

THE EFFECTIVE USE OF AUTHENTIC MATERIALS IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE CLASSROOMS

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Abstract. In every aspect of life, the twenty-first century has seen enormous changes because of technological advancements. The new technology both helped the current educational system and gave it a fresh perspective on education. Consequently, the field of education has witnessed numerous innovations, with English being no different. The way that English is taught has undergone significant change, and both the students and teachers of today rely more on the newest technological advancements to further transform the educational process.

Key words: authentic materials, English classrooms, technology, learners, concept

Introduction

In the current digital era, technology has opened up new possibilities in practically every field, and education has benefited greatly from the significant changes it has brought about in terms of teaching and learning. The use of computers and the internet in the classroom has made English instruction easier and more accessible for both teachers and students. Teachers have been using the internet to download resources, stay up to date on current events, get quick answers to questions they have, show students the necessary images, videos, and audios, deliver Power Point presentations, and more. The introduction of smartphones and other mobile devices has resulted in a significant shift in how students learn. The language can be acquired by the students both inside and outside of the classroom.

Materials Used in the English Language Teaching

The concept of teaching a subject generally depends on the analysis of the nature of the particular subject, its teaching and learning doctrines ingrained in research and the theories related to philosophy and psychology of education. Teaching-learning materials constantly deal with methods, approaches, materials, syllabus and evaluation. Language teachers use two types of materials, i.e., the materials that are exclusively

prepared to teach a language, for example textbooks and authentic materials such as newspapers, brochures, pamphlets, etc. that are used for the purposes other than teaching but are often used in the language classrooms while they teach a language. The materials used in the classroom are especially prepared by the subject experts of the English language to meet the needs and requirements of the learners. Even though these materials provide standard information, they are monotonous. In motivating the learners, the materials prepared by the subject experts and they fail to present the real world or situational language and it leads to teachers' burnout. Therefore, it is more essential for the language teachers to prepare their own materials for their teaching according to the needs and interests of the learners and also according to the demands of the prevailing society. As the normal and prescribed materials do not satisfy the needs and interests of the students, the teachers of English have to prepare some additional materials on their own. In this context, authentic materials are so useful for them to use in their classrooms. The teachers of English can adopt materials on the needs of the learners so that the learners can work on the given materials with a lot of interest and more enthusiasm. Indeed, authentic materials provide very good resources for ELT teachers and they give the learners an opportunity to expose to the real-life and out-of-classroom contexts. The main focus of the authentic materials in ELT classrooms is to convey the meaning of the message and to communicate the message according to the context. When authentic materials are provided for the students, undoubtedly, they will surely use English in real-life situations. Moreover, the learners develop their language skills enormously and communicate not only with their peers in the classrooms but also with friends, family members and other people outside the classrooms.

The Main Advantages of Authentic Materials in the ELT Classrooms

As authentic materials are selected by the teachers according to the needs and interests of the learners to involve them in learning the English language skills and to demonstrate their skills in and outside of English language classrooms, where they are widely used to teach the language through real-world scenarios. In ELT classrooms, using authentic materials has many benefits. They are as follows:

- Real materials are chosen based on the requirements and preferences of the students.
- They are helpful in reducing learners' levels of hesitancy.
- They always give the students language appropriate for the situation.
- The students encounter real-world scenarios.
- The cost of using them in ELT classrooms is very low.
- The teachers can easily access them.
- You can find them anywhere.
- They greatly aid in the development of social-linguistic abilities.

- They help students become more adept at interpreting the material they study.
- They improve students' critical thinking skills.
- They foster creativity in both teachers and students.
- They raise the students' awareness of the state of society.
- Teachers can use them to teach the same material in various classes.
- They encourage students to focus more on their language proficiency.
- They consistently encourage students to read for enjoyment.
- They can be found easily everywhere.
- They encourage students who exhibit higher levels of motivation. They are especially helpful for students who learn very slowly.
- They encourage good performance from average students.
- They improve the students' capacity for explanation and dialogue.
- They are in favor of an artistic strategy.

The Use of Real Materials in ELT Classrooms

With the development of the internet, English teachers now have the option of selecting real materials to use in their classrooms. Authentic materials are helpful in many ways, despite certain drawbacks like becoming out of date (news), occasionally being overly culturally biased, having vocabulary that isn't immediately useful for learners, and so forth.

Newspaper

Newspapers are among the best sources of real materials that are more beneficial in ELT classrooms. Every day, newspapers release the hottest and most recent news, which teachers can use as real, authentic teaching materials when instructing students in English. It helps English language learners to grasp and understand the use of language in a variety of ways because the language used in newspapers varies from day to day, as does the vocabulary and grammatical structures. Newspapers can help English language learners become more fluent in the language. News is presented in newspapers on a wide range of subjects, such as sports, geography, history, education, and cultural events. They also include every idiomatic expression of the regional culture in the everyday language.

Magazine

Magazines are highly motivating and can inspire a wide range of activities, they are heavily utilized as rich sources of authentic materials in ELT classrooms. Reading magazines aids students in expanding their vocabulary, grammar, and language proficiency. A large amount of information and a variety of text types can be found in magazines. Magazines instantly deliver breaking news, reports, and information from around the globe. Magazines are a valuable resource for English language learners as

they provide them with the chance to become acquainted with the most recent developments and news stories.

Media

Teachers of languages utilize media as an extra resource to enhance how the materials are presented in the classroom. Media is essential for keeping learners interested in the language they are learning. English teachers are required to choose instructional materials that are appropriate for the needs and interests of their students. The choice of suitable and appropriate media encourages students to progress through the learning process at their own pace. English teachers should use communicative media to provide their students with additional information or explanations so they can grasp the subject matter more easily.

Flyers, Pamphlets, and Brochures

These are the most effective teaching aids for language learning, as they provide genuine and excellent information to the audience while also serving as advertisements. In actuality, brochures are inexpensive and frequently utilized in English language instruction. Brochures can be folded or tri-folded and are commonly used as flyers, coupons, or business cards. They are available in a wide range of sizes and forms. Instructors may advise students to compile brochures from a variety of establishments, including banks, travel agencies, rental car companies, museums, and libraries.

Conclusion

This essay aims to highlight how teachers in English language classrooms can make effective use of authentic materials. First, the benefits of authentic material in education have been covered in this paper. Following that, the significance of using authentic materials in English language classrooms has been highlighted by this paper. Additionally, this paper has focused primarily on the efficient use of authentic materials, their value to teachers in the classroom, and how they facilitate students' easy and engaging English language learning. Lastly, by using authentic materials in English classrooms, this paper has provided some helpful tips for both English teachers and students to greatly improve their teaching and learning abilities. The learners get the chance to learn the language in a fresh way because authentic materials give English language teachers the chance to implement different strategies.

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