



USING AUTHENTIC MATERIALS FOR LANGUAGE LEARNING

Overview

Authentic materials or realia are great sources of real-world language use although their content may appear difficult to some learners since authentic texts largely contain unfamiliar language. This, however, can be taken as a challenge for the instructor to design the task, and for the students to decode the language in the selected text.

Why authentic materials?

- ◆ Link the classroom to the real world
- ◆ Motivate learners by changing classroom routine and switching roles
- ◆ Boost up learners' confidence
- ◆ Make the language classroom dynamic
- ◆ Enrich learner's use of the target language

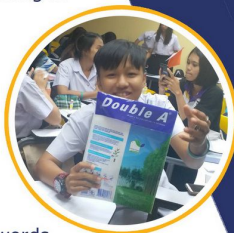
How to effectively use authentic materials?

- ◆ Focusing on language use in real world
- ◆ Ensuring students' choice of interest
- ◆ Integrating using material with interactive activity



Impact

- Positive attitudes towards learning
- Students' full engagement in the task
- Individual contributions to group discussion
- Application of data-driven learning approach
- Higher awareness of words and meaning in real-world use



Future development of project

- Integrating dynamic group activities
- Creating vocabulary bank of related words
- Extending the approach to authentic material with longer text

Context

Introducing the concept of semantics to freshman in linguistics class can be a daunting task. However, by simplifying and associating the so-called semantics to the real world language use, a teacher can experience a dramatic change in the learning environment.

Activity

In groups, students identify powerful words in authentic materials of their choice. Popular items are product package, label, advertisement, and slogan.

Step 1 : Students identify the powerful words and describe their characteristics through group discussion.

Step 2 : Students present the material to other groups, putting effort to sell the chosen product by using the powerful words.

Aims and Objectives

- To elicit the concept of semantics, the study of meaning
- To broaden learner's view on denotative and connotative meanings in real world
- To encourage learners to explore real-world language use
- To build up learner's confidence in speaking

Outcome

- Ability to identify denotative and connotative meanings
- The increased number of new words learned and familiarized
- Dynamic classroom atmosphere & laughter on peer's creativity
- Implicit learning of semantics in context

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