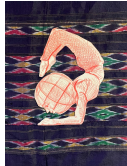




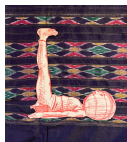
In a new language class, teach many versions of everything: northerners say, young people say, small children say...



People first. Uniformity never. This is langywangy. There never will be a universal language because there never has been “a language.” Physical and ideological force often tell us otherwise.(1)



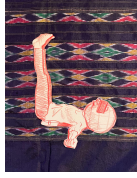
Songs, debates, slang, and riddles were langywangy for six thousand generations, or many more. People can trade features of language at different scales: sounds, words, patterns of pitch or syntax, jokes, genres, books. Sometimes we change a feature self-consciously, politically; sometimes we change a feature without even noticing.(2)



Langywangy is a principle of playfulness and equality, language is a modality of human communication.



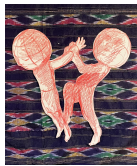
Langywangy holds that we must accept and expect miscommunication and incomprehensibility. Let uninterpreted language be a joy. It is frustrating only if we are under pressure elsewhere in life. When not being rushed, people enjoy learning new things, or doing a little puzzle game.



langywangy holds that we use multiple systems of meaning-making at all times, freely borrowing across boundaries. Dissimilarity within the self, and with the other, is constant and inevitable.(3) Variation is the happy norm, the already-existing langywangy; uniformity(4) is the violent deviation. Intelligibility comes about through effort only.(5)



here is no articulation but co-articulation.(6)



e sense that people should be able to insist on the version and pronunciation of their own names. Language features carry the reputation of actual people.(7) Language is fun but it is not a toy. We can choose to consent to authority over language, and sometimes that is the only good choice. There is a logical balance between multiplicity and access.



herefore, langywangy holds that we must support and share the labor of good interpreting and translating. All this time, no one has ever spoken “a language.”

Text by Edwin Everhart
Illuminations by David Muenzer

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