

April 14, 2006 (Friday)

Back To American English.

What On Earth Is President's English?

再びアメリカ英語へ。

いったい大統領英語とは何者？

You're not open-minded;

You're empty-minded.

- Mad mag. -

I am an actor. "So is everyone on the world stage," says Shakespeare. Here in America, I speak American and I feel like an American. And I tend to take risks and turn rebellions as, say, Webster, the dangerously patriotic compiler or creator, rather of American English. He took risks and paid for it. The story of ENGLISH portrays this:

Despite its now honored place in the history of American English, the first Webster's sold only 2,500 copies and he was forced to mortgage his home to bring out a second edition. The rest of his life was dogged by debt and he died in New Haven, Connecticut, in 1843 with much of his effort unrecognized and unapplauded. (p. 259)

Wow! That was me, more than thirty years ago. I took on debating as I did on American English. I worked like a demon and became a trailblazer in the field of debate education in Japanese language. In Japanese? In polite Japanese? Yes, as compared with 'vulgar' American English. It not only "billitles" (the British hated) its roots but 'murdered' them for the birth of a new nation's English. American English; It's extensive, exploitative and "explosive" by birth, while Queen's English is "implosive" - royal and bloody defensive.

Shakespeare comes back with a sweat vengeance: "Rose by any other name would smell as sweat." English by any other name, British or American.

"Come on, tell the truth, Shakespeare. Say, American sucks. It's only a dialect. Why can't Americans speak English?" American English still frightens British English, "bullshitting" polite and risk-averse English.

Here's the tale of two TIME's covers, British and American, the same issue Apr. 17, 2006.

The former: Elizabeth At 80. An inside look at the working life of Britain's Queen - and her enduring popularity.

The latter: Special Report DROPOUT NATION 30% of America's high school students will leave without graduating. Here is what one town tells us about the crisis.

Both nations are still divided by a common language.

I'm married to American English, so I can take my wife for granted. Occasionally, however, I feel flirtatious enough to carry a torch for an old flame, Queen's English, if you will. Why marriage? What's in it for me? Cohabitation works better, sort of.

The traditional Catholic Church considered marriage a necessary evil for those women too weak to remain virgins, whereas the Protestant Church regarded it as perfectible – providing the wife remained obedient! (Life in TUDOR England, p. 12) In the Tudor period, both premarital sex and adultery were illegal. Abortion was unlawful. This explains why Shakespeare was so quick to marry Anne Hathaway after she got pregnant.

A shotgun marriage. Both British and American understand the English usage. He was a genius. But genius comes at a price. He took risks in Tudor era like Americans might today. He loved music, women and money as well as risks. And that's what it takes to be a gifted playwright or to be a great communicator in Queen's English. Two of the four Tudor monarchs were female and a woman's place was in the home – dutiful wife or faithful servant. He played hard and worked hard, patronized by a queen.

President's English is a commoner's English. And basically it's a male language. It's a language of a new nation born of an idea (democracy), anger and "criminal intent" in the eyes of the Britons.

The movie, "Basic Instinct 2" thrilled me. Sharon Stone was way cool, playing the role of an American English-speaking writer, victimising (murdering) many Queen's English-speaking male victims. Filmed in London; English spoken sounded familiar to my ears. The hair-raising and sex-citing movie is a product of American culture that President's English deserves. Real, sensual, sexual (libidinous), psychological (psychiatric), but hardly traditional, philosophical or spiritual. American English speech is more measured than English – emotionally hill-less, if not flat. It's emotion-controlled, anger-managed language for masculine-minded commoners, male or female. And I love it for all its worth. My cup of tea.

