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English: A Language of Change

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Life is a story, and everyone has their own story to tell. But how do we convey our story to other people for them to understand? Of course, language is the most effective way that human beings can use to communicate with others, especially since English is the most extensively spoken language in the world. For me, English is not only a language but also a new world to live in.

Until I could express myself in fluent English, my life was a mess, such as when I didn't know how to say things properly, when a lack of confidence led to fear of the crown, when I looked down on myself, etc. Moreover, whenever I was asked to answer the question, I often hesitated to answer directly; instead, I made it more complicated, like beating around the bush. I thought that it was so easy and I asked myself why they kept asking me those questions. Yet, when I answered it was not understandable. As a result, I created a problem

for myself, and at the same time, others could not understand who I was. This mentality has affected my life a lot. It was so insufferable.

However, when I gradually realized this problematic mentality, especially with the help of my English teachers, I intentionally began to change. I learned how to handle myself by practicing the four English skills, such as listening, reading, speaking, and writing. In addition, my goal is to master such skills. Furthermore, as Socrates, who was a famous philosopher, said, "To know is to know that you know nothing," this quotation teaches me many useful lessons. Openness is one of the values that I have learned. For instance, when I think I know nothing I feel that I should study more and have to learn from others whatever they can teach me either good or bad. That is why, this value helps me to receive new things and easily accept others.

Above all, it is relevant to combine those English skills and the value of openness together and apply them to my life, and maybe to yours too. For me, as a religious brother who lives in an international community (Scalabrinian, who serve migrants, refugees, and seafarers) that includes many nationalities, particularly English, which is a common language for everyone, I can outdo myself day by day through this new mentality.