

"We don't need to study English. Translation apps can communicate for us, so there's no need to speak English." One of my friends said that to me the other day. Well, I don't believe it.

When I was in sixth grade, my father's friend from Denmark came to my house with his family. They had two daughters named Alba and Lily. When we first met, Alba was very quiet. But over time, even though English wasn't either of our native languages, we were able to connect with each other. I became close with Alba because we could both speak English. Because of that, we had a bond like no other. On the other hand, Lily couldn't speak English. Alba translated for me, but I felt a little distance between me and Lily. I felt the importance of communicating directly, using words we could both understand.

I think we often see situations like this when people are using translation apps. They can't help us understand things said in the moment. I like to think that words are alive. My experiences with Alba and Lily were a good way to realize that.

One day when the three of us were pillow fighting, Lily said something to Alba and they burst out laughing. At the time, I was laughing with them, but I didn't know what I was laughing about. Later, Alba translated what they were saying, but the moment was over and I couldn't laugh from my heart. At that moment, I wished I could have understood them. Even though Lily and I didn't understand each other, we sure had fun. But for me and Alba it was a different story. At first, we were shy, but when we started pillow fighting, there was no time to hesitate. We were laughing and throwing pillows at each other. We made lame jokes and laughed hard, and we were just enjoying the moment. Every minute and every second were priceless. While we were shoving pillows at each others' faces, I guess we were too loud, so our parents kind of scolded us. After they left, we let out a little laugh, talked about our parents being too serious, and continued having fun. Like pillow fights, conversations can't wait.

Talking with Alba was a precious experience for me. It was thrilling to be able to talk with a person from a different country. The Internet can tell us about other countries, but it's not the same as hearing directly from the locals. When I was talking with Alba, we talked about our cultures and Alba taught me a Danish clapping game. In return, I taught her "Se se se no yoi yoi yoi". We had a lot of fun just hanging out with each other. It was fun hearing Alba's thoughts. It may not have happened if I couldn't speak English.

I've been learning English since I was born. My mother taught me English and I am very grateful for that. Languages aren't just words jumbled together. As I said, words are alive and they connect people's souls, laughter, and joy. They are an important way in which we share our most precious moments.

This fall, I am going to Taiwan. My father can speak Chinese, so I am currently learning Chinese from him. I'm going to visit my father's friend's house. Their daughter can speak English, so I am very excited to meet her. I hope we can share some precious moments together through talking with each other. Language can expand your world. I can't wait to open new doors and make new friends.

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Pillow Fights Can't Wait