

CHOOSING CHALLENGES OF AUTHENTIC MATERIALS FOR SPORTSMEN IN LANGUAGE LEARNING

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Abstract

Present article devoted to the significance of authentic materials, various types of them, some difficulties of authentic materials in order to choose for sportsmen in language learning.

Keywords: authentic materials, proficiency levels, learning objectives, language exposes learners, language experiences.

Introduction

Authentic materials play a crucial role in language learning as they provide learners with real-life examples of language usage in authentic contexts. Here are some examples of authentic materials that can be used for language learning purposes:

Newspapers and Magazines: Reading newspapers or magazines in the target language exposes learners to current events, various writing styles, and a wide range of vocabulary. They can explore news articles, feature stories, opinion pieces, and editorials to improve their reading comprehension and expand their language skills.

Books and Novels: Reading books and novels written in the target language provides learners with immersive language experiences. They can choose books based on their interests, whether it's fiction, non-fiction, or genres like mystery, science fiction, or romance. Reading books helps enhance vocabulary, grammar, and overall language proficiency.

Online Articles and Blogs: Online articles and blogs cover a vast range of topics, from travel and lifestyle to technology and science. Websites like Medium, HuffPost, or personal blogs offer authentic content that learners can explore to improve their reading skills and gain insights into different subject areas.

Podcasts and Audio Recordings: Listening to podcasts or audio recordings in the target language helps develop listening comprehension skills and exposes learners to natural speech patterns, accents, and intonation. Platforms like Spotify, Apple Podcasts, or dedicated language learning websites offer a wide variety of podcasts on different topics.

TV Shows and Movies: Watching TV shows, series, or movies in the target language provides learners with exposure to conversational language, cultural nuances, and visual context. Platforms like Netflix or YouTube offer a vast collection of content in multiple languages, allowing learners to choose shows or movies that match their interests.



Songs and Music: Listening to songs in the target language can be an enjoyable way to improve language skills. Learners can explore music genres, lyrics, and even attempt to sing along, which helps with pronunciation, vocabulary, and rhythm.

Social Media: Social media platforms like Twitter, Instagram, or Facebook can provide learners with authentic written and spoken language examples. Following accounts or hashtags related to their interests allows learners to engage with real-time conversations, short posts, and informal language use.

Authentic Conversations and Dialogues: Engaging in conversations with native speakers or participating in language exchange programs provides learners with authentic language interactions. This allows them to practice their speaking and listening skills in real-life situations and gain insights into cultural aspects of the language.

When using authentic materials, it's important to choose materials that match the learners' interests, proficiency levels, and learning objectives. Additionally, providing guidance, comprehension questions, or tasks related to the materials can enhance the learning experience and help learners derive maximum benefit from them.

When choosing authentic materials for sportsmen in language learning, there can be some challenges to consider. Here are a few challenges that may arise:

1. **Relevance to Sports:** Finding authentic materials that are specifically related to sports can be a challenge, especially if the target language is not widely spoken in the sports context of interest. It may require more effort to locate sports-specific content in the target language, such as articles, interviews, or documentaries focused on sports events or athletes.
2. **Language Level:** Authentic materials are often designed for native speakers, which means they may contain complex vocabulary, idiomatic expressions, or cultural references that could be challenging for language learners. It may be necessary to carefully select materials that are suitable for the sportsmen's language proficiency level to ensure comprehension and engagement.
3. **Availability of Translations or Subtitles:** Authentic materials may not always come with translations or subtitles in the learners' native language. This can pose a challenge for comprehension, especially for lower-level language learners. It may require additional effort to find or create translations or subtitles to support understanding.
4. **Cultural Differences:** Authentic materials reflect the cultural context in which the language is used. Sportsmen from different cultural backgrounds may encounter unfamiliar cultural references or norms in the materials. It's important to provide cultural explanations or discussions to help them understand and navigate these differences.
5. **Time Constraints:** Sportsmen often have busy schedules and limited time for language learning. Searching for and curating authentic materials that meet their specific sports and language learning needs can be time-consuming. It may require efficient planning and organization to ensure that appropriate materials are available within the time constraints.

To overcome these challenges, it can be helpful to collaborate with coaches, trainers, or language instructors who have expertise in both sports and language learning. They can provide guidance and support in selecting or creating authentic materials that align with the sportsmen's interests, proficiency levels, and cultural backgrounds. Additionally, leveraging technology



resources, such as sports-related websites, online forums, or social media platforms, can offer a broader range of authentic materials and facilitate access to sports-specific content in the target language.

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