

Recalling the lost courage of writing by อนุญัตน์ ปั้งเส็ง

In Daniel Coyle's book, *The Talent Code*, Coyle's main point is that cultivated talent, developed through the use of deeper practice, is superior to innate talent. This point is corroborated in several places, including the story involving the Link Trainers. Coyle effectively shows the false belief that pilots who didn't throw up on their first flight were thought to be natural pilots. He explains how "the bedrock belief that good pilots are born, not made" ended the lives of many who were deemed natural pilots, as they could not fly without seeing (21). Link's trainer offered the would-be pilots a chance to make mistakes, struggle, and learn from their errors without getting killed in the process, as well as teaching them to rely on gears, not sight (24). Coyle also presents Simon Clifford's story, showing that Brazil's way of churning out star soccer players is attributed to a technique, rather than anything else. Futsal is a game not unlike soccer, yet uses a far heavier ball, and a smaller room, so players must become adept at passing the ball and playing with it. Clifford realized that all children grew up playing futsal, and futsal was an important link towards their extraordinary abilities. Clifford then brought futsal back to England and introduced it to a school. People were skeptical, but playing futsal led the school on to winning many championships (25-29). Daniel Coyle mentions "the sweet spot" several times in his writing. This elusive spot is the "gap between what you know, and what you're trying to do" as mentioned by Bjork, where "learning takes off", and creates talent (19). The chapter is well written, but there are a few limitations to his argument that talent isn't born, it is grown. For one, someone must have at least some modicum of natural talent to be a star. If all Brazilians play futsal, why aren't more people playing on professional teams? The true professionals must have some natural ability in them. Another example is in Jennie's story. She's a singer, who's recording a song (13). Although Jennie utilizes deep practice, she had to have had an aptitude for singing before she began deep practice. There are many people whose singing sounds less than optimal, and I doubt deeper practice could help them. Although there are limitations, there are also advantages. One could learn quicker, remember more, and get better grades through deep practice, creating a talent for studying that could propel one through life. Deep practice is an intriguing concept and Coyle expresses much information about it.

