

The Role Of Authentic Materials In Improving Listening

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Abstract – This article discusses the essence, content and tasks of improving and teaching listening skills. This article gives us the authentic materials in improving listening.

Keywords – Acknowledge, Emphasizing, Improve, Skills, Tasks.

Listening is considered as a main one of four language skills. Listening is probably the most difficult skill to acknowledge for English language learners. It is the most emphasizing that the listening ability is one of the most important tool, in order to get a proficiency in a certain language. According to the facts, children improve their speaking capacity in a native language by listening. It means that listening is the first and an essential step in getting acquired a language. Listening comprehension is can not be evaluated as passive activity. It can be judged as a complex activity in which the language learners must distinguish sounds, understand grammatical structures and vocabulary, interpret stress, and intonation and associate all of that within its context. In most countries English language is taught as a second language because of its position as world language. This language is used not outside but inside the classroom where there are no any native speakers. As a result, students who are learning English as a second language may feel difficulties or be shy when they come into contact with native speakers. It is vital for teachers to find effective strategies to help students to develop their listening skills. The only solution for this problem is using appropriate authentic materials during lessons.

Authentic materials concerns oral and written language materials used in daily conditions by native speakers of the language. The sources of native-like materials can be found in newspapers, magazines, television and advertisements. Addressing to authentic materials is very important for learners who are planning to study in English speaking zones. They should learn how to listen to lectures, to comprehend them and note down important information. Besides that, it is required to improve understanding of native speakers' speech in different kinds of life situations, as well as to understand radio and television broadcasts.

Authentic materials help to create real language atmosphere in the class, besides that, it leads students to improve cultural awareness, give real exposure and raise imaginative studying. Nowadays the application of authentic materials for language learning lessons has become popular because of its efficient result. It should be mentioned that, authentic materials are not prepared for teaching or learning language. They are designed for native speakers. The language instructors get a chance of helping learners to use real context materials.

One of the most problem that teachers face when teaching listening skill is choosing an appropriate listening material. Materials on paper seem good, but do not work or are not interesting for students, some can not be used effectively or do not relevant for students' level. That's why, it's vital to take into consideration the aims of the course itself while selecting listening materials.

The usage of tape recorder can be the best choice for listening classes because of its following efficient sides.

- 1) Taped listening materials can be prepared in advance, and it saves teacher working on the authentic lesson;

- 2) Teacher can also make mistake in speaking as native speakers and his or her pronunciation can not be authentic. Recordings supply students with valuable native accents;
- 3) It is somehow difficult for teachers to act as two speakers to make a dialogue during the lesson. The only solution for this problem is using recordings.

The definition of authentic material is defined in literature in slightly different way. Rogers and Medley (1998) gave a definition of authentic material as exposure to real language in its own community. In recent years, the attitude towards the use of authentic materials has been changed and this phenomena has been discussed and debated by many foreign language teachers. At present, we can meet the term "authentic material" in each skills of language as reading, writing, speaking and listening. Researches show that English taught in the classroom should be authentic so that it can raise students' learning comprehension.

However, the authentic materials are created for social aims, they can be applied as teaching materials for language lessons. According to Martinez (2002) that teachers may use authentic materials for the learners to listen for the gist of the information presented and also he mentions that by using authentic materials teachers will get a chance of motivating students to read for amusement mostly certain themes of their own interest. It is also beneficial for students to comprehend real language in a real context in learning a language.

According to this conception there are texts belonging to different spheres: literature, mass media, science, and religion and so on. Functional style in general outline can be regarded as a socially acknowledged and functionally conditioned form of language style variations. Functional style is appropriate to the norms of language codification. Limited by the most general, socially significant spheres, functional styles are not numerous. I.R.Galperin, for instance, distinguishes five styles: belles- lettres, publicistic, newspaper, scientific styles, the style of official documents. I.V.Naer thinks that this classification might be extended by adding technical, professional and religions styles (Haep, 2002). The problem of functional styles turns out to be very debatable. Some scholars single out conversational functional style. Others do not support this opinion on the ground that this type of a functional style does not fulfil any specific function which, as is known, serves as the main parameter of any functional style.

In conclusion, students who are taught using authentic materials learn language better compared to those who are taught by using materials from the course book. A high percentage of the students stated that they could improve their listening ability through listening to authentic materials. Since the authentic listening materials used were more interesting and related to the use of real language, they positively affected the students' achievements in developing their listening comprehension skills.

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