

Dr Cooper: [inaudible 00:00:00] This is my next Dr. Cooper's audio diary. I thought of this last night because I know most of you who are listening to this have faith in me, trust in me, believe in me and I appreciate that. But I don't know if you understand how important it is for me to be the best. This podcast here is about my feelings about myself versus other schools and versus other teachers and my ambition because I have a lot of ambition and I think it's interesting.

Dr Cooper: I think it's interesting how angry I get about other schools, how competitive I am with other teachers and I want to make this clear. I usually criticize the other schools and the other teachers, but I realize they have sometimes they have something positive about them. I don't think that the ones I know are close to as good as I am, but that's for a specific kind of teacher and I want to be the ... I have to admit, if somebody came along who is great, if there is somebody out there who is great, you can bet I want to be better.

Dr Cooper: So, I like to say that my ambition is mostly to give people the best, better than what they've been getting at other schools and with other teachers and it's true. But if somebody came along that was really good, I wouldn't be on his side. I have to admit, I want to be the best and I would just want to be better than he is, but always, always doing things in my own way. That's the way I always have done things. I have never wanted credit for being good if I don't deserve it or for people misunderstanding why I'm good. For example, if they think, "Oh, he's good because he's a native speaker." Fuck you. Fuck you. Sorry, you guys. I don't care. Most native speakers are idiots.

Dr Cooper: I'm not an idiot, yeah, but I am egocentric. I am. I admit it. I have a big ego so, you know. Lots of people have ambition. Some people have ambition to be beautiful and I understand it, to an extent, but it's different, right? Either you're born beautiful or you aren't. And if you're not born beautiful, you can try to make yourself as good-looking as you can. If people wanted to get plastic surgery, if people want to put on makeup or work out, I respect that. But in a way, being beautiful is a bit about luck, a lot about luck.

Dr Cooper: Some people want to be cool. This I respect less because to me you're cool if you are yourself. If you're yourself and you're fun and you're yourself and you're creative and different and unique, you're cool. But most people, when they try to be cool, don't try to be cool because of who they are. But they try to be what other people think will be cool, so they try to talk like other people or act like other people or look like other people. You see this with both women and men. I'm used to seeing this with men in Brazil, and America, in the United States, in Korea, everybody trying to do the cool thing. But it's not cool because everybody is doing it and it's arbitrary. The only thing cool is to be yourself. Okay, but some people, this is their ambition, that everybody think they're cool and usually, the way they make everybody think they're cool is they act like everybody else. Not me. Not me.

Dr Cooper: Next, some people have ambition. Usually, they want people to respect them and they have the ambition because they want to make money. Now, look. Wanting to make money is two different things. There are people who want to make money because they want to have a good life and I think this is a bit off of the subject today. I want to make

money because I want to have a good life. But there are people who want to make money and that's their dream, that's their ambition, to make money. Why? The more money they make, they think this makes them better, more superior and maybe it does in some ways.

Dr Cooper: That's not my ambition. My ambition isn't to make money so people will like me because that's ... They don't really like me. They like my money. My ambition isn't to make money so that I will feel superior because you're not superior just because you have more money. You're not. You're only superior because you can buy more things. You're not superior. I really believe in the bible when it says it's harder for a rich man to go to heaven, than it is for a camel to go through the eye of a needle. Anyway, but I don't want to talk about money today, so I don't want to get off this subject, [foreign language 00:06:31], get off the subject. No, I'm going to stick to the subject, which is my ambition.

Dr Cooper: Some people have an ambition because they want to be good at their jobs. My ambition has always been to be great and to be recognized for what I am great in. You understand that? I'll say it again. I'll say it again. Some people want to be good at their jobs or something else, something they do, simply because they want to be great at it. It's important to them to do what they do as well as they can.

Dr Cooper: For me, I'm a little bit crazy about it because I want to do what I can better than anybody else. I know this isn't right, this isn't good, but it is who I am. It is, I admit it. So, probably most of you who are listening to this who know me know I have a lot of ambition. My ambition is to do what I do, what God gave me as gifts, as talents, what I was born with, as well as I can and to be recognized for it.

Dr Cooper: Now, let me explain something about this. I think this comes from when I was a kid because when I was a kid I was a twin. I had a twin brother and my twin brother was recognized by my parents and by my family as being great. He was a genius with his mind. He probably was, in math, especially. He was tall and he was better-looking than I was at the time. People made a fuss out of him. They made a fuss out of him.

