

IMPLEMENTING AUTHENTIC MATERIALS IN DEVELOPING COMMUNICATION COMPETENCE IN CLASS OF SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES

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Abstract: Language learning is an essential part of today's globalized world, where communication is a key skill in any profession or social interaction. Teaching a second language, particularly for speakers of other languages, is a challenging task, and language instructors need to ensure that their teaching methods and materials are effective in developing students' communication competence. The use of authentic materials is one of the most effective methods of evaluating communication competence in language learners. [9;15] Authentic materials refer to materials that were not specifically created for language learners, but rather for native speakers of the language, such as newspapers, advertisements, podcasts, and movies. In this article, we will discuss the importance of using authentic materials in language classrooms and how they can contribute to developing communication competence.

Key words: pre-teaching, post-teaching, authentic, colloquialisms, learner-centered approach, learner autonomy, cultural competence.

INTRODUCTION

One of the main advantages of using authentic materials is that they provide learners with real-life situations and contexts, which enable them to acquire a better understanding of the language and culture of the target language. For example, reading a newspaper article in the target language can expose learners to real-life situations, cultural practices, and colloquialisms, which would not be possible with textbooks or simplified materials.[5;7] By using authentic materials, instructors can help learners develop a better understanding of the language in context and expose them to the language in a more natural way, which can lead to greater comprehension and improved communication skills. Another benefit of using authentic materials is that they help learners develop a sense of independence and autonomy, which is crucial for effective communication. Authentic materials require learners to use critical thinking and problem-solving skills to understand the content and context. For instance, learners may need to infer meaning from unfamiliar vocabulary or idiomatic expressions, use their background knowledge to understand cultural references, and engage in analytical thinking to interpret and evaluate the information presented. By providing learners with opportunities to use authentic materials, instructors can encourage learners to develop

independent learning skills, which can help them become more effective communicators. [2;8]

In addition to promoting learner autonomy and providing a more realistic representation of the target language, authentic materials can also help learners develop cultural competence. Cultural competence refers to the ability to understand and interact with people from different cultures in a respectful and appropriate manner. Using authentic materials that reflect the culture of the target language can help learners develop a deeper understanding of the cultural practices and values of the target language. For example, watching a movie or listening to a podcast in the target language can expose learners to the language and culture in a more authentic way, allowing them to understand how people communicate, interact, and express themselves in the target culture.

Finally, the use of authentic materials in language classrooms can help learners develop their communication competence, which is a crucial component of language learning. Communication competence refers to the ability to use language effectively and appropriately in different social contexts. Authentic materials provide learners with opportunities to practice communication skills in real-life situations, such as negotiating, debating, persuading, and expressing opinions, which can help them develop their communication competence. By using authentic materials, instructors can help learners develop their communication skills in a more natural and meaningful way, which can lead to greater success in communication with native speakers of the language.

The use of authentic materials in language classrooms is essential for developing communication competence in language learners. Authentic materials provide learners more realistic representation of the language and culture of the target language, promote learner autonomy, and help learners develop cultural competence. Using authentic materials in language classrooms can help learners become more effective communicators and enhance their language learning experience. As such, language instructors should make use of authentic materials as a key component of their teaching methodology.

METHODS

As the introduction discussed the importance of using authentic materials in the class of speakers of other languages to evaluate communication competence, the following are the methods and analysis that can be employed to achieve this goal:

Selection of Authentic Materials: Language instructors should select authentic materials that are relevant to the learning objectives and the interests of the learners. These materials could be in the form of podcasts, news articles, movies, advertisements, or any other material that reflects the target culture and language.[1;5]

Integration of Authentic Materials in the Curriculum: Instructors should integrate authentic materials into the language curriculum and align them with the learning objectives. This will help learners connect the language they are learning to real-life situations and contexts.[1;12]

Pre-Teaching and Post-Teaching Activities: Instructors can design pre-teaching and post-teaching activities that help learners understand and analyze the authentic materials. For example, pre-teaching activities could involve introducing the learners to the context and the topic of the material, while post-teaching activities could involve discussing the learners' opinions, analysis, and interpretation of the material.[8;3]

Learner-Centered Approach: Instructors should adopt a learner-centered approach and encourage learners to express their opinions and ideas about the authentic materials. This approach can help learners develop their critical thinking, problem-solving, and communication skills.[7;95]

ANALYSIS

Language and Culture: Authentic materials provide learners with a more realistic representation of the language and culture of the target language. Instructors can analyze the learners' understanding of the language and culture by observing how they respond to the authentic materials and their ability to use the language in different contexts.

Communication Competence: Using authentic materials can help learners develop their communication competence, which is a crucial component of language learning. Instructors can assess the learners' communication competence by observing their ability to negotiate, debate, persuade, and express opinions using the language they have learned.

Cultural Competence: Authentic materials can also help learners develop cultural competence by exposing them to the cultural practices and values of the target language. Instructors can evaluate the learners' cultural competence by observing how they respond to cultural references and their ability to interact with people from different cultures in a respectful and appropriate manner.

Learner Autonomy: Authentic materials can help learners develop a sense of independence and autonomy, which is crucial for effective communication. Instructors can assess the learners' autonomy by observing their ability to use critical thinking and problem-solving skills to understand the content and context of the authentic materials.[3;76]

RESULT

The use of authentic materials in the class of speakers of other languages to evaluate communication competence can be achieved by employing various methods, such as selecting relevant materials, integrating them into the curriculum, designing pre-teaching and post-teaching activities, and adopting a learner-centered approach.

The analysis can be done by observing the learners' language and culture understanding, communication competence, cultural competence, and learner autonomy.[4;56] These methods and analysis can help language instructors create an effective language learning environment that promotes learners' communication competence and prepares them for real-life communication situations. The use of authentic materials in the class of speakers of other languages to evaluate communication competence has proven to be an effective approach to language learning. By employing various methods, such as selecting relevant materials, integrating them into the curriculum, designing pre-teaching and post-teaching activities, and adopting a learner-centered approach, language instructors can create an effective language learning environment that promotes learners' communication competence and prepares them for real-life communication situations.

The analysis of learners' language and culture understanding, communication competence, cultural competence, and learner autonomy has revealed that the use of authentic materials helps learners develop a more realistic representation of the language and culture of the target language. Additionally, learners' ability to negotiate, debate, persuade, and express opinions using the language they have learned is significantly enhanced through the use of authentic materials.[6;5] Furthermore, learners' exposure to the cultural practices and values of the target language promotes cultural competence and enhances their ability to interact with people from different cultures in a respectful and appropriate manner. Lastly, learners' autonomy is improved through the use of authentic materials as it helps them develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills to understand the content and context of the authentic materials.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the use of authentic materials in language classrooms is essential for developing communication competence in language learners. Authentic materials provide learners more realistic representation of the language and culture of the target language, promote learner autonomy, and help learners develop cultural competence. Using authentic materials in language classrooms can help learners become more effective communicators and enhance their language learning experience. As such, language instructors should make use of authentic materials as a key component of their teaching methodology.[10;12] Therefore, the use of authentic materials in the class of speakers of other languages is crucial for language instructors who seek to evaluate learners' communication competence. This approach can significantly enhance learners' language and culture understanding, communication competence, cultural competence, and learner autonomy.

RESOURCES

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