

Writeshops, oh writeshops!

Paul Mundy, November 2010

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The cases in the chapters in the sections in the book,
Need a resource-person inspection and an editorial look,
To simplify the language and add a journalistic hook,
Or they will be full of jargon and lots of gobbledegook.

If your gender has no value and your value has no chain,
The women are still suffering and the men have all to gain,
The profits are non-existent and the project is in vain,
Then open up your manuscript and write it all again.

All the girls – sorry, “female participants” – are working
The men are in the bar
They’re fomenting a rebellion,
They think we’ve gone too far.

The model is too complicated, the experience can’t be replicated,
The data are obfuscated, the theory is constipated,
The conclusions are denigrated, the critics have been vindicated.
The implications were unanticipated, and all interest has dissipated.

The tension is palpable, the discussions interminable,
The evidence is unreliable, the conclusions are deniable,
The structure is quite risible, the artwork is invisible,
The argument improbable, the word flow is unstoppable,
The spelling is impossible, the text incomprehensible,
The battle is unwinnable – this manuscript is binnable.

Long words and jargon are used as a crutch,
They definitely lack that finishing touch!
The text is in Spanish, Indonesian and Dutch,
Would writing in English be asking too much?

The facilitators are nervous and the editors are grey,
The authors are rebelling and the artists are away,
The internet is down now – and has been glacial all day,
The photocopier is smoking and the staff don’t want to stay.

Anna’s off her chocolate, Isaac’s turned to beers!
Paul is in the yoga class – it seems he’s aged by years,
Wycliffe came in happy, now he’s close to tears,
Melsa tells her Facebook it’s worse than her worst fears.

Yes, writeshops are a hassle, and your sleep is close to none,
When you think you've finished, you've only just begun,
You get home quite exhausted – but when the book is done,
You will look back on it – and remember it was fun.

So thanks for all the hard work when the time was tough,
Thanks for all the late hours, hacking through your draft,
Thanks for all your patience, even when you'd had enough,
Thanks for all the friendship, thanks for all the laughs.