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IMPROVING LEARNERS' COMPREHENSION SKILLS THROUGH SONGS

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Annotation: *The article examines the possibilities of using songs as an effective tool in enhancing skills. This study is divided into theoretical and practical parts. Within the theory, the affects of music on human body and health. The last section shows the advantages of music in learning and improving comprehension skills.*

Key words: *music, song, English language, learning, brain, stress, sleep, mood, memory*

Learning languages is not as easy as people think. If newcomers have a desire to be professional or would like to reach accuracy and fluency, they should develop their skills. It would be better to pay attention to productive skills like speaking and writing as well as they do not neglect the receptive skills such as listening and reading. Because all of these play essential role in the lives of people.

There are wide range of ways to improve the comprehension skills. One of the most common one is listening to songs. The reason is that, according to some researches music can improve your memory and make it easier to remember things. Additionally listening to music can lower blood pressure and improve ealth. Music helps stabilize mental, physical, and emotional rhythms, creating a state of deep focus and concentration that allows for efficient learning and processing of large amounts of information [1]

We completely agree that music helps stabilize mental, physical, and emotional rhythms, fostering deep focus and concentration. Music has a unique ability to engage the brain, creating a harmonious state that promotes efficient learning. For instance, calm and rhythmic music can lower stress levels, improving mental clarity and emotional stability, while upbeat music can energize the body, making it easier to process and retain information. This makes music a powerful tool for enhancing productivity, creativity, and overall cognitive function.

1. Murray aptly points out that songs “provide us with a window into a world that is not our own, a world that we glimpse and remember thanks to the power of music.” [6]

Murray’s observation beautifully highlights the profound way music connects us to unfamiliar experiences and perspectives. Songs serve as a bridge, offering insight into diverse cultures, emotions, and stories that we might not otherwise encounter. This unique ability to evoke memories and emotions through melodies and lyrics makes music a universal language, capable of fostering empathy and understanding across boundaries.

2. Music has the power to inspire and calm. People with musical talent often excel in learning foreign languages because they can better perceive, process, and replicate accents, as noted by Stansell. Both music and language are forms of communication using sound and gesture. [7]

We fully agree with the idea that music inspires and calms while also enhancing language-learning abilities. Music and language share common elements, such as rhythm, tone, and patterns, which help develop auditory skills and memory. As Stansell points out, individuals with musical talent are often better equipped to perceive and replicate accents, as they are more attuned to subtle variations in sound.

The connection between music and language as forms of communication is particularly fascinating. Both use sound to convey emotions and meaning, and both rely on rhythm and structure to engage listeners. This overlap explains why musical training often correlates with heightened linguistic skills, including improved pronunciation, vocabulary, and fluency.

3. When learning pronunciation, learners should focus on communicating effectively with other non-native English speakers from different language backgrounds). Music is an excellent tool for teaching pronunciation to children of all ages. Exposure to various pronunciations helps learners find a style that fits their personality.[4]

We strongly agree with Jenkins' perspective that learners should prioritize effective communication over achieving native-like pronunciation, especially in a globalized context where English serves as a lingua franca. Music is an exceptional resource for teaching pronunciation because it exposes learners to diverse accents and rhythms in an engaging way.

For children, music provides a playful and repetitive method to practice sounds, improving both pronunciation and listening skills. The variety of styles and accents in songs allows learners to explore different pronunciation patterns, helping them develop a speaking style that aligns with their personality while ensuring clear communication. This makes music an invaluable tool for fostering confidence and fluency in language learning.

4. Older adults often struggle to hear speech in noisy environments, such as parties or restaurants. However, musically trained older adults perform better in these situations. This skill is crucial for learning a new language, as pulling speech from noise is easier for those who learned a second language early in life. Researchers found that late bilinguals face challenges distinguishing certain sounds, especially in noisy settings. In English, this is further complicated by similar-sounding words, like big and beg or said and sad, which differ only slightly in vowel sounds.[5]

We completely agree that musical training enhances the ability to hear speech in noisy environments, making it a valuable asset, especially for older adults. This skill is crucial not only for communication in daily life but also for language learning, as it improves the ability to distinguish subtle differences in sounds.

5. Horn emphasizes that music enhances vocabulary, articulation, and pronunciation, making it essential in teaching English as a second language. She highlights that to effectively learn and experience both music and language, learners need strong listening skills. Good listening skills form the foundation for mastering the four basic language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Horn suggests using music to encourage learners to listen actively and analytically. She explains that, just like learning any language, understanding the «language» of music requires listening to its sound patterns before using it. This highlights that listening skills are fundamental for teaching and learning reading and comprehension, making them a core part of language acquisition, education, and social development.[2]

We strongly agree with Horn's assertion that music significantly enhances vocabulary, articulation, and pronunciation, making it an indispensable tool in teaching English as a second

language. By fostering active and analytical listening, music helps learners develop the auditory skills necessary for mastering the four foundational language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

Horn's analogy between learning music and language is particularly insightful. Just as understanding the "language" of music begins with recognizing sound patterns, learning a new language also requires strong listening skills. These skills not only improve pronunciation and vocabulary acquisition but also aid in reading comprehension and overall social communication.

Using music in education encourages learners to engage with sounds in a dynamic way, creating a holistic learning experience. This approach not only supports language acquisition but also contributes to broader educational and social development, underscoring the profound role of listening skills in both music and language learning.

For anyone learning a language, having sufficient sleep, a good mood, and being free from stress plays an important role in their progress. Moreover, it helps improve our listening, reading, writing, and speaking skills. Music can enhance our ability to focus on language patterns, improve pronunciation, and even increase vocabulary retention, making it a valuable tool for language learners. The rhythm and melody of songs can also aid in better comprehension and fluency. By listening to music we could reach all of these.

This study explores the effectiveness of songs as a tool for improving comprehension skills. It is divided into two key sections. This section examines the influence of music on the human body and health. It highlights how music impacts cognitive functions, emotional well-being, and brain processes that are essential for learning and comprehension. The final section focuses on the benefits of using music in educational settings. It emphasizes how songs can enhance learning experiences, aid in memory retention, and improve comprehension skills. The article concludes that music serves as a valuable and multifaceted tool for cognitive and educational development.

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