

IMPORTANCE OF WATCHING ENGLISH MOVIES IN LANGUAGE LEARNING

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ABSTRACT

In this article, you will be given information about positive impacts of watching movies in learning new languages especially in English. Moreover, there are several strategies that can help you to amplify your skills through films instead of wasting your time by watching them only for enjoyment.

Introduction

It is true that movies have been being used during classes for years, and no doubt, there are a number of reasons why film is looked as an excellent teaching and learning tool by both experienced and young teachers. Learners used to look films as they are time eater and they tried to avoid as much as possible. However, previous decades changed this attitude and it is started to use in learning and teaching process as important part of it. Because, using film provides students a source of authentic and varied language with examples of language 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. For example if they are not living in an English-speaking environment, perhaps only film and television can provide learners with this real-life language input. Moreover, films can be used as a motivation which 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. When students watch a film, they do not need utilize their own imagination since 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 support the verbal message and provide a focus of attention.

In our century, everything is connected to modern devices, and they are witnessing great effect in our everyday activities. As a result, we cannot image our life without technologies. In other words, forcing learners or ourselves to study during whole day in traditional way - without mobile phones or laptops is nothing more than useless. Instead of this method, we have to learn how hold them in control and dedicate their function to improve our life. For making this solution into reality in our study 'journey', we come across several difficulties and questions such as,

How can we turn watching movies for fun into part of learning process?

Improving listening skill as well as speaking. Undoubtedly, films are not usually created for language learners – they are made for native speakers. Therefore, the language is exactly how you hear it in real life – it is spoken quickly, with native accents and pronunciation and using many idioms and colloquial expressions. For instance, when you start to show English film, you will hear English being used in a very natural way. Some parts may be spoken too fast for you to understand but it will be a perfect way for you to get used to hearing native speakers talk to each other. You will also hear informal English and slang words and phrases that you often do not find in books or dictionaries. So then, you will be able to understand conversations easily which you come across during listening tasks. And also, hearing natives speak will also help your speaking skills, especially your fluency. You will hear how to link your words together and where to put intonation on certain words and sentences. For creating real practice as soon as you finish movie time, why you should not watch films with your friends and speak about them afterwards? Alternatively, you could even find movie scripts online and act out scenes with your friends! You can then play the scene to check if your pronunciation was correct. If you prefer being alone during watching movie, you can stop some episodes which you like and re-watch again. However, that time try to act yourself instead of actors or do not forget about using facial expression, emotions, accent that is used by characters. It will be great and funny experience.

Do you know you can be owner of better pronunciation, unconsciously? We all know that English pronunciation is extremely difficult and when you read words, it is hard to know how they should be said. Hearing native English speakers' talk to each other will help you to hear how words are pronounced and then your brain starts to imitate this pronunciation when you use these words. If you are using English subtitles, you will also be able to see how the words are written.

Vocabulary source. By watching English movies, you will hear many new words and phrases, especially idioms and colloquial expressions. Furthermore, although in your classes you will learn a lot of vocabulary and grammar but you may not know how to use it in real life. Watching English films will help you understand how to use all the knowledge you have learnt in everyday situations. I would suggest keeping a notebook with you and writing down any new words or phrases you hear and you

would like to remember or you do not understand. You can look up the meaning later or ask your teacher. By learning new words, do not increase number of your passive vocabulary. I meant, learning by heart a bunch of vocabulary, does not mean you have great English if you are not able to use them. Try to use more new words as much as possible by making small speech for yourself.

While watching movie, you do not need to understand everything. If you try too hard, it will be frustrating experience studying the language. Instead, try catching words and grammar points you already know and those you are not familiar with. You can pause and replay whenever you find something interesting or if you want to verify something. It is easier and time saving if you have both English subtitles in your mother language. Since not all films have these, you can check the movie transcripts.

Learning English through movies is an enjoyable and effective strategy to improve your language skills. Do not stress yourself too much! Just enjoy watching movies, re-watch, listen and mimic your favorite movies and scenes. The subtitles and transcripts are also a great help. By so doing, you may be amazed at your language improvement as time goes by!

Using films during lessons effectively If you are teacher or language instructor, it means you need more concentration on movie days. There are many advantages of movies apart from improving your students' language level. Movies can provide teachable moments. Sometimes, a movie can include moments that go beyond what you are teaching in a lesson and allow you to highlight other important topics; even it may be life lessons which must learned. Besides that, movies can be scheduled on days when students could be unfocused. In day-to-day teaching, there will be days when students will be focused more on their homecoming dance and the big game that night, or on the holiday that starts the next day, rather than on the topic of the day. While there is no excuse to show a non-educational movie, this could be a good time to watch something that complements the topic you are teaching.

Furthermore, 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 practice 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 summarizing. 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. With so many resources, it is sometimes difficult for teachers to see the wood for the trees.

Cognitive Psychologists have recently identified Dual Coding which is most effective learning strategies for improving long-term memory. Dual Coding applies when students read about something and then watch a movie related to what they have read. It is a method that works very well in making students better understand what they're being taught.

It will improve their understanding of the text. Furthermore, an educator can take that chance to challenge students to identify the differences between the book and the film. That creates a good discussion for class.

The main reason why I mentioned about dual coding is its owners. In other words, psychologist and scientists had already found and checked connection watching and learning before we wrote about it. Only thing which we should do is finding good resource and practice it in our real life.

All in all, movies not only provide you with an opportunity to listen to native English speakers, but they also offer a chance to learn new vocabulary, idioms, and colloquialisms in a natural and engaging way. However, simply watching films without a structured approach may not yield the best results.

However, don't forget, movies cannot be a good idea if they are used as only method of learning English or other languages; it is much more advisable to study by attending extra courses or just by self-study. Keeping balance between study and rest is the most effective way.

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