

Audio Visual Media and English Learners

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Abstract - Media is everywhere; it has become a part of our daily life. People today are better informed and more enlightened thanks to the service of the media. Complaints about its negative effects have been heard and even those who criticize media for its negative impact cannot ignore the fact that media can be used as an effective tool to educate, inform and entertain. For myriad reasons, Audio visual Media, especially videos are definitely acknowledged as one of the most effective tools in education and training. The purpose of learning any language is to communicate effectively and no communication is possible if one doesn't get a chance to communicate. It is natural that the demand for communication is high in this ever-changing world. And no doubt English language plays a major role in today's global communication. It is not a subject to be studied. It is rather a skill to be practised. Therefore, practical experience is necessary and any skill can be mastered only through practice. Participation really matters. Exercises those demand verbal interaction (writing as well as speaking) will definitely exploit the verbal skills of any student. The course material for learning needs to be very creative as creative course material definitely yields better results. Bearing in mind all these features and positive input of media in education, a detailed analysis of available resources and their role in improving the basic skills-listening, speaking and writing- has been attempted. Based on personal experience and feedback received from colleagues, this study aims at giving some practical suggestion and tips on how to use Media in the classroom.

I. INTRODUCTION

English language today plays a dominant role and a person needs good communication skills in English to prove his strength. Technical knowledge sharing and updating has become almost impossible without knowledge of English. All professionals especially technocrats are expected to be good communicators. So the role of language trainers doesn't merely end up with teaching the syllabus. The trainers should prepare the trainees by creating a learning environment which should give scope for interaction and exercise of the target language. And this paper mainly focuses on how to use Audio Visual Media in language training.

The Role of English Teachers Today

Jespersen, Denmark famous linguist once said: "Language is the connection of souls" and it is the tool with which people communicate with each other. One learns the language in order to express oneself. Nowadays, one's communicative competence is getting more and more important and obviously the teaching approach should aim at developing it. Linguistic competence forms part of

communicative competence. So it is essential that our students need to acquire a basic knowledge of the structures of the target language. But the traditional method of teaching English aims at mere mastery of structure and English is taught as a subject under curriculum. It is restricted only to an extent of teaching the syllabus. So after years of training students get bored by the teaching methods and don't acquire much. As a result, they face problems when they try to communicate. Therefore, how to develop students' communicative competence has become a great challenge to English language teachers. Apart from teaching English as a subject, English language teachers are expected to be facilitators of language learning. They should create a conducive climate in which the students can fearlessly exercise the language and acquire communicative competence.

II. RESOURCES TODAY

Imparting language training is not an easy job, it is really a tough battle for the English language teachers. But fortunately we have a number of weapons (resources) to win the battle. Media "inform, amuse, startle, anger, entertain,

thrill, but very seldom leave anyone untouched.” (Shirley Biagi, 1996) One such resource is Audio Visual Media which has a lot of potential and if tapped correctly creates wonders. Audio Visual Media includes:

- News Bulletins
- Chat shows
- Movies
- Speeches
- Documentaries

Every English teacher knows that boredom is the first enemy and to avoid it the learning environment should be very interesting and the whole learning process should be an enjoyable experience and no doubt, the above listed resources are definitely better than a text book since it provides food to all the senses.

A list of activities along with their advantages has been listed below:

• News Bulletins

Activities	Advantages
Listening to same news item both in mother tongue and English	Understands difficult vocabulary through mother tongue, helps in translations
Watching Visual along with reports and commentaries	Helps better understanding and right usage of words and phrases
Watching the headlines	Improves vocabulary
Hot issues can be debated in the classrooms	Learns how to speak for and against issues
Taking down important words highlighted on the TV Screen	Students learn jargons related to various fields
Report Writing	Improves writing skills

• Chat Shows

Activities	Advantages
Watching talk shows on Television	Learns: Pronunciation How to raise questions How to interrupt others How to anchor a show How to mediate How to analysis different view points

• Movies

Activities	Advantages
Watching English Movies on Television	Students learn words and phrases of daily usage
Writing review of the movies	Improves vocabulary selection and writing
Discussion about the theme, plot and characters	Improves oral fluency
interview writing	Improves conversation skills
Role Plays	Improves speaking and framing dialogues

• Speeches

Activities	Advantages
Listening to speeches of great statesmen and politicians	Learns how to convince others Provides scope for debates

• Documentaries

Activities	Advantages
Giving oral commentaries	Learns how to describe things, events and scenes Improves writing skills
Writing Scripts for narration(for a given scene)	Improves speaking skills
Extempore speeches on a particular theme or event	

The above activities if conducted properly would definitely yield better results. Certain points have to be taken into account before the trainer chooses his/her teaching/ learning material. The selected materials should be age appropriate and trigger the interest of the learners. Highly controversial issues should be avoided since they may hinder the learning process. Language learning is a slow and continuous process and so errors are inevitable. Without errors no true learning can take place. Students should be told that they needn't be afraid of making mistakes. Everybody, including native speakers, makes mistakes. We should not always correct every error the students make so as to set up psychological security. Frequent interruptions, in the name of correction

upset the students and destroy their self-confidence. But we should note down the errors for later correction. From the above points we come to know that Media plays an effective role both in language teaching and language learning, but it is plays only a supplementary and supporting role and it can never replace the role of a teacher.

III. REFERENCE

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