



Developing listening skills through songs

Uzbekistan State World languages University

Teacher: Prenova Gulsara

Student: Xazratqulova Feruza

Songs are part of our everyday lives. Listening to the music is a hobby to many people. Developing listening skills through songs is effectively. In this article, developing listening skills through songs is described.

Песни являются частью нашей повседневной жизни. Слушать музыку - это хобби для многих людей. Развитие навыков слушания через песни эффективно. В этой статье описывается развитие навыков слушания через песни.

Key words: song, listening, catchy song, motivation.

“We tend to take listening for granted. We only become aware of what remarkable feats of listening we achieve when we are in an unfamiliar listening environment, such as listening to a language in which we have limited proficiency”¹.

In comparison to the other skills, listening is the most difficult and least cherished skill. Students realize, that speaking like a native speaker, is difficult, without listening and imitating we can not improve our skill.

Spelling and pronunciation of English vary a lot. Rhythmic pattern of English, stress and intonation rules, using colloquial vocabulary in speaking and etc, can be found as a reasons why students find listening difficult. But, they must be solved. We should motivate and persuade them to practice listening activities. Because, through listening we can learn more.

¹ ANDERSON, Anne and Tony LYNCH. -1991 ,p3

“The experience of being a listener is important: as a result you become a better speaker because you have knowledge of what the listener needs”².

As we have already suggested, when not conducted properly, listening can become a very stressful and demotivating activity. According to Penny Ur, in order to avoid this, we must make several things sure. Firstly, we need to ensure good listening conditions – the recording and the recorder (CD player) must be in perfect condition. Secondly, we must pay special attention to pre-listening activities.

”Students should be given specific instructions (are they listening for the gist or for detailed information?) – otherwise they will not be able to focus properly”³.

According to Shelagh Rixon, the process of understanding the spoken text takes place on several levels which are equally important;

- “hearing all the words”
- “understanding the plain sense of the information”
- “deducing the meaning of unknown words and phrases by using the context”
- “reading between the lines”
- “recognising the speaker’s mood and attitude”
- “recognising the degree of formality”.

Listening tapescripts, records is sometimes boring. But music is another thing, “Music is a powerful stimulus for student engagement precisely because it speaks directly to our emotions while still allowing us to use our brains to analyse it and its effects if we wish so. It can make a satisfactory connection between the world of leisure and the world of learning.”⁴

Songs can be heard many times, through retelling them we can improve our listening skills. Through song we learn not only the target

² ANDERSON, Anne and Tony LYNCH. -1991,p16

³ UR, Penny. A Course in Language Teaching.- 2004,p108

⁴ HARMER, Jeremy. 2001,p242

language, but also the country's culture, and usually easy to understand. And it is also amusing and relaxing. "They provide variety and fun, and encourage harmony within oneself and within a group."⁵ The songs have everything - ready-made phrases, living language, and the same grammar. They give the ability to listen to the speech, to understand and memorize by ear. Communicative linguistics has had a great influence on the methodology of teaching foreign languages, drawing attention to the problems of situationally conditioned teaching of oral types of speech activity, the typology of texts and situations, the development of communicatively oriented exercises, the wide use of authentic materials, including songs. The use of a song in the learning process contributes to a) strengthening motives, providing a favorable psychological climate in the classroom, b) expanding the linguistic-cultural horizon by obtaining information about the culture of the country and educating aesthetic tastes c) improving auditory and speech productive skills. Music and singing provide invaluable assistance in learning a foreign language at school.

References:

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⁵ Macmillan publishers. MyEnglish Songbook. 1981