DOI 10.5281/zenodo.8402510

Odina Nabijanova
Uzbekistan State University of world languages
Master of foreign language and literature

THE USE OF SUBTITLED VIDEOS ON IMPROVING LISTENING SKILLS

The current study focuses on the usefulness of subtitled videos in helping first-semester undergraduate English as a second language students enrolled in a computer science programme at a private institution to improve their listening comprehension and vocabulary skills.To determine whether subtitled videos are effective,it specifically focuses in examining the results of educating ESL students with and without the subtitles.The word “subtitles” will be used for refer to intralingual subtitles throughout the current study.It is essential to stablish and comprehend the importance of vocabulary and listening comprehension on the process of language learning,as well as how the need for subtitled movies emerged in the context of education.

Many people have subtitles on out of habit. They used subtitles to boost their skills when they had lower level English and they’ve kept them on, out of habit and for some, the misguided belief that it is helping their skills.

They have them on because they know they’ll catch everything more easily and follow what’s going on in the show.The downside is that they are missing out on opportunities to improve their listening skills.They aren’t actively improving their English.When we have subtitles on we are automatically reading.Our brain can’t do too many things at once right! So when we are reading our ears pretty much turn off. This even happens to me as a native English speaker.

When you turn your subtitles off, your ears have to actively get working. It takes more effort but honestly, after just a matter of weeks, your listening skills will really start to improve.

Most of us are visual learners. We feel most comfortable learning through seeing to understand. It’s easiest for us. This is another reason why many people struggle with improving their English listening skills.

They simply aren’t getting the active practise they need to improve it and develop their listening skills. All these areas of your English improve through practise so increasing the amount of listening practise will improve your skills a lot.

Actively listening while you watch TV and movies by turning off your subtitles will improve your ability to understand a wider range of English accents, English expressions and sayings and vocabulary.Of course there will be times when you miss what is being said or become lost and when you first turn off your subtitles this may feel like it happens a lot. But I promise if you stay with it, it will become less and less.

If you watch something and their is something you don’t understand, like an ‘expression’ and you didn’t catch it, rewind and rewatch if you can. That is way netflix and other streaming services are a great option.

If a show is super complex for you, a fantastic learning strategy is to watch it twice with your subtitles off, of course. Each time you watch, you will pick up more and more and you’re getting more important practise.

So, the first time we listen to something we listen for meaning. We are focused on understanding the message.This is what you’ll be doing when you’re actively listening and watching a movie or TV. Our brain is so busy with that, it really doesn’t have capacity to

https://wordlyknowledge.uz

listen to things like vowel length, word stress, weak vowels, etc etc. So, to listen for improving English pronunciation skills this is what I recommend, listen more than once.

Listen once for meaning. Once you understand the meaning, play it again and listen to pronunciation patterns such as the word stress, the pitch and emphasis of the speaker's voice, past tense endings or vowel length.

Many people think that having the subtitles on while they are watching English movies and TV is helping them improving their listening skills. Well, the truth is that it's not.

When you have the subtitles on, are you focused on listening or reading? You will be focusing mostly on reading! So in fact, you are not really listening much at all. Your brain is busy looking at words instead rather than paying attention to the sounds coming in your ears!

Do yourself a favour and turn off your subtitles. Your listening skills will improve quickly because you are actively improving them. If you miss some words or expressions, rewind the movie and play the section again. It may be a little frustrating at first but you will find you are soon picking up what speakers say more easily.

REFERENCES:

1. Kashina, E.G. Traditions and innovations in methods of teaching a foreign language: textbook. allowance / E.G. Kashina. – Samara: Publishing house "Univers Group", 2006. – 75 p.
2. Shmeleva, Zh.N. Increasing student motivation in foreign language lessons at a non-linguistic university / Zh.N. Shmeleva, N.V. Antonov // Bulletin of KrasGAU. –2015. –No. 3. – pp. 223–229.

WORDLY
KNOWLEDGE

https://wordlyknowledge.uz