

The Benefits of Using Songs in Teaching English As A Foreign Language

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Abstract: This study addresses the benefits of using music in teaching English as a foreign language (TEFL). According to research, integrating songs into English lessons is one of the most effective methods for teaching a second language. This is because music enhances various aspects of learning including linguistics, cognition, culture, and motivation. Furthermore, it creates a more dynamic and engaging classroom environment making language acquisition both interesting and effective.

Keywords: TEFL, melodies, pronunciation, cognitive skills, language proficiency, multi-sensory language learning, verbal expression, kinesthetic learner.

Introduction: It is widely accepted that English has become the world's dominant language and leading to a significant rise in the number of students eager to learn it. As the demand for English proficiency continues to grow, teaching methodologies must evolve accordingly to ensure effective learning acquisition. Studies highlight many techniques including the integration of online tools, lecture-based lessons, peer-teaching and etc. Among these, incorporating songs into English is considered one of the most engaging and productive methods. The main reason of it is music enhances multiple aspects of language learning making the process more interactive and enjoyable.

Firstly, incorporating music into learning process can significantly enhance vocabulary acquisition as students are exposed to new vocabularies, phrases and their usage while listening to English songs. In this way, they can learn word expressions and understand how to use them in different context with correct meanings which improves their overall proficiency in the second language. In addition, music serves as an effective tool for refining pronunciation by exposing students to natural speech patterns, encouraging imitation, reinforcing phonetic accuracy through rhythmic repetition. In other words, music acts as an authentic source of pronunciation including stress, rhythm, and intonation patterns. As students try to sing along, they

start to imitate the rhythm, apply stress as it is naturally used by singer and gradually achieve a high pronunciation fluency. Listening to native singers can help students recognize and internalize the natural flow of speech.

At the same time, music can be a highly beneficial tool strengthening listening skills. It is evident that nowadays many young people listen to music in their spare time and a significant number of them prefer English songs. This increases their exposure to language and strengthens their connection to it. In this way, students can make productive use of their leisure time. Through regular listening, they begin to recognize different accents and speech patterns, making the process more enjoyable and engaging. Additionally, music can serve as a valuable source for developing grammar skills as it enables learners to improve their grammar understanding. More specifically, song lyrics often reflect real-life sentence structures, requiring listeners to comprehend and interpret meaning simultaneously. As a result, music not only entertains but also contributes to a high level of linguistic proficiency in a second language.

Secondly, songs and melodies not only boost students' linguistic education but also they play a crucial role in their cognitive development. For example, repetitive nature of songs can enhance memory and retention as lyrics naturally consist of repetition of the words and

phrases, in turn, it enhances memory by embedding vocabulary and grammar into rhythm and melody making them easier to recall. One of the significant advantages of using songs in teaching English is that it engages multiple learning styles simultaneously. In a typical classroom each student has different preference in how they absorb and retain new information. Some of them are audio learners, meaning they learn best through listening. Others are visual learners, who prefer reading and seeing words while some are kinesthetic learners, who understand better through movement and physical activity.

Songs can infuse all these learning styles. When students listen to a song their auditory skills are activated. When they read the lyrics, it supports visual learning. And they sing along it includes movement and verbal expression, which is useful for kinesthetic learners. By combining listening, reading, and singing, songs create a multi-sensory learning environment that helps students to stay engaged and better remember what they learn. Another advantage of using music in education is the positive atmosphere it can create during teaching and learning process. Obviously, providing an engaging learning environment considered as an important aspect as it motivates students to do their utmost and can help alleviate stress and protect from other distractions making the process more effective and enjoyable.

Furthermore, in order to achieve high level of proficiency, consistent exposure to English on a daily basis is essential for every student. In this regard, incorporating songs into learning process can be a highly effective method for promoting faster language processing. The more learners listen to English songs, the more frequently they encounter new vocabularies allowing them to recognize and recall words more quickly due to increased familiarity.

Moreover, songs offer significant motivational and psychological advantages. Teachers can enhance engagement by playing students' favorite songs at the beginning of class, helping to create fun and interactive learning atmosphere that encourages participation. In other words, melodies can be used as a means of attraction and motivation. Coupled with this, allowing learners to sing together in groups help build confidence in using the language while also reducing anxiety often associated with speaking in a second language. These techniques contribute to a positive, relaxed learning environment, making lessons more enjoyable and effective. Finally, lyrics can foster a personal connection to the language enhancing emotional engagement and motivation.

When it comes to cultural and social benefits, music

can enrich students' cultural awareness. More specifically, incorporating songs into language lessons can introduce learners to English-speaking traditions and lifestyles in a highly engaging and meaningful way. Historically, music has served as a vehicle for preserving and transmitting a nation's cultural heritage. Besides, group singing or discussions about lyrics promote communication among students encouraging them to express their ideas and opinions more freely — reducing feelings of shyness or introversion. On top of that, one of the most critical advantages of music is its ability to broaden students' horizon, shift their worldview, enhance their general knowledge, and deepen their understanding of art and culture, as different genres expose learners to diverse perspectives.

Overall, as the dominance of English language continues to grow worldwide, the demand for learning and teaching this language shows no signs of decline. While acquiring a foreign language as a second or third language is never an easy task there are various effective methods that support language acquisition—such as integration of online tools, lecture-based lessons, collaborative learning strategies, and the use of songs. Among these, music stands out as one of the most popular and beneficial tools in teaching English as a foreign language. It enables students to improve their language skills in multiple ways: expanding vocabulary, reinforcing grammar, improving memory, boosting motivation, and fostering cultural and historical awareness. This study firmly believes that with dedication and the integration diverse strategies into learning process, students overcome any challenges and ultimately achieve a high level of proficiency in their second language.

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