



The Effect of Watching English movies on the Acquisition of English as a Foreign-language

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I certify that all material in this proposal is my own work.

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Abstract:

In this research, I will discuss the impact of movies on learning English as a foreign language. Do watching English movies really help fasten the acquisition of learning process?. What is so special about subtitled movies! And what can it add to the experience of learning a new language such as English?. Why some language teachers think that watching movies is such a helpful and a good reliable resource to learn English? What is the relation between learning a culture and a language? Is it possible to learn the language alone, separated from its culture? To get to the end of it, I've made a questionnaire and some interviews with language teachers from the Canadian language center and Advanced step kindergarten, in order to show the importance of watching movies in speeding the language learning process.

Introduction:

Before 1944, people in the middle east did not have the chance of watching English movies. Very few had the interest in watching any foreign movie because of the language barrier, especially that English was not such a dominant language as it is now. Not anyone could speak English fluently and it was not that easy to learn a new language.

These days English movies have become even more popular and almost always available everywhere, thanks to televisions, cinemas, and the internet. A lot of people like to watch movies for the sake of having fun not noticing that the more they watch movies the more vocabulary they learn and the better they get in listening, understanding and even speaking.

In fact, many scholars use movies as a part of the language learning curriculum, based on the fact that movies present the real language along with the culture of the people of that language which helps the learner to understand the meanings of phrases correctly, not to mention that movies are fun attractive way to get the learner's attention easily and push them to learn more (Kusumarasyati, 2004; Luo, 2004).

Literature Review:

Although there are many studies on using movies in teaching the English language. Few studies (Weyers, 1999) focused on using movies as a tool to enhance the reading skills for children. Herron and Seay (1991) had made some researches on using movies as a tool to teach language where they found out that, movies is a great simple way to connect the language to its meaning also it visualize the culture of its people, which help the students to participate in daily conversations comfortably.

Other scholars thinks that watching movies add a spark to the learning process and help makes it easier and enjoyable because watching a movie alerts the sight and hear sense and keeps the brain awake, as a result movies provide a sense of culture and language understanding to the audience giving them the opportunity to interact together using English language as the native speakers do (Herron, et al., 1995; Lonergan, 1992; Kerridge, 1982; Singer & Singer, 1998; Swaffar & Vlatten, 1997; Wellman, Keniston & Westby, 1978; Coniam, 2001).

Some other scholars pointed out that movies can help enhance the memory and retrieve information faster during the hearing, watching and reading process of watching a movie, which could help developing the writing skills (Pezdek, Lehrer, & Simon, 1984).

Luo, J.J (2004) made a study about DVD movies on student's focus in hearing and understanding. He listed nine movies in EFL language curriculum to be studied during the whole academic year. Those DVDs were the main tool of the giving course, along with some other activities especially designed for the course. Academic activities included storytelling, describing images and open group discussions based on already watched movies in order to help students to work on their communication skills through retrieving a prior knowledge of conversations from the movies they have watched. The researcher concluded that the student's understanding got better with movies and the anxiety level got lower after a whole year of the study.

Kieran Donaghy (2014) done his own research on using movies to fasten the language learning process, and he concluded that movies are one of the most important motivation factors in learning a second language successfully. He noticed

that Tv shows, movies and series became a huge part of people's life so he decided to add them to the teaching language process in order to make the learning process fun and easy.

Significance of Research:

This study aims to analyze the effectiveness of movies on developing the student's language learning competence, also to prove that subtitled movies can be a very powerful way to sharpen the reading, listening, understanding and speaking skills especially language learners. Noting that movies attract student's interest in learning English and participate in reading activities.

Research Questions:

This research study is willing to answer the following questions.

- What is the student's attitude towards using movies as a part of their course?
- What is the effect of watching English moving on the acquisition of English as a foreign language in Saudi Arabia?

Research Methodology:

In the current research, I used two methods to collect data information:

- 1- A questionnaire designed especially for students.
 - 2- Two interviews with language teachers one works at the Canadian language center and the other works in Advanced step kindergarten.
- Data will be collected first through the questionnaire which test their attitude towards learning English using the movie method. This questionnaire has been designed based on a Likert scale of five points questionnaire answers are

confined between strongly agree and strongly disagree. 24 students from the Canadian language center were targeted with this questionnaire

- Other Data will be collected from the language teachers themselves through the interview to investigate their own attitudes and thoughts to move based language education.

This study's main concern is to contribute in developing the quality of teaching and learning a new language, especially through using movies in English language classes, and proving that movies can be a rich language resource for those who wants to learn the real language in a short time without having to go through the boredom of regular language learning routine.

