



AUTHENTIC MATERIALS AS THE MAIN DEVELOPING TOOL OF LANGUAGE SKILLS

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Abstract

It explains the function of real and adopted authentic materials and provides useful exercises based on modern methods of teaching. The authentic materials are important in studying the particular language specially to get information. That's why we tried to show the explanation of using authentic materials in every lessons and effectiveness in particular situations, different successful methods used in teaching communicative competence.

Keywords: authentic material, integration, reality, communication, creativity

Introduction

Researchers claim that when authentic materials are used with the purpose of students learning, students will have a sense that real language for communication is being learnt, as opposed to classroom language itself. In the contrast to the text books, authentic materials are more effective, active and stimulating.

Literature Review

Klein states that one of the characteristics of communicative language is using authentic materials. Communicative language teaching approach changes the view of syllable designers toward French or English subjects. Nowadays there are a lot of voices supporting that foreign language performed to learners in the classroom, have to be authentic materials so as to enhance learners learning process. Peacock illustrates authentic materials as the materials that have been produced to fulfill some social purposes in the language community [4].

Authentic materials can be written or spoken. As an example, a radio news report was brought into class, so students discuss the report on environment where learners live [5]. There are other examples for authentic materials that they are authentic listening materials: such as radio news, cartoons, and songs. Second one is visual materials: such as street signs, magazines and newspapers pictures, post cards. Authentic printed materials can be sports reports newspapers, restaurants menus, train tickets, etc. These kinds of materials are meaningful to bridge the gap between classroom and





the real world. Languages taught in the classroom must be linked to its functions in the real world. Using inappropriate teaching materials makes learners face challenges in learning language. Learners have to be motivated and inspired to succeed in learning any language. Furthermore, teaching materials must be motivating and increase learner's interest. If they are not handy learners will learn nothing. In order to help, learners learn better, a lot of researches suggest using authentic materials. It is obvious that the use of authentic materials in language teaching is supported by many researchers and it is regarded that as a useful means to motivate learners, arouse their interest and expose them to real language they will face in the real world [2].

It can be argued that the definition of authentic materials, while attempting to set ground for English teachers to develop their own criteria for choosing what is best to use, needs to become more flexible in a way that the changing environment of language use in the 21st century should be taken into account. The assumption of "native speakers" should be understood differently and all those who use English for real communication purposes should have the authority in creating materials that can be employed as "authentic" in the English classroom.

Methodology

Authentic language materials are simply texts, audio and video that have been designed for native language speakers. Unlike traditional materials that have been created especially for second language learners, they aren't structured in a special way and they don't use specific grammar or vocabulary because they assume that the reader can understand the language used to a native level.

Using them provides a whole host of advantages:

1. They bring creativity to the classroom

As we mentioned earlier, they allow language teachers to become more creative in the materials they use in the classroom, bring the language to life and inspire and motivate their students.

"Interest is a powerful motivational process that energizes learning, guides academic and career trajectories, and is essential to academic success..." said Professor of Psychology, Judith Harackiewicz and colleagues in their aptly named 2016 paper "Interest Matters: The Importance of promoting Interest in education" ... "Promoting interest can contribute to a more engaged, motivated, learning experience for students."

2. They help the student develop a relationship with the language





Using these real-life language materials can also help your ESL student to form a meaningful connection with the language and relate better to the content, supporting the entire learning experience.

3. They expose the student to real-world English usage

Of course, we're not just teaching students English as an academic pursuit. We want them to be able to use the language in the real world to achieve their goals, progress in their careers, move to an English-speaking country and succeed in whatever they set their minds to.

Another issue is to collect local materials. Many teachers have a habit of collecting authentic materials wherever they go in the community. Authentic texts vary by type, region, and context. Research tells us that students will benefit more from using local authentic materials than using ones that are a step removed from their lives [3]. For example, generic charts and maps from life skills textbooks may not be as motivating to students as the local theater schedule, local rainfall charts, or the municipal bus map. There is a wealth of local authentic materials available online, such as city council meeting agendas, library schedules, and recipes for favorite regional dishes. Use authentic materials in authentic ways. It is important to use materials in authentic ways, not in traditional school-based ways. The purpose or function of authentic materials often will determine how teachers use them. For example, it is far more beneficial to use a current newspaper to search for relevant information, such as what the weather will be tomorrow or the best place to buy new tires, than it is to use an outdated newspaper to locate proper nouns.

The first example shows authentic use of materials; the second is a school-based approach. Keeping authenticity at the forefront, teachers can help students:

- Create and update personal calendars and address books,
- Write postcards they will mail after class,
- Make shopping lists they will use that evening,
- Respond to e-mail from their children's teachers.

The analysis tool can help you overcome many of the challenges that using authentic English language materials in the classroom can pose and support language teaching and learning.

Simply analysis your text and access the Scorecard * and English Vocabulary Profile * tools and you can simplify your EFL lesson planning process and get the most out of your students.





Conclusion

Summarizing with the advent of the internet, the teachers of English can choose the authentic materials to teach in their classrooms. Even though there are some disadvantages of authentic materials such as they become outdated (news), they are sometimes too culturally biased, the vocabulary may not be useful for the learners' immediate use and so on, the authentic materials are useful in many ways. Therefore, the teachers of ELT have to carefully select the materials according to the levels and needs of the learners. Let us discuss in detail how to make use of some of the authentic materials in the ELT classrooms.

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