FreeSpech is a new concept integrated by Ajit Narayanan. Created for kids with autism. Ajit was trying to solve the problem those kids have with language. The idea of the model, is to make kids understand the meaning of sentences before writing them. By understanding this, kids won't have to worry about grammar, an important rule for language but an abstract a complicated concept for kids and people learning a new language in general. The development of this idea, is based in taking a word -represented by an image- from the sentence, and start to make questions about it to complete the sentence, for example, if you take the subject of the sentence, you now that the word by itself doesn't have a real meaning, so if you start asking what is it doing, with which things, for whom, you will construct the sentence and make it has sense.

Another important thing of the model, is that it has been applied to English teaching. And they found, it could be as effective as learning the mother language. Actually, it can be used in every language you want, because FreeSpech is based on learning by images, and just by counting with a software that translate words into language, it is done.

What Ajit has reach with his project is so important, not just for kids with autism, he has connected thoughts with language, he had make easier the process of learning a new language and has thought about apply this model for global communication and global connection.

Opinion

I find interesting how by simple ideas, Ajit can understand the problem that people with autism has in learning and understanding words, and how with those ideas he can solve part of the problem of learning a language in general. I like the model about making questions to wonder the meaning of the sentence, after all, we are humans and we learn lots of things by being curious and making questions of the things we are interested in.

Another important thing that I like, was how he shows the process of learning by images as a good strategy. Associate images with a word is a practical way to remember and understand words. And it doesn't have to be basic images, you can make them in your mind by reading a book in the language you are learning, remembering scenes of series you were watching or by imagine the lyrics of a song you are listening to.

New words

Tease out   Struck