

A STUDY ON THE EFFECTS OF MOVIE VIEWING ON LEARNING ENGLISH TO DEVELOP LISTENING AND SPEAKING SKILLS OF STUDENTS AT HANOI UNIVERSITY OF BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY

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Summary: This article aims to find out the positive effects that watching movies brings in improving students' English speaking and listening skills at HUBT. In addition, the study also pointed out some difficulties that students may encounter and suggested some solutions to help self-study English through movie viewing more effectively based on 3 different questions about impact, duration and the genre of film.

Keyword: English listening and speaking skills, impact, difficulties, solutions.

1. INTRODUCTION

In a modern society with a growing globalized economy, English has become a common language that brings countries together. So, it is not uncommon for English to become a global language that everyone must learn and master it. Among the four skills: reading, writing, listening and speaking, the two last one is being paid the most attention. Due to the geographical distance as well as the difficulties in the teaching and learning environment that many schools, many students have not had the opportunity to contact with real English and practice these two skills. For them, English movies are more suitable as they provide the real-time experience of learning the English language. It is also one of the top choices for many students at Hanoi University of Business and Technology (HUBT) to improve their listening and speaking skills.

For students in HUBT, developing listening and speaking skills is very important because it is the foundation to accumulate vocabulary, grammar as well as cultural knowledge. Then, they can improve writing and reading skills. Being aware of the importance of this, the study aims to determine how students at HUBT are getting benefit from watching English movies to advance their listening and speaking skills. This paper also suggests some recommendations to help their learning process become more effective.

2. DEVELOPMENT

2.1. Theoretical background

2.1.1. The definition of movie, listening and speaking

Movie

Severny and Andrei (2013) defined movie as an art form conveyed by moving images, which contain ideas, stories, perceptions, feelings, and beauty that the author wants to impart to viewers. These

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images are often accompanied by sound to attract the attention of the audiences.

Listening

In addition, listening is the way we actively receive information through the ears. That way, we will break them down into words and sentences. When we listen, we don't use our ears to receive collective sounds, but we accept individual sounds like letters, stress, rhythm... to decompose them into meaningful information (Richard Nordquist, 2019).

Speaking

Speaking is the human voice communication through the use of language. In other words, Speaking is to say words orally, to communicate as by talking, to make a request, and to make a speech.

2.1.2. The effects of movies viewing on learning listening and speaking skills.

It can be said that motivation is one of the main factors that help learners absorb knowledge more easily and effectively. Therefore, learning through movie is also a common factor as it has become an indispensable part of students' lives.

Apart from that, the fact is that not everyone has the opportunity to go to English-speaking countries like the US, UK, and Canada to learn about the culture as well as talk with native speakers to improve their speaking and listening skills. Thus, learning English through movies is the best solution for this. By this way we will hear real English with context, intonation, tone, accent, vocabulary, pronunciation... (Sherman, 2003; Webb, 2010).

From the points above, movies viewing brings many benefits for students especially in real-life communication and

helps them speak better, more fluently and naturally.

2.1.3. Research objects

To find out the effects that students receive, the questionnaire survey and interview were carried out. The participants included 100 students from K22, K23, K24 in our faculty. Students were required to answer a questionnaire survey consisting of 10 multiple choice questions about film genres, time spent watching movies and results achieved after a period of studying English through film. Then, the researcher interviewed 10 randomized students from 100 participants to test to what extent their speaking and listening skills were improved.

The following 3 questions are aimed to find out what benefits learners receive as well as identifying the amount of time they spend watching movies and how choosing genres of movies will impact the effectiveness of their English learning process.

1. What do you think about the impact of watching movies on English listening and speaking skills?
2. How often do you watch movies for the purpose of learning English language?
3. Which movie genres do you prefer to watch?

