The Analysis of Application about English Original Films in Oral English Teaching

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Abstract. In today's domestic and international environment, learning English along with the extensive use of the English language is more and more popular. In a wide variety of English learning methods, the method of promoting English learning by appreciating original film is one of the priorities. In order to improve vocational college students' oral English skills, it's feasible for the teachers to use a new, dynamic teaching way – teaching with English Original Movies.

Introduction

Watching films is an art form which is a way to fully mobilize the audiences’ auditory and visual and make a good communication with their inner feelings. In modern life, watching film is both a method of entertainment and a way to broaden people's horizons and develop their skills. With the development of teaching tools, multimedia has entered the English class. However, what is the magic of the movies on the screen to contribute to our English learning? Please listen to me.

The main goal of Higher Vocational Education is to develop students' practical ability. So that learners can acquire the ability to adapt to a particular application of the career needs in our country. Therefore, Oral English Teaching in Higher Vocational College should focus on students' oral English skills.

However, the traditional teaching method can’t be linked to real life. The inefficient way is unable to mobilize the enthusiasm of the students. It is difficult to improve students' oral communication skills.

In order to improve vocational college students' oral English skills, it’s feasible for the teachers to use a new, dynamic teaching way – teaching with English Original Movies. By comparing with the traditional teaching way, we find some advantages of the way of teaching with English original films. Apart from that, we also point out some teaching misunderstandings, and offer an improved way to make English original film can be better used in spoken English teaching.

The strengths of teaching with English Original Films

Movies can make people feel into the storyline unconsciously by mobilizing the audiences’ sensory organs, and can also make the audiences understand the characters’ life and mental activities well. Because of the similar feeling of the experience, teaching with original films to improve students’ oral English has distinct advantages.

In addition, being different from some listening materials in the market, film, a market-oriented visual art, is not intended to play a role like supplementary. Language and dialogue are only a part of it. What’s more, films’ content and rate of speech are closer to the reality of English culture word. Apart from that, film contains a lot of dialogues instead of some vocabularies only. From this perspective, words in films have made a vivid and realistic interpretation of the language. It can stimulate the enthusiasm of learning, help students learn English and American culture and improve English language learners' language skills.

a. original English movies can help to stimulate the enthusiasm of learning

As Einstein said, "Interest is the best teacher". People who once have a strong interest in something, he or she will not stop to seek some knowledge related. Similarly, by appreciating the original English movies, people can have a personal experience of the images and sounds, which
can stimulate students’ interest more easily. For example, if a student is crazy about a film star, he or she will try his or her best to imitate the star’s language and action by repeating the viewing for many times. Through this way, the learner’s English speaking ability will be trained.

**b. original English movies can help students learn English and American culture**

Films always contain the linguistic information and the local customs. Enjoying the original English film can make learners understand the social atmosphere in English-speaking countries and the local people’s like and dislike. For example, if an audience likes an attraction appearing in a movie, he or she will search for the information, use his or her leisure time to learning more, or even travel to this destination personally. Through this way, English learners will continuously use English and improve his or her understanding of English-speaking countries cultural. Another example is that the audience will know more about Christmas gifts, eating turkey in Thanksgiving days and other customs by watching characters celebrating Christmas and Thanksgiving days in the film.

**c. original English movies can help to improve English language learners’ language skills**

In the traditional teaching way, teachers always focus on the application of grammar and difficult, complex sentences. It has no link with the real life and ignore the flexibility of vocabulary. However, the real national oral communication in English is not the pursuit of gorgeous and complex sentences, but the precise expression. English oral movie can subtly influence the thinking of language, avoiding the thinking of Chinese language. For a simple example, people in England meeting with each other always talk about the weather. Mastering the English using standard can help you effectively avoid the error caused by pragmatic failure.

**d. original English movies can help to improve vocabulary**

For a language, the only one ultimate purpose of its existence is information exchanging. Nowadays, the world's most common, popular and convenient form of communication is face to face verbal communication. That’s why a person might not good at reading and writing, but it does not mean he can not communicate with others effectively. For English learners, although the importance of speaking and writing are equal, the language expression and communication is the closest way to learn a language. Original English movies have a unique condition for English learning. Comparing with traditional textbooks, dialogues in movies are a panoramic reproduction of the actual means of communication. In addition to adequate representation of the content, films has three-dimensional sense and it is appropriate than any other way to practice English. The most important is that it is able to guide students to carry verbal learning self-consciously and even blurt out some common spoken language.

**Notes of teaching with English Original Films**

Teaching with English Original Films in Vocational English Teaching has many advantages, but because of the flexibility of film appreciation, it always caused some misunderstandings. As teachers, we must be clear about the purpose of showing film is focusing on teaching techniques, improving students' oral skills and make a better result.

**a. clearing that purpose of teaching is to learn authentic oral English from the movie**

In the teaching process, watching movies is a means, not the goal, it’s purpose is to enable students to have a high level of English speaking skills. Therefore, teachers can train students through some activities such as RPG. Role-playing requires students to fully understand the characters’ thoughts, feelings, tone of voice as well as some mantra, everyday phrases. It can help students express English more fluently, to improve the ability to communicate with each other.

**b. choosing films properly, not blindly**

Teachers should make purposeful, systematic arrangement for students to watch movies through the teaching plan. Teachers should take full advantage of the educational role of the film, reducing the blindness of guidance. Because different movies’ content have different focused aspects, when choosing a movie, we should first know about the kind of teaching content, then take correspondingly movie. Only in this way can students learn oral English thoroughly and movies make an effective educational function.
c. focusing on teaching skills of film appreciation courses

In this teaching way, teachers should choose the films with moderate difficulty. In the same time, when public the film, teachers should avoid Chinese subtitle, try to guide students to reduce dependence on subtitles and make them study in an All England state. A film should be appreciated for several times. For the first time, students need to watch movies completely, having an overall feeling of the film and enjoy the film. For the second time, students should listen and read the sentences one by one to achieve the learning goal. Meanwhile, the teachers should explain expressions and slang in the film to students to enable them to master semantics and usage.

d. carrying out a variety of activities, put speaking skills into practice

Through Appreciating the film, we can know more about the English-speaking countries’ environment of cultural, and the usage of slang expressions, then teachers should focus on the application. Teachers can carry out a number of exciting activities, such as drama adaptation, dialogue imitation, funny dubbing and Feedback forum. So that students can learn how to use expression skills flexible. Highly interactive activities, such as imitation, dubbing, can fully exercise one’s oral English while Feedback forum can help students share their experiences in theory between each other.

e. Monitoring the effect after the concept

After watching films, teachers should offer some time to the students to communicate with each other, or make them do a oral summary of the film. To some students, teachers can make them describe the culture backgrounds in English or make them seek for some information related. It can stimulate students’ enthusiasm of learning oral English.

f. Try to figure out the details of the film language

Film Dialogues often have a lot of subtexts, the formation of these subtexts often linked to words, proverbs and phrases which have deep meanings. And it is the key to students’ learning oral English. However, in the course of daily television viewing, a word or a phrase often appear for a very short time, so it always be ignored by some level limited students easily. Because of that, people should clear the real purpose of watching films, remembering to prepare for the film and make notes while watching. After viewing, don’t forget to seek for the explanations of your questions.

Summary

Application about English Original Films in Oral English Teaching can increase students’ interests while strengthen students' oral skills. Meanwhile, if teachers clear teaching objectives and use appropriate teaching skills, this teaching way will play a multiplier effect.

References