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Teacher who can really speak well of himself

Multi-lingual tour guide inspired him many years ago

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YEARS ago, K.A.S. Annadurai went on a school trip to Penang and met a tour guide who could speak 10 languages.

That trip became a turning point in his life and inspired him to take up languages.

"I was in Standard Six and was impressed," he said.

Today Annadurai, a teacher, can speak six languages and the Hokkien dialect.

Besides Malay, English and Tamil, Annadurai is also able to speak, read and write German and Japanese.

Annadurai, who is currently pursuing a linguistics degree in German at Universiti Malaya, is also able to converse in Arabic.

He will be posted to one of the 13 residential government schools that offer German as an

elective subject once he completes the degree in 2009.

According to Annadurai, who is from Kamunting, he learnt to read and write Tamil on his own and had attended an intensive course in Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) for Japanese.

He picked up German after he was sent to Germany in 2006 by the Education Ministry to learn the language there for a year before continuing to pursue it in UM.

"Thirteen school teachers were selected to undergo the programme to become German language teachers," said Annadurai who taught in SK Gunung Semanggol in Taiping, Perak, for 11 years before leaving for Germany.

He added that he had pursued the language at the Goethe Institute centres in Dresden, Munich and Goettingen while in Germany.

"I lived with some German families and it gave me an opportunity to converse wholly in German during my stay there," said Annadurai who had to leave his wife K. Saraswathy and newborn son Soorya behind in Malaysia when he left for Germany.

He said of all the languages he knew, he found Malay to be the easiest and German the most difficult.

"German is very technical and has a gender for everything and if you get even one word wrong, the entire sentence would be incoherent," added Annadurai.

However, the good thing about learning German, said Annadurai, was that it trained him to think logically due to its phonetic system.

He said he was looking forward to finishing his studies and going back to teaching next year.



»I was in Standard Six and was impressed«

K.A.S. ANNADURAI