

LESSON MATERIAL

TEFL METHODOLOGY

CODE : PNG4350
CREDITS : 4
SEMESTER : 4
TOPIC : AUTHENTIC MATERIALS

Authenticity in Language Teaching

Principle of Communicative Language Teaching

Materials need to be authentic to reflect real-life situations and demands

Clarke & Silbertstein (in Richards, 2005):

‘Classroom activities should parallel the ‘real world’ as closely as possible. Since language is a tool of communication, methods, and materials should concentrate on the message and not the medium. The purposes of reading should be the same in class as they are in real life’.

Definitions of ‘authentic materials

- Nunan (1988:99):

“as those which have been produced for purposes other than to teach language”

- Lee (1995:324):

"a text is usually regarded as textually authentic if it is not written for teaching purposes, but for a real-life communicative purpose. . .“

- Rhicard (2001):

“the use in teaching of texts, photographs, video

selections, and other teaching resources that were not

specially prepared for pedagogical purposes”

Advantages of using authentic materials

1. Providing cultural information about the target language
2. Providing exposure to real language
3. Relating more closely to learners’ needs
4. Supporting a more creative approach to teaching

Some considerations in selecting authentic materials

1. Learners will not automatically like materials just because they are "realia" or are "authentic" – the materials need to have communicative potential, be relevant to learner experiences and projected needs as well as a host of other factors

2. The question is not whether authentic texts should be used, but when and how they should be introduced.

This is no guarantee that the lesson will be successful. Will the materials be taught 'well' by the teacher? Will the learners respond positively to thematerials?"

Degrees of authenticity

Brown and Menasche(2006) propose five levels for input from:

1. genuine input authenticity
2. altered input authenticity
3. adapted input authenticity
4. simulated input authenticity
5. inauthenticity

How to use authentic materials

1. Teachers should develop their full potential, designing activities and tasks that better match their teaching styles and the learning styles of their students.
2. The use of authentic materials requires the teachers to train their students in using learning strategies early on.
3. Teachers must be prepared to spend a considerable amount of time locating suitable sources for materials and developing learning tasks that accompany the materials and scaffold the learning process.