

Abstract

Movies have long been regarded as beneficial material for language teaching and learning. Nevertheless, this source of material seems to be inadequately researched and employed in Vietnam. In this research, movies were used to see if they would motivate Vietnamese students to improve their communication skills in English. A series of activities inspired from movies were employed to ignite the communication among the students in the course. These students were from a private university in Hanoi. Some of them were weak in English when the others were better. Nevertheless, all of them had the same goal of advancing their communication skills. Though the number of students attending the experiment was small, they showed a positive attitude toward using movies as learning material. Although the students were still limited in reaching high fluency level, the results of each activity, especially the final interview, were promising. The continuous exposure to language through those communicative activities was helpful to the students' progress. In addition, the random recordings of some of their task-performance and the transcription of those tasks were sufficiently encouraging evidence for using movies as one of the useful source of materials for English teaching and learning in Vietnam. To enhance the use of movies in teaching English, future researchers should consider using feature movies from which communicative strategies could be identified and taught as an important part of communication. In addition to communication strategies, colloquial forms of language are the next target in the lessons since they are metaphors which are used commonly in daily life language. For the benefit of better understanding and using English, these forms should also be included in language courses.