



## THE ROLE OF AUTHENTIC MATERIALS IN TEACHING LANGUAGES

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### Abstract

Currently, one of the main tasks of language learners is to independently and actively participate in intercultural dialogue, aimed at using the knowledge they have directly acquired in their professional activities through the study of a foreign language culture in order to form communicative competence. The use of authentic materials in teaching foreign languages in practical exercises in the educational process helps to solve these problems.

**Keywords:** great attention, paid to, true, authentic materials, approaches to understanding

### Introduction

In the process of teaching English, great attention is paid to concepts such as authentic materials and authentic text. First of all, if we look at the word authentic, it is derived from the Greek word “authentikos” - authenticity, that is, true to the original, corresponding to the real situation [1; 383- b].

In explaining the concept of authentic materials and the problem of their use, linguists and methodologists M.P. Breen, G.I. Voronina, E.V. Nosovich, R.P. Several studies have been conducted by Milrud, L. Van Lier, B. Tomalin, F. Mishna, Gebhard and others. There are several approaches to understanding what authentic materials are. In the process of dealing with authentic materials, we encounter the concept of “Authentic Text”. About this concept, W. Guariento and J. Morley argued that an authentic text is a text created to fulfill some social goals in the society in which it is produced [22; 347-b].

According to F. Mishna, authentic materials are texts created for real communicative purposes [39 ].

However, M.P. Breen argued that authentic texts in the context of language learning mean any source of information that helps students develop real understanding. You are sitting in the hot sunshine beside the swimming pool of your international luxury hotel, drinking your imported gin and tonic. In front of you is the beach, reserved for hotel guests with motor boats for hire. Behind you is an 18-hole golf course, which was cleared from the native forest and is kept green by hundreds of water sprinklers. Around the hotel are familiar international restaurant chains and the same shops that



you have at home. You have seen some local people -some of them sell local handicrafts outside the hotel. You bought a small wooden statue and after arguing for half an hour you only paid a quarter of what the man was asking. Really cheap. “The popularity of authentic audio-visual materials lies in their ability to create an interactive language environment for language learners,” notes the Russian scholar G. A. Vorobyov [66; 30-36-bb].

Peacock highlighted the following main functions of authentic materials:

- They have a positive effect on student motivation.
- They provide authentic cultural information.
- They are closely related to the desires of language learners.

[45; 144-156 bb].

Rifat.A.S also noted the advantages of using authentic materials. These include:

- Students learn real speech by watching conversations of famous people through various videos.
- Authentic materials inform students about current events in the world.
- Students can find topics that are interesting to them.
- Different types of texts can be found in books, articles, and newspapers.

[48; 55-b].

Matsuta also highlighted the positive aspects of authentic materials:

- Authentic materials have a positive effect on the motivation of language learners.
- These materials provide real cultural information.
- They are closely related to the desires and interests of language learners.
- They learn different texts through authentic materials.
- Authentic materials are constantly updated compared to educational materials.
- They have a positive effect on students' understanding and learning of a language.

[36; 397-b].

Despite the effectiveness of authentic materials in the teaching process, the linguist-methodologist Richard also mentioned critical points. We can include the following:

- Created materials can also motivate students.
- Created materials can be more important than authentic materials. Because they are usually organized based on the level of learning of language learners.
- Authentic materials are usually difficult to understand.
- Using authentic materials in the lesson is a burden for the teacher.

As you can see, there are both positive and negative aspects of using authentic materials. Despite the negative aspects of using authentic materials, lessons are more effective when organized using authentic materials. The great thing about using authentic materials is that such sources are available everywhere. For example,





authentic materials are not limited to articles in newspapers and magazines, but also songs, TV programs, films, radio, podcasts, menus, anything written in English. This makes it easier for students to learn English, in addition, authentic materials also provide students with the opportunity to independently learn a foreign language.

There are several advantages to using authentic materials in the lesson. For example, when using authentic materials in the lesson, students encounter words, phrases, or grammatical devices that they have never encountered before. They learn to pronounce sounds and letters and focus while listening to authentic materials.

Is this your idea of heaven or would you prefer something different? Nowadays, many of us try to live in a way that will damage the environment as little as possible. We recycle our newspapers and bottles, we take public transport to get to work, we try to buy locally produced fruit and vegetables and we stopped using aerosol sprays years ago. And we want to take these attitudes on holiday with us, this is why alternative forms of tourism are becoming more popular all over the world. But what is ecotourism? There are lots of names for these new forms of tourism: responsible tourism, alternative tourism, adventure tourism, educational tourism and more. Ecotourism probably involves a little of all of them. Everyone has a different definition but most people agree that ecotourism must:

1. conserve the wildlife and culture of the area.
2. benefit the local people and involve the local community
3. be sustainable, that is make a profit without destroying natural resources.
4. provide an experience that tourists want to pay for.

So for example, in a true ecotourism project, a nature reserve allows a small number of tourists to visit its rare animals and uses the money that is generated to continue with important conservation work. The local people have jobs in the nature reserve as guides and wardens, but also have a voice in how the project develops. Tourists stay in local houses with local people, not in specially built hotels. So they experience the local culture and do not take precious energy and water away from the local population. They travel on foot, by boat, bicycle or elephant so that there is no pollution. And they have a special experience that they will remember all of their lives. This type of tourism can only involve small numbers of people so it can be expensive. But you can apply the principles of ecotourism wherever you go for your holiday. Just remember these basic rules. Be prepared. Learn about the place that you are going to visit. Find out about its culture and history. Learn a little of the native language, at least basics like “Please”, “Thank you”, and “Good morning”. Think of your holidays as an opportunity to learn something. Have respect for local culture. Wear clothes that will not offend people. Always ask permission before you take a photograph.





Remember that you are a visitor. Don't waste resources. If the area doesn't have much water, don't take two showers every day. Remember the phrase

"Leave nothing behind you except footprints and take nothing away except photographs". Take as much care of your own home. Don't buy souvenirs made from endangered animals and plants. Walk or use other non-polluting forms of transport whenever you can. Be flexible and keep a sense of humour when things go wrong. Stay in local hotels and eat in local restaurants. Buy local products whenever possible and pay a fair price for what you buy.

Choose your holiday carefully. Do not be afraid to ask the holiday company about what they do that is "eco". Remember that "eco" is very fashionable today and a lot of holidays that are advertised as ecotourism are not much better than traditional tourism. But before you get too enthusiastic, think about how you are going to get to your dream "eco" paradise. Flying is one of the biggest man-made sources of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Friends of the Earth say that one return flight from London to Miami puts as much carbon dioxide into the atmosphere as the average British car driver produces in a year. So do not forget that you do not have to fly to exotic locations for your "eco" holiday. There are probably places of natural beauty and interest in your own country that you have never visited.

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