

## THE IMPORTANCE OF USING AUTHENTIC MATERIALS IN SECOND LANGUAGE TEACHING PROCESS

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### **Abstract**

The article provides information about the important features of authentic materials in foreign language teaching process. Selection of the teaching materials in terms of learners' needs can be regarded as one of the most difficult task for foreign language teachers. Materials used in the teaching process contribute to the effective learning visually or verbally. They are considered as the most effective teaching materials for the communicative purposes of foreign language teaching. Different types of authentic materials, advantages of using authentic materials, issues to consider in choosing authentic materials in foreign language teaching have been investigated in the article.

**Keywords:** language instruction, authentic materials, target language, second language teaching, effective teaching materials.

**Introduction.** The using of resources is crucial in foreign language instruction. Of course, employing solely the textbook as a resource will not enough for efficient foreign language instruction. There are several materials available nowadays for teaching foreign languages. These products help students learn more successfully by enhancing textual, oral, and visual instruction. Textbooks, blackboards, projectors, photographs, actual items, and so on can all be considered supplementary materials used in teaching. Nowadays, due to technological developments, there are many materials that can be used in foreign language teaching. It is also possible to classify these materials as authentic materials and inauthentic materials. Materials deliberately prepared for the purpose of teaching the target language are inauthentic materials. Materials that do not have any pedagogical features and are prepared for the use of people who speak the target language in their daily lives are also authentic materials. These materials are quite different from each other. Authentic materials are prepared for a certain purpose of communicating in real life, but inauthentic materials are unnatural documents prepared specifically to teach a certain language skill. While artificial and simplified sentences for students are used in inauthentic materials, authentic materials may even contain incomplete sentences used in daily life. While inauthentic materials are more useful for teaching grammar, authentic materials are more useful for improving the communicative aspect of the language [3]. Both sorts of resources contribute to foreign language training in various ways. This research will stress the use of real resources in foreign language instruction, analyze the benefits and drawbacks of utilizing such materials, and outline what should be included in the selection process of these materials.

*The explanation of Authentic Material.* In foreign language teaching, authentic materials can also be used in teaching the four language skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. In addition, authentic materials can be used effectively for teaching vocabulary and grammar. Foreign language instruction using such resources is more effective since it boosts motivation and interest, gives unique examples, and assists students in developing four essential language skills in the target language. Furthermore, the primary goal of employing

authentic materials is to convey as much of life's realism as possible into the artificial classroom setting. Authentic materials are papers that enable us to learn from real-life circumstances in a simulated classroom setting.

*Different Types of Authentic Materials.* There are several materials that may be utilized to teach foreign languages. The television shows, pamphlets, tickets, literary texts, web pages, and most significant and valuable of these are genuine materials. Songs, magazines, newspapers, other materials in the target language that are intended for native speakers rather than students. Documents can serve as authentic resources in foreign language instruction. We may divide authentic materials into two categories: oral and written. Television and radio programs, movies, news, weather forecasts, airport announcements, e-books, telephone messages, videos, podcasts, job interviews, etc. Documents can be given as examples of audio authentic materials. Advertisements, brochures, magazines, newspapers, road signs, calendars, tickets, screen shots and printouts, poems, user manuals, application forms, articles, recipes, restaurant menus, cartoons, airport timetables, etc. are examples of authentic written materials [5]. Genhard divides authentic materials into three main groups: auditory, written and visual [3]. According to this grouping, radio news, cartoons and songs are auditory; visual street signs, magazine and newspaper pictures, postcards; Sports reports, newspapers, restaurant menus and train tickets are examples of authentic written materials. As can be seen from the examples, all materials other than audio also contain visual elements. Aside from this, the internet has become a source of authentic content in its own right. The internet provides access to a wide range of real audio and writing resources in the target language, as well as graphic components. The Internet may be described as the most beneficial, natural, and accessible genuine material source since it can be utilized by instructors in the classroom as well as students outside the classroom at any time.

*Advantages of Using Authentic Materials.* Authentic materials help students develop their communicative competence, which is very important in foreign

language teaching. The linguistic advantages of authentic materials can be summarized as follows: linguistic and non-linguistic advantages.

It enables students to produce the target language better, - Students to acquire the target language more quickly, - Students to feel more confident in real-life situations [1] - They expose students to real language, - They are more relevant to students' needs, - They have positive effects on students' motivation, - They draw students' attention to cultural information [3] - The use of authentic materials is very effective in filling the gap between competence and performance.