Dr Cooper: For me, they didn't really pay much attention to me except think I was a cute blond kid with blue eyes. But as I grew up, they didn't seem to respect me, or at least I always felt that way. I think that's what got me to be the way I am now. It got me to be sensitive, sensitive to when people don't respect me, when people underestimate me, [foreign language 00:09:04]. I think this really had a big effect on me and I always feel angry when people underestimate me.

Dr Cooper: So, when I'm doing this English by Dr. Cooper, I think people might misunderstand and think that I want to make money. In fact, some of my friends, some of my best friends, especially in Goiania, [Vicente 00:09:33], a little bit, [Vicente 00:09:35] and [Santiago 00:09:37], I think they think that my goal is to make a lot of money. It's not. I don't care if people who taught English make more money than me, or if some idiot on YouTube makes more money than me. But I care that people think they're better than me. I don't want anybody to think that they're better than me.

Dr Cooper: Now, when I think about the other teachers, what bothers me and what drives me from the beginning, from the very beginning, has been that they're fake. Before the online teachers, it was the schools and now it's online teachers. It was that they were fake and that some people respected them for being fake.

Dr Cooper: Now, the problem with the schools, of course, was they would teach people. People would think that they could go to the schools and learn English and I saw in front of my eyes that the schools didn't work. They never worked. The most interesting thing to me was how much students paid, how many students trusted teachers and how little the teachers know.

Dr Cooper: Now, I have to admit, some of the teachers really wanted to help the students, which I admire. But they didn't understand English and they didn't understand how to learn a language and they didn't really understand Portuguese. What they understood was what they were taught and what they read and what they went to school for. And it's the same today. People learn what different researchers say is the way people learn language and they don't question it. They accept it.

Dr Cooper: Well, I've been through it before. I've learned languages. I've studied at the best universities, the hardest universities. I've done research and I've taught and I know that the researchers out there don't know what they're talking about. Most of them have never even learned and mastered a second language or a third language. Most of them don't understand, do research on bad students. For example, they go into a school. Imagine judging how to be a good teacher by judging how to make the best students in [foreign language 00:12:17] in English. It's nothing because all the students suck so to learn how to make the best students in [foreign language 00:12:24] better is not learning how to teach people how to learn a language. It's learning how to teach students not to be complete failures.

Dr Cooper: So, you see all these teachers in schools who have learned how to teach students not to be complete failures, to teach students to maybe get by, survive [foreign language 00:12:53] and the student and the teachers know how to keep students interested in the class and not leave. This isn't teaching to me and I don't like it. I don't like it. I call it fake teaching, fake schools. When you say that you're going to teach and you don't, it bothers me and I hate the fake, the fakeness and I want to get them back. I want to show them, "You see, you guys, you don't do it right and I do it right."

Dr Cooper: Now, the online teachers are even more important to me now. I've listened now to, I think, four of the most famous English teachers online, okay? Two of them are American, two of them are Brazilian. You know what all of them have in common? Fake accents. The two Brazilians have fake American accents. They speak and it's not natural. They're trying very hard to give an image. What's their image they're giving? An image of knowing English, but they don't know English. They don't know English. If you asked them to automatically teach you the different vocabulary words and how they relate to Portuguese, they won't do it. They won't be able to. They're not good enough. But what they know is how to sound like they know English, so they make up fake American accent, which I don't like, but apparently the public likes it.

Dr Cooper: The worst ones are the Americans or the Canadians because they make fake Portuguese accents and I hate that. Because they are people who only listen to somebody's accent to judge if they know the language and these people have better, more authentic accents than me. At least they have more authentic accents than me when I'm not living in Brazil. If I was living in Brazil, it would be different. But not living in Brazil, they have more authentic, but not authentic, fake, but more similar, more Brazilian accents than me. But if you listen to them, they don't know Portuguese. They don't know. They don't know Portuguese.

Dr Cooper: Also, they don't know what they're teaching. Instead of figuring things out for themselves and really understanding things and creating their own content based on what they know is important, sometimes they do this and teaching very fairly obvious things that all the rest of them also teach. Or sometimes they just teach what they get from a book about English in general. Not English for Brazilians. They're supposed to know Portuguese, they're supposed to know English, they're supposed to know Brazil, they're supposed to know America or England or both and so they're supposed to be able to say what that Brazilian needs as a Brazilian learner. Sometimes they do it, but often they just go online and they take what's online and they copy it.