2.2. Findings and discussions

2.2.1. Findings

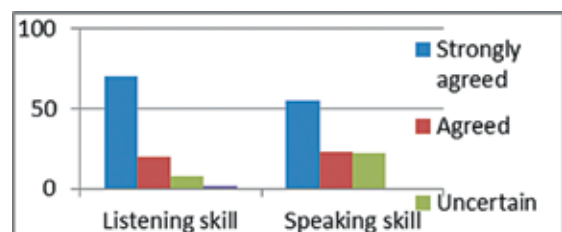


Table 1. Students' opinions on the impacts of watching movies on English listening and speaking skills

According to the survey questionnaire results, 100% of students agree that watching movies has a good impact on their learning English, especially listening and speaking skills. In the survey, up to 70% of the participants strongly agreed with the impact of movies on improving their listening skill, 20% agreed. 8% were uncertain and only 2% of them disagreed. It can be said that movies viewing supports to improve English listening skills very well because common words, sentence structures as well as intonation will be repeated many times in the film and helps learners remember longer. Besides, it is believed that movies are designated for improving speaking skill; unconsciously, movies affect the learner's speaking skill and improve it. 55% of them are strongly agreed that movies advance their speaking skill and expand their imagination, 23% agreed and 22% uncertain; there are no participants who disagreed.

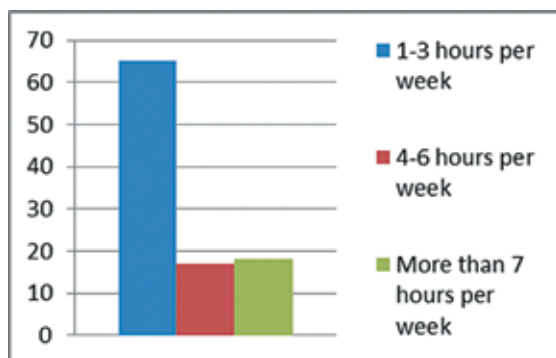


Table 2. Students' time for watching movies per week

Most of the participants are still spending quite a bit of time watching the movie, which is 65% are watching movies 1 to 3 hours per week. It seems that watching movies 1 to 3 hours per week is not enough to improve language skills and learn foreign languages, at least learners need to spend 4 to 6 hours

watching movies, which accounts for 17%. In addition, 18% of those who spend more than 7 hours per week learning English through movies. These people reported that they spend at least an hour a day watching movies, taking notes on common communication phrases and usage situations. They also try to maintain this habit every day to get the best results in the learning process.

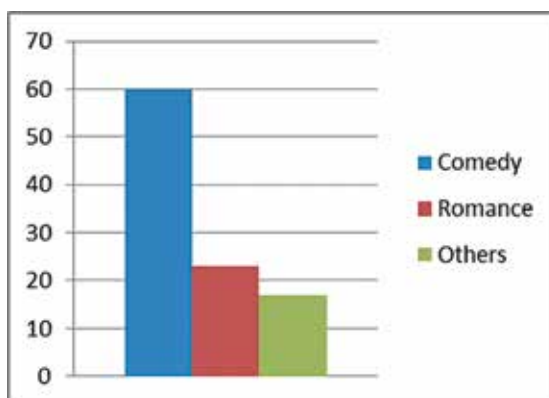


Table 3. Students' selection on movie genres to watch

There are many genres of movies such as comedy, romance, cartoon, action, horror, science fiction, documentary and etc. Depending on these genres, the impact of the movies on learning language changes, because of the statements in the movie which are the most important feature and it affects the learner. Up to 60% of the participants surveyed stated that they prefer watching comedy movies. 23% are watching romantic movies, and 17% are watching other genres like action, horror, documentary and etc.

After completing the questionnaire, 10 random students were selected for an interview. As a result, 6 out of 10 selected people answered all of the interviewer's questions. They can hear and understand questions, can narrate their favourite movies in an easy way to understand,

fluent and natural intonation. It is by chance that all 6 of those are in the group of people who spend more than 7 hours per week learning English through movies.

