

**Title of Session:** Euro Lang Forum - Distance Education Training for Teachers of Modern Languages

**Moderator:** Barbara Dieu

**Guest Speaker** Jean Michel Chaupart

**Title of File:** 20030608Elang

**Date:** June 8, 2003

# Tappedin transcript 2003.06.08 14:56:52

Room: ASO

BeeD: Welcome to the June 8th Euro Language Forum! Today, I have the pleasure to receive Jean Michel Chaupart, teacher trainer and audio, video and teleconference expert. Jean Michel published many books and papers on distance education, designed and led virtual courses on different platforms. From 1995 to 1998, he presided the Consorcio Interamericano Red de Educaci?n a Distancia para la regi?n andina (CREAD).

BeeD: He is about to launch another virtual course online. This time, on the use of NTIC in language learning and teaching. The target group: foreign language teachers in Latin America and the Caribbean.

BeeD: In spite of his very busy schedule, he has kindly agreed to share with us his experience in the field of distance education of pre- and in-service training for future teachers of modern languages

SusanneN: Bucaramanga, it is a cool name for a place

BeeD: But before let's start with introductions

JeanMC: near southwestern boarder of Venezuela

TeresaD: do we need intros for old friends, Bee?!

BeeD: Just for the record

JeanMC: Here I know everybody

TeresaD: all right, Bee

SusanneN: Bee like to have intros for the record

BeeD: Barbara Dieu, your host tonight, teaches English at the Lycee Pasteur, the Franco-Brazilian school in Sao Paulo, and coordinates This is Our Time Project ([www.timeproject.org](http://www.timeproject.org)) for French and Portuguese speaking countries.

SusanneN: I am Susanne in Denmark, currently working with exams for future social educators

DafneG: Dafne Gonzalez, ESP teacher. Involved in online teaching and learning since joining Webheads in Action in January 2002. Working on doctoral dissertation in Valencia, Spain.

TeresaD: I am Teresa, a veteran Portuguese efl teacher in the greater Lisbon area and a webhead in action since Jan 2002

SusanneN: and doing a lot of online research and collaboration with educators, experimenting with internet communication,

JeanMC: Jean Michel has been teaching French at the Universidad Industrial de Santander since 1971; now retired but working as a consultant in distance education and ICT in education

BeeD: Jean Michel, you are about to launch a course...could you describe the profile of the foreign language teachers your future course aims at and what main competences and skills you hope they may acquire and develop?

SusanneN: I'm looking forward to hear more about your current course work

JeanMC: OK, Barbara and dear friends. I am going to launch a course for Latin-American and Caribbean foreign languages teachers

JeanMC: the launch will be on the 26th of June during a meeting with the teachers of French, in Bogotá

AdilsonP joined the room.

BeeD welcomes Adilson

JeanMC: This course has been named: Diplomado para Profesores de Lenguas Extranjeras en el uso de las Nuevas Tecnologias en educacion (DIPLE/ntic)

JeanMC: Hi Adilson

AdilsonP: HI JEAN

BeeD: Adilson is from Rio and participated with his classes in Bernard Garcin's Electronic Schoolbag

JeanMC: The course will be in SPANISH and also in Portuguese but teachers must read English. We hope to have teachers of different languages

AdilsonP: Hi everybody..

BeeD: In Portuguese as well JM?

AdilsonP: ok.....no hay problemas

AdilsonP: como estan ustedes?

JeanMC: In this group, Dafne and Teresa know a lot about the course, and I hope to have a short presentation with Barbara for "Time is our Project"

BeeD: Well, thanks JM...but tell us more about your course!

JeanMC: Yes, because Teresa is going to be with us for a module and I want her to write in Portuguese: we must facilitate the integration of the different Latin-American countries, including of course Brasil

JeanMC: We want to motivate foreign languages teachers to begin to use ICT, in order to participate in many of the international projects as Time is our Project, ElectronicSchool bag,....

BeeD listens attentively

JeanMC: and to show that it s possible to work at a distance and that languages are useful to communicate with people all around the world

JeanMC: not only memory with the verb “to be”, or “etre /avoir”, or “ser/estar” but intercommunication meidated by technology

JeanMC: and cheap technology

DafneG agrees about both statements

BeeD: How will your course be divided JM and what pre-requisites do these teachers need to enroll?

