**Dear Colleague**  08/02/2018

I have an unusual request – I would greatly appreciate your help in a new venture. Briefly, 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. In 3 countries 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, a high proportion being 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, 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. “like death warmed up…” or “to kick it into the long grass,” I am want to know what might be the equivalent in other countries and cultures.

My request: If I send each of you 12 clichés used in the UK, with their meaning in English, would you please send me the expression you would use (in English translation, as in the 3 examples above). I am writing a book of about 100 pages long in which I 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) if you are willing to cooperate.