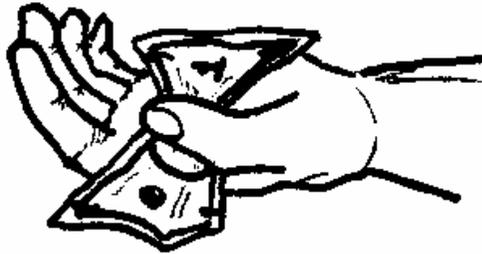


ON BEING UNEMPLOYED Nelliejean Smith (Student)



We “I love you” does not always have the same meaning, and this, too should tell us something about the elusive nature of love. The first time it is always a surprise, an invasion, an aggressive act, but once said. “I love you” can only be repeated. It is unthinkable that it should not be said again, and again, and again. When one has not said it for a while, this may itself precipitate a crisis. (“Now why haven’t you said that in all of these months?”). On the other hand, “I love you” can also serve as a threat (“Don’t push me on this; you might lose me”), emotional blackmail (“I’ve said it, now you have to respond in kind”), a warning (“It’s only

because I love you that I'm willing to put up with this”), an apology (“I could not possibly have meant what I have said to you, TO YOU of all people”). I can be an instrument - more effective than the loudest noise - to interrupt a dull or painful conversation. It can be a cry, a plea, a verbal flag (“Pay attention to me!”) or it can be an excuse (“It's only because I love you...”). It can be a disguise (“I love you”, he whispered looking awkwardly askance at the open door.) It can be an attack (“How can you do this to me?”) or even an end (“So that's that with regrets, good-bye!”). If this single phrase has so many meanings, how varied and variable must be the emotion.

- **elusive nature of love** - ухильна природа кохання
- **precipitate** - стрімкий, необачний
- **blackmail** - шантаж
- **plea** - виправдання; привід; аргумент, благання
- **askance** - скоса, з підозрою, збоку
- **dull** - тупий, тупоумний; нудний, неповороткий

Questions about the reading

- In what way can love be an excuse? Give your own example.
- What kind of “I love you” do you like the most? Why?

Writing Assignments

- How can you define marriage - what it is and what it should be.
- What are your emotions while saying the phrase “I love you”. What does “emotion” mean to you.

Give your ratings of the reading. It will help me with planning a future edition.

You have just finished to read the first edition of A short prose collection “Read and speak up!”. I hope you liked it.

How do you think - it is worth to start with the second edition or no? What would you like to read more: some love stories, issues about some famous discoveries, outstanding people's lives and activities or anything else? What are you interested in?

I will wait for your answers...

Read more and develop your speaking ability at English language lessons!

I wish you GOOD LUCK!