JeanMC: email, chat, YahooMessenger, TI.....because in many schools in our countries they don't have money to get expensive platforms

BeeD nods

JeanMC: The course will be divided into 5 modules + module 0 for presentations and first steps with technology

SusanneN: I like the idea of making communication online a matter of global understanding

JeanMC: We accept graduated teachers and also foreign languages students that are in their last semester

BeeD: and who speak Spanish/or Portuguese and understand English

JeanMC: but we only want to have a group of maximum 30 persons in order to facilitate intercommunication between experts, tutors, students

SusanneN: how many teachers do you expect will enroll?

ClaireB: yes, we had a good chat about global understanding this morning when Sun was asking about teachers' attitudes toward classroom management in different parts of the world

SusanneN: oh, just an answer to my question

DafneG: What is the content of those 5 modules, JM?

SusanneN: Sun was in the south east China

JeanMC: in Colombia, many teachers know English because they teach English; they speak and write Spanish...and they must be comprehensive to do an effort to read Portuguese

ClaireB: exactly, and he was asking us how we handle various classroom management situations

ClaireB: mas nao e tao dificil entender o Portuguese se a gente sabe o Espanhol

BeeD: Well...they will take the role of students...and try to decipher what the other means in Portuguese

BeeD: E vice-versa

DafneG agrees with Claire

TeresaD: that is jm's viewpoint, Bee, and I agree. in practice, though, we will see if it works

JeanMC: Dafne, I have not in mind the exact title of each module, but M1 = discovering technology; M2 = 4 skills with techno; M3 = Teleconferencing, M4 = "Rompiendo paradigmas metodologicos", and M5 = Assessment and evaluation

ClaireB: number 3 will be the most difficult, in my opinion!

ClaireB: no, I meant number 4!

ClaireB: although 5 is also problematic

JeanMC: we hope to do a good job

JeanMC: Dafne will give us her help for M5

ClaireB: is this chat a demonstration?

BeeD: It all depends ...the design of the course itself will have to break the paradigm I guess

JeanMC: OK, no more about DIPLÉ/ntic. Let me present some ideas about what I have done with ICT

JeanMC: I want to present 3 different periods in which I have used distance education and technologies, in Colombia, as a French professor at the Universidad Industrial de Santander, and as trainer of the tutors/facilitators of the distance education programs of this university. <http://www.uis.edu.co>

AdilsonP: The paradigm is have already been broken for the .....stds.

BeeD listens attentively

JeanMC: ...and I would appreciate if you can let me present each period before you begin to post questions and comments

BeeD: ok

JeanMC: The 3 periods are : 1) The 80,s : my first experience in distance education as a designer, coordinator and tutor( 12 lines) ; 2) First years of the 90,s : Audio conferences for distance education and for the training of the future teachers of languages of our university (18 lines); 3) The second part of the 90,s and now: Practice in videoconferencing, and first steps with Internet (18 lines)

JeanMC: First period : I began to teach French at the Alliance Francaise (till 1972) and UIS in October 1971.

JeanMC: In 1980, the Colombian government , after a 5 year break , decided to teach again French in highschools. I received the mission to train (or re-train) as quick as possible the teachers who were going to teach French again, in my region.

JeanMC: Training was done by night and on Saturdays in the city. What to do for teachers outside the city? We offered a blended program with: f2f sessions at the beginning and at the end of a period of 3 months + audiotapes + printed materials.

JeanMC: In 1981, we founded a motivational contest between the students of the different highschools of the region based on French songs (audiotapes) and its transcripts. We called this contest: Festival de la Chanson Francaise, later called Chanteclair in all Colombia. This contest survived during all the 80,s, with different contests at the national level, and one time at the South American level.

JeanMC: Now, comments and questions about this first period?

DafneG: why was there a 5-year break?

JeanMC: clever decisions!

BeeD: What kind of training did you deliver then? Language, methodology...

SusanneN: was French an elective or an obligatory language in high school earlier (before 1975)

JeanMC: both language and methodology

TeresaD: was the training compulsory for the teachers, jm?

