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June 19, 2018

Mihalis Eleftheriou
Founder
Language Transfer
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VIA EMAIL

Patent Infringement

Dear Mr. Eleftheriou:

We represent Hodder & Stoughton Limited (“H&S”), the exclusive licensee of the worldwide publishing rights in the Michel Thomas works and methodology under license from the copyright owners, the heirs of Michel Thomas, who own U.S. Patent No. 6,565,358, for a language teaching system. Our client is concerned that audio courses provided by Language Transfer infringe this United States patent.

H&S have published the works of Michel Thomas for 18 years and have developed new courses using the methodology with new writers. H&S have a responsibility to protect the works and methodology of Michel Thomas on behalf of both the heirs of Michel Thomas and the new writers who have produced courses using the methodology.

We enclose a copy of U.S. Patent No. 6,565,358 (“the MT patent”) and provide the following overview.

The MT patent is infringed by an audio course characterized by a series of expression segments designed to teach a student a target language that is different from the student’s home language. The first segment contains a first expression in the home language of the target student, such as English. There is a pause in the audio constituting a second segment to provide the student with time to stop the audio and translate the first expression to another language, such as Spanish. The second segment is followed by a third segment containing a translation of the first expression by a student other than the target student, and, therefore, it may contain errors. A fourth expression contains a translation of the first expression by a teacher skilled in the target language. Accordingly, in this teaching technique, there is a time span in the second segment where the student can translate the given expression and that time span is controlled by the student.

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The MT patent is infringed by any recorded medium in which a student can pause the recording, be it on television systems, tapes, CDs or personal computing systems, having memory for storing a recorded expression that can be played on screen or through an audio player or mobile device. For example, the patent covers monitors that can store and play recorded segments to an individual or classroom audience (i.e. through a website). Therefore, we believe use of the MT patented technique through the Language Transfer website which is for sale in for sale and hosted in the United States infringes this patent.

Our clients are also concerned that the proposed publication of “The Thinking Method Course Writing Guide” will cause others to unwittingly infringe the MT patent.

We therefore require that you (i) cease the availability of all infringing audio courses in the United States and (ii) cease the creation and publication of “The Thinking Method Course Writing Guide” in any format.

We believe it would benefit both the licensee and your company to resolve this matter in a prompt and amicable way and avoid unnecessary costs. We look forward to hearing your response within two weeks of the date of this letter. Please contact me in the meantime if you need further background information.

Very truly yours,



Christopher P. Foley

CPF/mmc
Enclosure