**Dear Colleague**  08/02/2018

I had an unusual request and sent much the same message to you several weeks ago. Some of you have not responded, but most have. Many thanks; this will be an interesting and amusing project. If those who did not respond to my previous message, *do*let me know one way or the other whether you wish to be involved. If not, please ignore this letter, or pass it on with the forms to a colleague who might be interested. In all, I need about 12-14 responders.

As I intimated last time, I go round the world teaching a course on Scientific Writing and Publishing. Research papers published in International journals do not recommended that authors use **clichés** because non-native English speakers may not understand them. An author on a book on clichés wants them out, not to be used at all (Rentoul, J. *The Banned List*. Elliott and Thompson, 2011).

I asked what people call traffic calmers, humps across roads. We use several expressions in the UK, the commonest being “sleeping policeman”. I was surprised that in France and Hungary the same expression in literal translation is used. In the USA, “speed bumps” is common, but “sleeping policemen” is not generally understood.

In English, there are probably well over 3,000 clichés (indeed, adding catch phrases and some slang, that number can exceed 20,000!). A considerable proportion of the 3,000 are in common usage, especially when British people are conversing together, but they occur frequently in journalism and on the media, etc. Having explored clichés in other countries,, however, many use quite different expressions. For example:

In UK: It’s raining cats and dogs; in France: It’s pissing like a cow; in Poland: The dog won’t go out.

I have now collected many clichés – mostly those that are not self-evident. Self-evident ones would include, e.g. “in the final analysis…” or “when all is said and done…” Regarding those which are *not* self-evident, e.g. “to pop one’s clogs…” or “to kick it into the long grass,” I want to know what might be the equivalent in other countries and cultures.

My request: I will send each of you 12 clichés used in the UK, with their meaning in English. Please send me the expression you would use (in English translation, as in the 3 examples above) that has much the same meaning. The small book of about 100 pages will “compare” these corresponding clichés from different cultures and countries.

With my sincere thanks to those who will help. With a commentary, the book should be quite amusing. Acknowledgements will be made to all of you.

Denys (Wheatley)

[Please reply to [3232dnwd@gmail.com](mailto:3232dnwd@gmail.com). There is no deadline at present, but I would like to get quick replies so that I can set a time-scale to the project.]