DafneG: Was French taught only at the highschool level?

JeanMC: earlier 75 it was obligatory and became obligatory after 1980. Now it's not obligatory

TeresaD: how many teachers were you training?

SusanneN: has France had any colonial interests in Columbia earlier in history?

JeanMC: Perhaps Dafne understands well the problem we had at that time: our students get a degree in Foreign languages (licenciatura) and they have major areas and minors.

French, in my university, has always been a minor

JeanMC: Yes Dafne, only in 10 and 11 year

BeeD: Were these teachers teaching at the Alliance Francaise as well?

JeanMC: more or less 150 teachers, and some of them had a very poor French

JeanMC: no, only 2 or 3. The Alliance in Bucaramanga is small. In this moment there are only 15 teachers

JeanMC: Tout va bien?

BeeD: So you had mostly teachers from state and private schools

JeanMC: yes Barbara

DafneG: how did the teachers react to this training?

JeanMC: it was difficult to work with the teachers outside the city, reason why I used audiotapes

BeeD: I believe they were happy to be back at work...after 5 years

BeeD: were they motivated?

JeanMC: they were anxious to show they were prepared for this task...and really only a few ones were well prepared

BeeD: What was expected from them then?

JeanMC: yes they were very motivated, and the results with audiotapes and written documents were good

TeresaD: the language contest was highly motivational to have lasted almost a decade! interesting!

JeanMC: This contest was very motivational for teachers, students, families and schools

JeanMC: Now the 2d period, please

DafneG: was there a follow up to this training?

JeanMC: yes, Dafne, there was a follow up BUT politics decisions in Bogotá did not accept distance education training ! Lol

JeanMC: Second Period: Audio conferences for distance education and for the training of the future teachers of languages of our university

JeanMC: We began using audio conferencing with a normal telephone, microphones , amplifier and speakers: very heavy system and the need to send a technician with the equipment. Our first attempt between my students and the students from the Universidad de Pamplona (120km from Bucaramanga; 3 hours driving because of the topography of the Andean Mountains) was very successful on the 11th of March 1993

JeanMC: 1993: as told by Polycom's sales manager in San Jose, California, I was a missionary who was trying to show in Latin America the benefits of audio conferencing in education!

JeanMC: I can certify that, at this time, I was the first Latino American to buy 2 sound stations for audio conferencing: they were light, easy to install and very practical (they continue to be practical for synchronous interactions) [http:// www.polycom.com](http://www.polycom.com)

JeanMC: Since that date, we have been offering audio conferencing for different purposes at different groups: students from primary schools, highschoools, universities, public and private companies, students in jail, farmers....etc., small or big groups, point to point and in some occasions multipoint at national and international levels, in big cities, very small villages, rural areas...

JeanMC: Our students (last semester of French and of their career) have been practicing with colleagues outside our university, students from highschoools in our city and in rural areas, and between them in two different rooms

JeanMC: New comments and questions?

BeeD: What problems did you face with this type of system?

JeanMC: problems with infrastructure in telecommunications (in rural areas), no audio bridges for multipoint audio conferencing

JeanMC: and above all the resistance of all kind of people

JeanMC: Education is good if the teacher sees at the student!

BeeD: We do not see each other...and yet we are learning now...

JeanMC: but with audio conferencing we had lectures with experts in Spain, France, USA, Mexico, Venezuela, Costa Rica, Italy...

ClaireB: yes, clearly this way the horizons are expanding

JeanMC: yes I know Barbara; I am convinced that it is possible to learn without seeing the other party

DafneG: I think JM meant to interpret the vision of the others

DafneG: who did not believe in DE

SusanneN: do you have a core group of pioneer front runners, working with this to become experts in helping others?

JeanMC: Dafne ,perhaps I do not understand well what you wrote, but I am referencing to f2f; only f2f is good!

DafneG: that is what people thought, not you

BeeD: It takes a special talent to make a course interesting just using your voice...

BeeD: and lots of training...