2.2.2. Discussions

2.2.2.1. Difficulties students may face when watching movies to learn English.

There are many difficulties in learning English through film, here are some of the most common problems faced by students in the learning process:

The problem in poor English vocabulary: If grammar is like the skeleton constituting the person, then the vocabulary is considered the flesh to create a complete human being. Therefore, vocabulary is very important when learning a language. It can be said that the vocabulary is infinite, it is always evolving and is constantly being born. In many cases, native speakers do not comprehend all the words in their language. Because of the poor vocabulary, many students are unable to fully understand the character's lines as well as the film's content during the learning process. This often leads to depression and makes them give up easily.

Problems in the way to watch movies while learning English: Many people always complain that why they spend so much time learning English through movies, watching so many movies without having any improvement in speaking or listening skills. But they do not realize that how to watch a movie is very important. If people simply watch and enjoy a movie but don't take notes or just watch the movie once with subtitles, it doesn't work.

Problems in choosing the movie: First of all, many students choose movies that are not suitable for learning English. Genres such as science fiction or horror

contain many difficult words that are not commonly used in communication, so it is not useful for students in the learning process. Furthermore, it is also equally important to classify films according to the learners' level. Students often tend to choose movies which actors speak quickly, so they cannot catch up, leading to having serious problems to understand words.

2.2.2.2. Some recommendations for learning English listening and speaking skills through movies.

In the learning process, students should learn words and phrases while watching movies by taking notes, then practising them in specific contexts, or imagining using these words in the same context for longer memorization. Besides, for students who are at quite low English level, they should choose short films (about 15 to 30 minutes) with the character's lines are slow, easy to hear and understand. However, if you have a higher level of English, you can try to challenge yourself and watch films with more advanced language. Furthermore, to most effectively study through movies, students should choose the movies associated with daily-life such as comedy, romance, cartoon...I highly recommend for students to watch movies on sites like netflix, FPT because these sites are the huge database of movies, they also have very good subtitles and movie quality. If you want to watch movies on free platforms, youtube is not a bad choice, but you also need to choose channels with good content. As for movies, I suggest you to watch the series Friends, Pixar, Ice ages... These are very interesting and fun movies with content close to everyday life. At the same time, watching movies many times (minimum of 2 times) with

subtitles and no subtitles is necessary. Because this will help you practice your English listening and speaking skills.

3. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the use of English as a tool to advance listening and speaking skills during the learning English process is becoming more and more popular among HUBT students. Besides the positive effects that learning English through movies gives students such as improving their vocabulary,

speaking more fluently, understanding the culture of English-speaking countries... There are still many students are having trouble choosing the movie suitable for their level and how to study properly. It seems that a lot of students in HUBT are excited about this new method of learning English, so I hope in the future, it will be applied in the lessons, helping students improve their language skills effectively without stress or anxiety./.

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NGHIÊN CỨU VỀ TÁC ĐỘNG CỦA VIỆC XEM PHIM ĐỐI VỚI HỌC TIẾNG ANH NHẪM PHÁT TRIỂN KỸ NĂNG NGHE VÀ NÓI CỦA SINH VIÊN TRƯỜNG ĐẠI HỌC KINH DOANH VÀ CÔNG NGHỆ HÀ NỘI

Nguyễn Thị Trà My

Tóm tắt: Bài viết này nhằm mục đích tìm hiểu những lợi ích tích cực mà việc xem phim đem lại trong việc cải thiện kỹ năng nói và nghe tiếng anh của sinh viên trường đại học Kinh Doanh và Công Nghệ Hà Nội. Bên cạnh đó, nghiên cứu cũng chỉ ra một số khó khăn mà sinh viên có thể gặp phải, qua đó gợi ý một số giải pháp giúp việc tự học tiếng anh nhờ xem phim hiệu quả hơn dựa trên 3 câu hỏi khác nhau lần lượt về tác động, thời gian và thể loại phim.

Từ khóa: Kỹ năng nghe và nói tiếng anh, tác động, khó khăn, giải pháp.