



English: Personal Experiences

Li Xing

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I started to learn English when I was in middle school and that age it was still during cultural revolution but after Nixon visited China in 1972 there was a wave of, for people to learn English and in those days we'd learn English through the radio programme and of course I couldn't by today's standard it wasn't really English it was what we'd call Chinese English because when, most of the texts were about Chinese lives, the lives of the Chinese and even the lives of the Chinese in back in maybe what we call in old days, in old China, and for instance when, when texts talk about a boy who worked for a landlord and he had to get up early in the morning at the crow of the cocks – so it wasn't very much of a English and of course the first sentence we learnt was long live Chairman Mao and, but right after the Cultural Revolution China resumed its college entrance examination and for me for my parents English was an easy subject.

Both of my parents were diplomats but they didn't speak fluently any foreign languages and so they wanted me to really follow in their steps so I applied for the best language, foreign language school in Beijing and I got enrolled so at that time my dream was to become a diplomat and but in 1981 China Daily came to school to conduct enrolment tests. I was selected to take the exam and I passed exam immediately after that I joined the paper, that was in July. China Daily at that time was still short of trained journalists so we were sent in a programme to study journalism in, at the University of Hawaii at Maunawili in Honolulu – It was a beautiful place and the training programme was pretty basic but well to tell the truth I became to know about journalism in American school not in any other schools so I came back and English and journalism had really paired as my career advanced.