

To the Editor
[The Times]
Sent: Sat 02/02/2013 22:17

Dear Sir,

„The Times” (February 2 2013) reminds its readers of the abominable crimes committed against their Jewish neighbours by some Poles under the German occupation during the Second World War. But the author, Mr. Giles Coren, concedes he is writing in response to the news the Polish has become the second foreign language spoken in England. Hence his skillfully distorted English, as if he is a Pole unable to learn English. He seems to be accusing today's immigrants both of crimes they are not responsible for and of not being able to master the English language. Now, imagine a journalist in a Warsaw paper holding some Brits presently in Poland responsible for the colonial crimes in Asia and Africa in the 19th and 20th centuries, and laughing at them for their broken Polish. And imagine that these Brits (e.g., diplomats and journalists) belong to the rare kind of native English speakers who have learned any foreign language at all. In my capacity as an historian I have been reading copies of “The Times” dating to the Great Depression of 1929/1930s. Mr Coren's piece shows there have been some marked changes in your newspaper.

Sincerely,

Professor Ryszard Stemplowski, Warsaw, Poland
Polish Ambassador to the Court of St. James's, 1994-1999