BeeD: sort of dj type of thing

JeanMC: in audio conferencing I have now technicians from the Federacion Colombiana de Cafeteros who are working on a weekly base with farmers on a multipoint (6 point) audio conferences, and they work with people in each farm

SusanneN: my late grandparents would have loved this; they were pioneers back in the early broadcast days, teaching French here in Denmark. That was voice and text books, and with a broad outreach to ordinary people

JeanMC: Only 12 minutes left. 3d period

JeanMC: Third period : The second part of the 90,s and now: Practice in videoconferencing, and first steps with Internet

JeanMC: After a workshop about videoconferencing at the Teletraining Institute, at Oklahoma State University (1995), and my first online course with OU (Open University, United Kingdom), in 1997, I have been training my students of French to become familiar with these technologies (and above all with faculty from the distance education programs in Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico...).

JeanMC: In 1996, I came into contact with one of the first school in the small village of Piquecos (300 inhabitants) in France that was using email and web pages:

<http://www.ac-toulouse.fr/piquecos/>

JeanMC: My students did not have computer neither an internet connection; I was one of the few persons to have access at a special PC in the library (at that time, universities had connection with BITNET, in transition to INTERNET).

JeanMC: 1999 second semester: My students attended the Seminaire de Francais with a blended methodology: 75% face to face and 25% online with Blackboard (it was free).

Results and comments :

<http://www.geocities.com/teleconferencias/REALIDADVIRTUAL.PDF> (8 pages in Spanish)

SusanneN: I have been to Piquecos! was that Pierre Valade?

JeanMC: Blackboard closed its free use in June 2002; then Claroline

(<http://www.claroline.net>) and above all Yahoo Groups that has been very useful and practical.

JeanMC: April 2003: as a retired professor, I do not continue to teach at UIS and the new Seminaire de Francais looks alike any traditional seminar, between four walls in front of a blackboard! And the question is : Did I waste my time?

JeanMC: Yes Susanne, he was Pierre Valade

JeanMC: More questions and comments?  
SusanneN: You certainly seem to have used your time extremely well  
BeeD: Change takes time and change agents must be patient and persistent  
JeanMC: I hope so Susanne  
JeanMC: yes Barbara: lot of PATIENCE and PERSISTANCE  
BeeD: I know  
TeresaD: I couldn't agree more, Bee  
JeanMC: and I know you know because you are working with the French system!  
BeeD: It can be very disappointing at times  
DafneG: what a pity that all your efforts are not being continued, JM  
JeanMC: but it is very motivating to find persons as you and all the guys who are in WIA, and TI  
BeeD: but then extremely rewarding when you meet the right people, who are willing to experiment  
JeanMC: Dafne, "C'est la vie!"  
JeanMC: They are continued outside my university, and also in Costa Rica, Mexico...  
BeeD: I think that change only occurs when there is a shared vision of all members of the teaching and learning community  
JeanMC: I am happy to know that farmers in the country are trained with audio conferencing; also prisoners in jails  
JeanMC: Yes Barbara, I agree  
SusanneN: those people might never get a better chance to have some good education  
BeeD: it's not only the teachers that must be trained...but headmasters...and everyone who is in education  
JeanMC: Education is one of the most necessary thing in countries as Colombia and also third world countries  
BeeD: I feel however that in Brazil teachers are more open to change than in France for instance  
JeanMC: Headmasters speak and speak and buy virtual platforms but they have no idea how to use them  
TeresaD: jm, I think it is necessary everywhere  
SusanneN: how many people live in Columbia?  
TeresaD: above all, we need a big change in attitudes  
JeanMC: 42 millions  
JeanMC: Yes Teresa, we must intend to change paradigms  
DafneG: I feel the same about Venezuela and Spain, people in Venezuela are more open to changes than they are in Spain  
JeanMC: and it is a country with LOTS of problems, you know!...  
SusanneN: yes, we have heard about that  
JeanMC: Here it is the same, but sometimes we fight against old paradigms  
BeeD: It is a vicious circle  
JeanMC: es un circulo vicioso; c'est un cercle vicieux!  
JeanMC: Any more question?  
SusanneN: In Denmark, they have just passed a new high school law, that will make it harder for French in the future, as students can only choose it if they had it as an elective in middle school (and very few middle schools offer French )

BeeD: Usually the professors who tutor the teachers to- be have not changed their way of teaching...so...