Working with a language teacher from the Canadian language center here in Dammam, we chose the “The Gulliver’s travels“ movie for the class to watch, because it was already listed in their learning course as a novel. During the movie the teacher kept pausing it and discuss the movie with the students to make sure they are concentrating and getting the best out of this experience. The next lecture the teacher gave her students a quiz about vocabularies they heard in the movie. After watching the movie and finishing the quiz the students were asked to participate in the study's questionnaire.

Taking in consideration that Advanced step kindergarten here in Dammam is one of the kindergartens which use kids' movies and songs to teach kids the English language I did an interview with one of the teachers to see what is the of using movie based technique on language acquisition.

Ethical Considerations:

As mentioned before, there will be a questionnaire and two interviews, but only after taking the approval of both the Canadian language center and Advanced step kindergarten administration.

None of the personal information. Names, or quotes will be revealed without the acceptance of the participants, also none of the questions will be compulsory to answer.

Limitations of Research:

Some English movies use a variety of English language like the colloquial language as known as slang language, these movies contain some bad words and encourage swearing. That kind of movies is excluded from this study.

The time of this study was short, and to get the best results out of this experiment we need more time, not to mention that the number of participants was limited.

Expected Result:

The results of this research are expected to show a significant improvement to students' language acquisition. And that movie based teaching method is a great motivation for both students and teachers which leads to an increase of the teaching and learning language efficiency.

- What do teachers think about using movies as a teaching tool?
Teachers' general impression about movie-based teaching was that using movies in language classes has a positive effect on the language teaching process, they also think that using movies encouraged students to participate in the class activities. Because movies help in improving the interaction skills among students. They also believe that watching movies can help break the shyness of public speaking to some students, which helps in improving the communication skills for those students.
- What is the student's attitude towards using movies as a part of their course?
Using movies in class was a new fun experience to the students, they felt more excited to watch a movie than to attend a routine lecture, their general impression about using movies as a teaching method was very positive, they thought that movies provided a calm environment for them to learn English better and faster, students also claim that movies are a great method to enhance their English vocabulary and provided them the perfect opportunity to practice the language as it really is used in real life.

- Does watching the movies build a bridge between the reading skills and listening skills?

The questionnaire results showed that students learn more efficiently when watching a movie, because movies focus on the language itself more than the grammatical formulation of the language.

The students became more cooperative and scored better language skills than before.

Listening while reading the subtitle helped the students to improve their speaking and listening skills, it also motivated them to learn more words and phrases and memorize them, all that made them more fluent in English speaking conversations. Because the more phrases and words they learn the easier it is to express themselves in communications.

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Appendixes:

The Language Teachers' interview questions:

- Did you receive any professional training in Media Education techniques or Movie-based method teaching?
- In your opinion is it helpful to use movies in English?
- Have you ever used movies as a tool to teach English in your class? If so, what is the kind of movie/film you used?
 - DVD movie (full)
 - Selected clips from movies.
 - YouTube videos, tutorials or trailers.
 - Other.....
- What is the movie type you have used as a teaching tool in your class?
 - Novel based movies
 - Comedy movies
 - Special made movies from your language center
 - Other.....
- How many times have you used movies in your own class?
- Do find it hard to select a movie to suit your teaching goals?
- Do you think that movies are a good, reliable resource for oral English language?
- What are the feedbacks you received from your students for using movies in class?
- Do you think the students' performance has developed after using movies in class?

The Students' Questionnaire:

- What is your favorite kind of movies?

| | | |
|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Novel Based Movies | <input type="checkbox"/> Science Fiction | <input type="checkbox"/> Documentary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Action Movies | <input type="checkbox"/> Thriller | <input type="checkbox"/> Comedy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Animated Movies | <input type="checkbox"/> Historical Movies | |
- Do you think movies have a positive effect on learning English?

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Netural | <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree | <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Disagree |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|

- Do you think the movies you watch have the power to affect your language learning?
 Strongly Agree Agree Netural Disagree Strongly Disagree
- Are you interested in learning the English language if movies are used a teaching method?
 Strongly Agree Agree Netural Disagree Strongly Disagree
- Do you agree that you have learned some English words from the movies you have watched?
 Strongly Agree Agree Netural Disagree Strongly Disagree
- Do you think that you can benefit from the movie dialogs in real life conversations?
 Strongly Agree Agree Netural Disagree Strongly Disagree
- Do you think subtitle helps you understand the movie better?
 Strongly Agree Agree Netural Disagree Strongly Disagree