



USING LITERATURE AND FILMS TO LEARN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE – HOW EXPOSURE TO NATIVE CULTURAL MATERIALS ENHANCES LANGUAGE ACQUISITION

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Annotation

It should be noted that the process of learning a language is deeply connected to cultural exposure. Exactly, literature and films play a crucial role in this procedure by providing authentic language input and a rich cultural context. I want to give some information about the role of native cultural materials in language acquisition, focusing on how literature and films enhance linguistic proficiency, cultural awareness, and contextual understanding. It explores applicable theories supporting this approach and suggests practical methods for integrating these materials into language education.

Keywords: Cultural exposure, authentic language input, cultural context, language acquisition, linguistic proficiency, cultural awareness, contextual understanding.

Аннотация:

Следует отметить, что процесс изучения языка тесно связан с культурным воздействием. Именно литература и фильмы играют важную роль в этом процессе, предоставляя аутентичный языковой материал и богатый культурный контекст. В статье рассматривается роль национальных культурных материалов в процессе освоения языка, с акцентом на то, как литература и фильмы способствуют развитию лингвистической компетенции, культурной осведомленности и контекстуального понимания. Также рассматриваются применимые теории, поддерживающие данный подход, и предлагаются практические методы интеграции этих материалов в языковое образование.



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Ключевые слова: культурное воздействие, аутентичный языковой материал, культурный контекст, освоение языка, лингвистическая компетенция, культурная осведомленность, контекстуальное понимание.

Annotation:

Es sollte betont werden, dass der Prozess des Sprachenlernens eng mit kulturellen Einflüssen verbunden ist. Besonders Literatur und Filme spielen in diesem Prozess eine entscheidende Rolle, da sie authentisches Sprachmaterial und einen reichen kulturellen Kontext bieten. Der Artikel untersucht die Rolle einheimischer kultureller Materialien beim Spracherwerb und konzentriert sich darauf, wie Literatur und Filme zur Entwicklung sprachlicher Kompetenz, kulturellen Bewusstseins und kontextuellen Verständnisses beitragen. Darüber hinaus werden anwendbare Theorien analysiert, die diesen Ansatz unterstützen, und praktische Methoden zur Integration dieser Materialien in den Sprachunterricht vorgeschlagen.

Schlüsselwörter: kultureller Einfluss, authentisches Sprachmaterial, kultureller Kontext, Spracherwerb, sprachliche Kompetenz, kulturelles Bewusstsein, kontextuelles Verständnis.

INTRODUCTION

Language - the principal method of human communication, consisting of words used in a structured and conventional way and conveyed by speech, writing, or gestures. But I think that the language is not just a means of communication, it plays a crucial role as a gateway to understand the culture and in broadening speaker's horizons. There is no doubt that traditional language learning methods mainly based on grammar rules and vocabulary lists, but without cultural context, learners have difficulty using the language effectively.

Engagement with literature and films provides learners with authentic linguistic structures and cultural distinctions that cannot be fully captured in textbooks. By engaging with native speakers' expressions, emotions, and traditions, learners gain a deeper understanding of how language functions in real-life situations. This paper



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examines how literature and films enhance language acquisition by improving comprehension, pronunciation, and cultural awareness.

LITERATURE REVIEW AND METHODS

Literature and Language Learning

I can say that many linguistic theories emphasize the role of contextual learning in language development. Many researchers are working on crucial materials, which are more effective sources to learn language. According to Krashen's Input Hypothesis (1982), language learners acquire a new language most effectively when they are exposed to comprehensible input that is slightly above their current proficiency level. It can be seen from this that the most academic resources like literature, particularly novels and short stories, provides rich, contextualized language input that supports vocabulary development, grammar understanding, and cultural awareness.

Studies have shown that reading literary works in the target language improves reading comprehension, writing skills, and linguistic awareness. Literature exposes learners to idiomatic expressions, sentence structures, and stylistic variations that textbooks may not extensively cover.

Movies and Language Learning

On the other hand, one of the most important tools is television, which we can use in simplificational ways. For instance, films, which contribute to easier language acquisition, offer a multisensory learning experience by combining visual and auditory input, which aids in pronunciation and listening comprehension. Based on the view of another scholar's perspective, such as Mayer's Cognitive Theory of Multimedia Learning (2009), students are able to process knowledge when they are exposed to both visual and audio stimuli. According to him, viewing movies in the target language plays a crucial role among learners to hear authentic pronunciation, intonation, and slang, enhancing their overall fluency.

Furthermore, by presenting traditions, conventions, and social norms, movies offer cultural insights. Not only watching plot development but also observing subtitles



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can serve as scaffolding for beginners, gradually helping them transition to understanding spoken language without translation support.

Methodology

This study explores previous research on the benefits of using literature and films into language learning. In addition, it incorporates qualitative insights from students who have engaged with these approaches, highlighting their development and experiences. Through an analysis of academic research and case studies, the study provides a comprehensive overview of how cultural immersion might improve language acquisition.

RESULTS

When it comes to the results, studies give information about the learners who interact with educational resources in literature and movies in their instructional language demonstrate elevated levels of comprehension, fluency, and cultural adaptability. It effects on improving lexical retention, cultural awareness, and also increasing motivation. By Improving vocabulary retention, learners engaged with developing literary understanding in combination with a more diverse vocabulary cultivated through context-based learning. Watching films helps learners mimic native pronunciation and improve listening comprehension to enhance listening and pronunciation skills.

Cultural Awareness: Both literature and films provide insight into cultural customs, values, and historical contexts, helping learners communicate more naturally.

Increased Motivation: Enjoyable and engaging materials encourage learners to practice the language outside formal lessons.

DISCUSSION

The effectiveness of literature and films in language learning lies in their ability to create immersive experiences. Unlike rote memorization, these materials allow learners to absorb language naturally. However, challenges such as unfamiliar vocabulary, complex sentence structures, and cultural differences may arise. To



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overcome these barriers, educators can implement scaffolding techniques, such as guided reading, discussion groups, and subtitles in early learning stages.

A balanced approach that combines literature, films, and traditional teaching methods can optimize language learning outcomes. Technology, such as interactive language-learning apps and online film subtitles, further enhances the accessibility of these materials.

CONCLUSION

Using literature and films in language education fosters a holistic learning experience by integrating linguistic, cultural, and cognitive development. By engaging with authentic cultural materials, learners develop a deeper appreciation for the language, improving both fluency and cultural competence. Educators should incorporate these resources into language curricula to create more engaging and effective learning environments.

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