



THE EFFECT OF USING SONGS IN ENGLISH TEACHING

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Abstract. Songs are appreciated for their linguistic, pedagogical, cultural and entertaining features and those are precious language learning materials. They can be used to teach and develop every aspect of a language. This paper aims to verify these claims and confirm the effectiveness of using songs as a means to improve learners' English language vocabulary and to determine whether songs influence learners' motivation to learn English

Keywords. Listening skill, vocabulary acquisition, cultural insight, pronunciation, motivation, songs.

Using songs in English teaching can be highly effective for enhancing language acquisition, engagement, and retention. Here are some specific benefits:

1. **Improving Listening Skills:** Songs expose learners to authentic pronunciation, rhythm, intonation, and flow. They help train the ear to understand natural English, including contractions and connected speech.

2. **Vocabulary and Grammar Acquisition:** Lyrics often contain rich vocabulary, idiomatic expressions, and varied grammatical structures. Repetition in songs reinforces word and phrase recognition, which aids in memorization and understanding of grammar in context.

3. **Pronunciation Practice:** Singing along with songs helps students mimic native pronunciation and accents, which can enhance their confidence and clarity when speaking.

4. **Cultural Insights:** Songs often reflect cultural themes, beliefs, and stories, giving learners a window into English-speaking cultures, which can enhance their overall appreciation and contextual understanding of the language.

5. **Engagement and Motivation:** Music makes learning fun and relatable, especially if students like the genre or artist. It can boost motivation, reduce learning anxiety, and encourage participation, as songs often make students more relaxed and eager to engage. The notion of motivation is difficult to explain because “different people are motivated by different things” (House, 1997: 10). As House explains,



children need to be motivated individually or within a group. By encouraging an individual child, the teacher stimulates and maintains interest in English.

6. Memory Retention: Music aids memory due to its rhythm and melody, making it easier to remember words and phrases. The repetitive nature of songs helps in long-term retention, turning passive vocabulary into active vocabulary over time.

7. Creativity and Critical Thinking: Analyzing lyrics or discussing a song's message encourages critical thinking. Teachers can use song analysis to initiate discussions, ask students to interpret meaning, or even inspire creative writing or role-playing activities.

In practice, teachers might select songs based on the level of language complexity suitable for their students, with a variety of activities, such as fill-in-the-blank exercises, lyric analysis, and group discussions. Using songs effectively makes English learning more dynamic and relatable, creating a memorable and enjoyable learning experience.

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