Dr Cooper: Besides that, there are videos. In their videos, they do everything they can to seem fun, but they're not fun because they don't have ... and here I go being egocentric. They don't have the Cooper personality. They don't have an original personality. They can't be funny. They don't have interesting ideas. They don't. One thing they especially don't know is how to learn a language. They haven't studied it. They haven't thought about it all their lives, so they are fakes. They are frauds to one extent or the other and it bothers me that they have more followers than I do.

Dr Cooper: Now, here is a question. What would I want these people online, some of whom have a million followers on YouTube, what would I want them to do? I listen to their videos. I think their videos are more harmful than helpful because I think they waste students' time on things they're not going to learn, on things usually that they don't explain very well, or things that are trivial. What do I want them to do? Do I want them to give up? Do I want everybody to retire and everybody to listen to just me? Or do I want these teachers to learn from me?

Dr Cooper: I don't. I don't know. Because if they learned from me and they became better than me, I wouldn't like it. I want to stay the best and I want to prove ... All I know is whether they give up or they learn from me, I want to prove to people that I am the best, that I know. And not only that. I have to admit, I want to become better. I want to become better and better. I want to learn how to teach advanced students better than I know now. I want to know more Portuguese than I know. I want to know the relationship of everything in Portuguese to English and I want to teach everything as well as I can.

Dr Cooper: Now, why did I start talking about this topic in the first place? Because I have been doing this a long time and, at this point, almost every new student I have, I'd say 80%, really enjoys my classes, wants to stay and calls me the best, something I really like. I like to be called the best. It's amazing because the way I teach doesn't seem organized, even

though it is and is different than everybody else. When you're different than everybody else, you are more vulnerable.

Dr Cooper: But there are students I've had who are bad students and some of them blame me. They say I'm not organized. They say they can't follow me. Okay. They say they want some ... Basically, they usually say they want somebody who follows [foreign language 00:18:52]. I do, but I think you have to trust me to understand that. And, I get angry. I get disappointed when the students don't learn from me or don't trust me and try to follow a different method. What I've need to do is I need to say, "Fuck them." Because if they are bad students they're going to stay bad students and most of it comes from them. For me, it's always been a question of if a student is good and trusts me, they're going to learn quickly. Partly, because they are good and they owe that to themselves and, partly, because I tell them the right things to study and I teach them in the right way and I care. And I care.

Dr Cooper: But it's hard for me because all my life I've really, and not just in ... in everything I do, I've done things in my own way and because of that, people don't tend to respect it at first. They respect what they know and if they see something different, a lot of people don't respect it. They don't look. They don't concentrate enough. They don't give it enough of a chance. "Oh, yeah, he is totally different. But it's not just that he's a clown. He knows. He's smart." This is what I love about the students now because more and more students appreciate me and I love that.

Dr Cooper: Now, my classes are mostly for people who like to think. But the great thing is when you have students who come to you and they're not aware that they have to start thinking deeply, but they trust you and then they start thinking about the language, they start learning your strategies that nobody else has taught them. That's a great thing, okay?

Dr Cooper: You know, it's a great thing to be recognized for being sincere and I hope ... What I want is people to recognize that I have the knowledge, that my ideas aren't superficial. I don't say silly things that don't mean much. Like, "Oh, you have to think in Portuguese." Bullshit. Or, "You can't translate." Bullshit. "You have to talk." Bullshit. "You have to watch movies." Bullshit. You have to know how to do these things right. You have to know the basics of why they don't work and why they do. That's all covered in my methodology and it's something that, since nobody else has these ideas that I have, people have to trust me.

Dr Cooper: That's why I appreciate so much you, guys, who have trusted me, who have trusted my ideas about improving your listening, listening for every word, not listening for overall meaning, improving your contact and your frequency, contact with important structures, listening to the correction, going over and over down the correction. These people who have trusted my ideas and my methodology, I really, really appreciate because, to me, it's everything. I'm so used to being different and having people disrespect me for being different. It's fun now to being different and having people respect me for being different.

Dr Cooper: Okay, you guys. Thank you. Now, you know a little more about me.