BeeD: the new ones go on reproducing the same system

JeanMC: That is a big problem in Colombia; they will teach as they were taught

BeeD: How often do foreign language teachers get professional development at school throughout their teaching lives?

BeeD: How many take the initiative to do so on their own if they are not obliged?

JeanMC: in Colombia, they takes courses but only for credits = money!

DafneG: In VenTESOL we used to travel all over the country giving workshops to teachers

BeeD: How many do not have the means to do it?

BeeD: and are not given opportunities?

JeanMC: That is one of the goals of the course we are going to launch

SusanneN: do they have to pay for courses, or would their school pay - or would that be a free public good?

TeresaD: in Portugal we need a certain number of credits to change phase in our career

TeresaD: but since I am a veteran and have reached the top, I don't have to take courses any more. isn't that ridiculous?

JeanMC: the same here but one thing is what is written and another one what the reality is

DafneG: our VenTESOL workshops were free

TeresaD: and I still have at least another 9-10 years before I can retire

JeanMC: Here they have to pay a portion of the fee

BeeD: They have given up on you...lol

SusanneN: your teaching could eventually be very outdated, Tere

TeresaD: must have. but I haven't given up, Bee!

TeresaD: I'm grateful I joined webheads

BeeD: I know

SusanneN: - but I know how many innovative ideas you have

JeanMC: Teresa, but you are IN; and I suppose that more younger teachers in Portugal do not accept ICT

TeresaD: true, jm. and it amazes me

JeanMC: in Colombia, the French Embassy gives training for free

BeeD: One of our young teachers at school told me he first had to come to grips with his own teaching and could not envisage teaching in a different situation without experience...lol

JeanMC: an f now I am trying to convince teachers from the Alliance Francaise to begin to use technology

SusanneN: I took courses at Alliance Francaise de Copenhague when I was in High school

TeresaD: our training is free. it is run by the ministry of education and many of the trainers are fellow teachers

JeanMC: it is not easy at all

SusanneN: they were mostly based on listening to song tapes and discussing the texts, just like you told us you were doing, JM



JeanMC: I work with a group of 22 persons (teachers and tutors), and also I have 3 groups of students with Hotmail groups

BeeD: What are the main complaints and resistance at the Alliance, JM?

TeresaD: we have training centers in secondary schools

JeanMC: they have no time, no computer, no connection, no money, no..no..no..no

SusanneN: Oh, poor fellows

JeanMC: money

SusanneN: rien du tout, rien!

JeanMC: that is what they told us

JeanMC: rien de rien, sinon beaucoup de paresse

BeeD: just like some of my students at school...:-)

JeanMC: we must have a f2f meeting in a few days

JeanMC: Lol, Barbara, I understand

SusanneN: that will be interesting to hear if there is any opening soon

BeeD: I could not do my homework because my connection was down...

JeanMC: what do you mean with "opening"?

SusanneN: I meant if there will be a more open attitude after a f2f meeting

JeanMC: I do not know but the director of the Alliance is paying me for this training and the results are not good

JeanMC: il va leur tirer les oreilles!

JeanMC: para Teresa, va a llamarles la atencion!

JeanMC: llamarles

BeeD: Jean Michel, this has been a most interesting discussion! It's past our time but please feel free to stay on.

JeanMC: We all are pioneers

TeresaD: thanks, jm. I enjoyed knowing about your 'percurso'

JeanMC: Thanks a lot and un gran ABRAZO to each of you, Bee, BJ, Dafne, Teresa, Susanne and Claire for you time and your support

DafneG: thanks for sharing your experiences with us JM

JeanMC: Thanks for Barbara's coordination, thanks to TI for this space

BeeD: Thank you all for being with us tonight

JeanMC: MERCI BEAUCOUP

TeresaD: thank 'you', jm

TeresaD: bye, everyone

DafneG stands up and claps

TeresaD: have a nice week

JeanMC: Saludacoes

BeeD: Ciao

ClaireB: applause applause!

TeresaD: Teresa stands up and claps, too

SusanneN: Merci pour une session tres interessante

JeanMC: Good night in Europe; and good afternoon in America. Thanks BJ for your help and support

JeanMC: Me pongo colorado, gracias