"When I succeeded my grandfather as Aga Khan in 1957, I was a student at Harvard — but speaking mostly French. I got extra English practise, however, from my new official routine of regular communication with Africa and Asia and, in the bargain, was kept in great good humour by the amazing typographic errors which inevitably arose. But then computerised spell check programs came along — and all those charming idiosyncrasies disappeared!

"I recently noticed, to my joy, however, that this new invention is not a fail safe protection. Consider this recent item in the publication The Week:

Bad week for spell-check: Several Pennsylvania high school students had their last names changed in their yearbook by an automatic computer programme, Alessandra Ippolito was listed as Alexandria Impolite, while Max Zupanovic was rechristened Max Supernova. And Kathy Carbaugh’s photo appeared next to the name Kathy Airbag.

"After reading this, I decided that maybe I should act prudently and spell check my own name. And I found that, while there was no 'Aga Khan', there was an 'Aga Cooker'. It was defined as one of England’s oldest stoves and ovens -- now somewhat outdated -- but with a distinctive whistle every time it frizzled the food within!"

His Highness the Aga Khan's 2009 Address to the Global Philanthropy Forum (Washington D.C., USA)

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References

1. ^ Aga Cooker  

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