

The Significance of Using Children Oriented Material in Improving The
Pronunciation Skill and Vocabulary in Freshmen of The Preparation
Year For Medical Specialties at Dammam University.

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I certify that all material in this proposal which is not my own work has
been identified and that no material has previously been submitted and
approved for the award of a degree by this or any other University.

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Abstract

I intended to conduct this research to examine the use and significance of using children oriented material, like children literature and nursery rhymes, in improving the vocabulary and pronunciation skill in particular by interviewing some students of the preparation year of the medical specialties in the deanship of preparation year in Dammam University.

Introduction

Although many adults feel shy about using children dedicated stuff as language learning material, this material has considerable significance in teaching language to non-native beginner learners because of its emphasis on basic skills of language and the easiness of tackling these skills. Children literature, for example, uses easy terms and simple ideas in the novel or short story or poetry, etc. Also, nursery rhymes show clear system of syllable stress and basic vocabulary. Adults usually shun this method of learning because they look at it as underestimating for them, and this is the main obstacle.

"Dr. OlleKjellin, a neurologist and language teacher from Sweden says that students must repeat a phrase 50-100 times in order to get a phonological "feel" for it. If that's true, the repetitive nature of rhymes can be used to achieve this in a fun way." (Susan, October 26, 2009)

Literature Review

Learning a new language can be a lot of fun by using songs and stories. Planaria Price, thinks that by using nursery rhymes such as *Humpty Dumpty* to teach American intonation to adults "*The lesson was great fun; and a wonderful way to end my teaching week.*" She also stated: "*First, the stories provide that elusive "cultural hook": the recognizable idiom, the core vocabulary, the allusions, the references used in common adult discourse.*"

And the significance of nursery rhymes in particular is that it can help adults improve their speaking skill in general. Susan stated: "*The repetitive nature of rhymes can help adults learn the rhythm of the language that is so important for a natural sounding accent. Rhymes also provide short phrases that can be used to demonstrate linking and reductions.*"

Significance of Research

The research tries to prove that this method has a good effect in improving non-native adults pronunciation and vocabulary in an easy and joyful way.

Research Question

This research aims to find out if the children oriented material such as nursery rhymes and fables can help adults improve their pronunciation skill and vocabulary in considerable significance.

Research Methodology

I am going to use nursery rhymes' CDs and some printed short stories as gifts to a sample of 20 volunteer students to use it as extracurricular activity. The volunteer should show full willingness for enrolling in the experiment, and inform me when he changes his mind. After one month I will start a structured interview with students one by one to estimate the benefit they have got in terms of vocabulary and pronunciation, and what problems they faced in using this material. At the end of each interview a small gift, a pen and a cup, will be given to the student as appreciation. The interview will take place in the lobby of the medical complex at the University of Dammam.

Ethical Considerations

Because of the expected shyness about this method, it is possible to conduct the interview in a private office in the medical complex.

Limitations of Research

The participants are only students of deanship of the preparation year, specifically the medical specialty students.

Expected Result

Participants may become shy of practicing the method in front of others. So it is expected that they will take some time to finish the task. And it is expected that the participants will discover new basic words and correct pronunciation of some words also.

References

Susan. "Using Nursery Rhymes to Teach American English Pronunciation Patterns." *American English Pronunciation Blog RSS*. The Center for Confident American English Communication, 26 Oct. 2009. From: <http://www.confidentvoice.com/blog/using-nursery-rhymes-to-teach-american-english-pronunciation-patterns/>

Price, Planarea. "The Magic of Folktales for Teaching English and Culture." *The Journal of Imagination in Language Learning and Teaching*. N.p., volume VI – 2001, from: <http://www.njcu.edu/cill/vol6/price.html>

Appendix

Interview questions

- 1- Approximately, how many words have you learned from the material you have got?
- 2- How many words have you discovered their correct pronunciation?
- 3- What are the new idioms you have newly known from this material?
- 4- Do see any ethical problem in using this material.
- 5- Do you have any problem listening to the rhymes or reading the story in front of others?
- 6- Do you recommend this method?