LISTENING TEXTS AND LISTENING STRETAGIES

Teshaboyeva Nafisa Zubaydulla qizi

Scientific advisor: Jizzakh branch of the National university of Uzbekistan named after Mirzo Ulug'bek. The faculty of psychology, the department of Foreign languages; Philology and teaching languages: English

Fozilova Feruza G'ulom qizi

The faculty of psychology the department of Foreign languages: Philology and teaching languages: English, student of group 103-23

Abstract: Listening texts, including audio recordings, podcasts, videos, and live conversations, are essential tools in language learning. They expose learners to various accents, speech rates, and communication styles, helping improve listening comprehension. Effective listening strategies, such as predicting content, note-taking, and focusing on keywords, enable learners to better process spoken information. Active listening techniques, like listening for the gist or listening for specific details, enhance learners' ability to extract meaningful information from diverse auditory inputs. Incorporating varied listening texts and strategies into learning materials fosters adaptability and enhances comprehension skills, preparing learners for real-world language use.

Key words: listening texts, listening strategies, active listening, comprehension, speech rates, accents, real-world language use.

Listening comprehension is a crucial skill in language acquisition, enabling learners to engage with spoken language in real-world contexts. Listening texts, such as audio recordings, podcasts, videos, and live conversations, provide learners with exposure to a variety of accents, speech rates, and communication styles. These texts challenge learners to understand not just the words, but also the cultural and contextual nuances embedded in speech.

However, comprehending spoken language can be difficult, especially when the listener is faced with unfamiliar accents or fast-paced speech.

To address these challenges, effective listening strategies are essential. Techniques like predicting content, note-taking, and focusing on key words help learners process information more efficiently and improve retention. Active listening strategies, such as listening for the main idea or specific details, allow learners to engage more deeply with the material and enhance overall comprehension. By integrating a range of listening texts and strategic approaches into language learning, students are better prepared to navigate the complexities of real-world communication and develop stronger listening skills.

The study highlighted the significant role of listening texts and strategies in enhancing language learners' listening comprehension. Listening texts, whether audio recordings, podcasts, videos, or live conversations, expose learners to a variety of accents, speech rates, and contexts, thus broadening their understanding of spoken language. One key observation from the study was that the diversity of listening texts allowed learners to adapt to different communicative situations, which is crucial for real-world language use. For instance, students who engaged with a variety of listening materials (e.g., informal conversations, news reports, or academic lectures) were better able to process speech in diverse contexts, especially in environments where accents and speaking styles varied.

Additionally, the study demonstrated that effective listening strategies are fundamental to improving comprehension. Strategies like predicting content, listening for keywords, and note-taking helped learners focus on essential information while filtering out irrelevant details. These strategies enabled learners to make educated guesses about content and context, thereby enhancing comprehension even when faced with difficult or unfamiliar listening materials. Furthermore, active listening strategies, such as focusing on the main idea or listening for specific details, allowed learners to hone in on key points and follow complex conversations with greater ease.

Another important aspect revealed by the study was that learners often struggled with listening texts that involved unfamiliar accents or speech rates. This challenge was particularly noticeable when students encountered rapid speech or non-native accents that were outside their typical exposure. However, using targeted strategies, such as adjusting their focus to the overall message rather than individual words, learners were able to mitigate these difficulties and improve their overall listening comprehension. This finding supports the idea that listening comprehension is not solely about understanding every word, but about grasping the broader context and key points, an approach that can be developed with the right strategies.

The study found that learners performed better with familiar accents (e.g., British or American English), but struggled with less familiar accents (e.g., Australian or Indian English). Comprehension also declined when speech was fast-paced, highlighting the challenge of processing rapid speech. Learners showed higher comprehension when listening to texts relevant to their studies or everyday life, while academic or technical topics posed more difficulty.

Regarding strategies, learners who used prediction techniques and focused on key words demonstrated improved comprehension, especially with unfamiliar accents. Note-taking helped participants retain more information and recall key points. Active listening strategies, such as focusing on the main idea or specific details, proved effective in navigating complex texts and improving overall listening skills. Feedback indicated that, over time, learners gained confidence in their listening abilities, especially with consistent use of these strategies.

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