

FILMS FOR LANGUAGE LEARNING

Roksolana Zapotichna

Lviv State University of Internal Affairs

Abstract. The relationship between learning a foreign language and watching films is explored in the article. Possible guidelines for language learning through films are determined. It is concluded that watching films has positive long-lasting impact both on improving listening skill and speaking skill. Correct pronunciation can be enhanced and vocabulary can be increased.

Keywords: films, foreign language, basic language skills, entertainment.

INTRODUCTION. The acquisition of a second or foreign language is arguably one of the most cognitively challenging undertakings a person may experience in his or her lifetime. A number of studies have revealed that films can become an integral part of the curriculum due to their significant effect on the development of the basic language skills: reading, listening, speaking, and writing. The main purpose of the article is to identify the effects of English films in learning English and to determine possible guidelines for learning English through films.

RESULTS. Recently, many language instructors, material designers, and scholars have been interested in investigating the effectiveness of a variety of strategies and methods that can be employed in the EFL classes to facilitate the learners' mastery of language skills and optimize the teaching and the learning process (Kabooha1, 2016: 248).

A review of the literature on the integration of films in the EFL/ESL classrooms provides that films are greatly effective in the language classroom for a number of ends.

A. J. Hoge mentions that when you learn English with films or TV, you are learning the real English used by native speakers. In films, you'll hear natural pronunciation, everyday vocabulary, spoken grammar, common idioms, and slang. Even better, you will learn these from interesting and emotional stories. Films are a powerful way to improve your English (Hoge, 2015).

Kieran Donaghy, who won the British Council's Teaching English blog award tells why film is such a good resource. Language teachers have been using films in their classes for decades, and there are a number of reasons why film is an excellent teaching and learning tool.

Learning from films is motivating and enjoyable. Motivation is one of the most important factors in determining successful second-language acquisition. Films and TV shows are an integral part of students' lives so it makes perfect sense to bring them into the language classroom. Film, as a motivator, also makes the language learning process more entertaining and enjoyable.

Film provides authentic and varied language. Another benefit of using film is that it provides a source of authentic and varied language. Film provides students with examples of English used in 'real' situations outside the classroom, particularly interactive language – the language of real-life conversation. Film exposes students to natural expressions and the natural flow of speech. If they are not living in an English-speaking environment, perhaps only film and television can provide learners with this real-life language input.

Film gives a visual context. The visuality of film makes it an invaluable language teaching tool, enabling learners to understand more by interpreting the language in a full visual context. Film assists the learners' comprehension by enabling them to listen to language exchanges and see such visual supports as facial expressions and gestures simultaneously. These visual clues provide a focus of attention.

Variety and flexibility. Film can bring variety and flexibility to the language classroom by extending the range of teaching techniques and resources, helping students to develop all four communicative skills. For example, a whole film or sequence can be used to practise listening and reading, and as a model for speaking and writing. Film can also act as a springboard for follow-up tasks such as discussions, debates on social issues, role plays, reconstructing a dialogue or summarising. It is also possible to bring further variety to the language learning

classroom by screening different types of film: feature-length films, short sequences of films, short films, and adverts.

Given the benefits of using film in the language learning classroom, it is not surprising that many teachers are keen to use film with their students, and an increasing number of them are successfully integrating film into the language-learning syllabus. Until quite recently it was difficult to find pedagogically sound film material to help students improve their language through watching film, and teachers had to spend many hours creating their own materials. However, with the advent of the internet there is now a wealth of online resources for both language teachers and their students (Donaghy, 2014).

However, films should be chosen with educational objectives in mind. The theme and content should be such that they should not prove to be purely entertainment for the students rather rich in content while being enticing and motivating for the students to watch (Kabooha1, 2016: 249).

CONCLUSION. Major findings of the article have shown that watching English films has positive impact both on improving listening skill and speaking skill. Correct pronunciation is also enhanced by watching English films. English films also help to increase vocabulary. According to our findings, all these impacts could have long term effect on the. Those who watch regularly, could have further benefits like speaking according to context, practice listening skill and release fear of learning English. In our opinion, everyone who wants to upgrade their knowledge of the English language have to watch films in English in their spare time for additional practice that might be inside or outside classroom.

JITEPATYPA

1. Kabooha1 R. Using Films in EFL Classrooms: A Study Conducted at the English Language Institute. English Language Teaching. Vol. 9. No. 3. 2016.
2. Hoge A. Learn English with Films. 2015. Retrieved from: <https://effortlessenglishclub.com/learn-english-with-films-using-this-movie-technique>
3. Donaghy K. How can film help you teach or learn English? 2014. Retrieved from: <https://www.britishcouncil.org/voices-magazine/how-can-film-help-you-teach-or-learn-english>

REFERENCES

- Kabooha1 R. Using Films in EFL Classrooms: A Study Conducted at the English Language Institute. English Language Teaching. Vol. 9. No. 3. 2016.
- Hoge A. Learn English with Films. 2015. Retrieved from: <https://effortlessenglishclub.com/learn-english-with-films-using-this-movie-technique>

Donaghy K. How can film help you teach or learn English? 2014. Retrieved from:
<https://www.britishcouncil.org/voices-magazine/how-can-film-help-you-teach-or-learn-english>