Authentic materials contain types of literature not found in textbooks, making reading more enjoyable for students. Incomplete and irregular structures used in daily language are not used in textbooks. Students who encounter these structures in authentic materials become more confident when using the target language in real life.

*Disadvantages of Using Authentic Materials.* Besides the advantages of using authentic materials in foreign language teaching, there are also some disadvantages. We can list these disadvantages as follows: The vocabulary and structures utilized may not be appropriate for the students' level of the target language. Some materials may require extra preparation for teachers, which may result in a loss of time. Auditory original literature may feature a variety of accents, which might mislead pupils. To understand some items, they must be translated from the target culture [6]. It is necessary to have knowledge, not every student may have this knowledge. In order to understand authentic materials, the student's level in the target language must be high enough, otherwise the student may lose motivation to learn a foreign language.

Given all of the advantages and negatives, we may conclude that the benefits outweigh the disadvantages. As a result, foreign language teachers should maximize the benefits of using original resources while teaching the target language.

*Issues to Consider in Choosing Authentic Materials in Foreign Language Teaching*

Using actual resources in foreign language instruction offers both advantages and disadvantages, as previously stated. It is critical to pick such materials carefully in order to mitigate these advantages. If real resources are chosen appropriately, they may be quite effective in foreign language instruction. Students' interests and needs are one of the most significant factors to consider while developing a curriculum and teaching a foreign language. Both the appearance and content of the selected materials should attract the attention of students. In addition, materials should suit the linguistic needs of students. Materials that are too high or too far below the students' foreign language level may cause more harm than good to the teaching process. For this reason, when choosing authentic material, one should first check whether it meets the needs of the students and whether it is within the students' interests.

We can argue that the authenticity of the text, suitability of the content, compatibility with the course objectives and usability are the most important criteria when choosing authentic materials in foreign language

teaching. Not every authentic material may be suitable for use in every lesson. The important thing is to present the right authentic material to the right student at the right time, with the right methods. Of course, many other criteria can also be used including interest of the subject, compatibility of cultures, logistical evaluation, cognitive demand, linguistic demand, quality and usability. Since learning a foreign language also requires learning a foreign culture, the target culture must be conveyed correctly to the students. The use of authentic materials for cultural transfer will be very useful.

However, it is critical to carefully assess the cultural aspects carried by the real content, since certain cultural variations may result in negative views among pupils. For this reason, the cultural components contained by the real content to be utilized must be compatible with the students' cultures. If the authentic materials used are always the same type, it may negatively affect students' motivation. For this reason, using a variety of literary styles and presenting documents in an authentic context will be more interesting for students [2]. Materials that attract students' attention will also contribute greatly to foreign language teaching.

Students' levels are also very important in using authentic materials in foreign language teaching. The benefits of using authentic materials in foreign language teaching have been proven by many studies. However, the use of these materials may not be suitable for every student at every level. There are different opinions among researchers on this subject. For this reason, the biggest role in this regard falls to the teacher. If the teacher knows well the levels, interests, needs and things that his students can do, he can choose the most appropriate authentic materials to be used.

### CONCLUSION

Course materials used in foreign language teaching have a very important role in the effectiveness of teaching. The visual, auditory and written materials used appeal to students' different sensory organs, making learning more effective and making it difficult to forget what has been learned. Since the target culture must be transferred to the students in foreign language teaching, the importance of using authentic materials are not prepared for the purpose of teaching a language, but reflect the daily use of the target language and contain elements from the target culture, cannot be denied. Many researchers in the literature argue that the use of authentic materials is very advantageous. The most essential benefits of genuine materials are motivating students, integrating real-life problems into the classroom, promoting cultural transfer, and being fascinating. Some studies also discuss the disadvantages using real materials. The most significant disadvantages are that students' motivation suffers when the language used is beyond their level, the preparation period is time-consuming, and the cultural components it contains are above the students' perceptive level. However, these drawbacks can be mitigated by paying attention to a few details while selecting these materials. First of all, what needs to be taken into consideration is that the language used in the selected material is not too much above the language level of the students and that the

material must be of a quality that will attract the attention and interest of the students. Other important factors to consider when choosing authentic materials are that they are suitable for the purposes of the course, that the cultural elements they carry are relatively compatible with the cultures of the students, and that they can be applied in the classroom. Considering these, the above-mentioned disadvantages can be reduced. As a result, the use of authentic materials in foreign language teaching makes learning more effective, although it has some disadvantages.

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