The Effectiveness of Authentic   
and ESL English Resources

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**Introduction**  
When I was primary school children, I had learned English in the English conversation school. I learned there for four years. When I entered the high school, I left the English conversation school. I studied English in the high school, but, in my high school, English grammar was mainly so I was not interested. I thought more English communication to want to study. Therefore, I major in English of Tsurumi University. But I am not satisfied with a ability of my English conversation yet. I became able to hear and reading English than before, but English conversation is not good. I cannot talk with the native person smoothly.   
English is very important to me in my life. After having graduated from a university, I will do work to wait for a customer.  The foreigners living in Japan increase now so I may wait on customers in foreigners. I want to improve ability of the English conversation to feel relieved to the customer of the foreigner. And it is my aim to go to the house of the aunt living in Chicago.  
I continue studying an English study from now on. If I become a working people, I am going to belong to the English conversation class.  
  
  
**Streaming Radio**  
Recently, I installed Jango in my iPhone. I have used only YouTube so far. YouTube has a lot of interesting animations and music videos, but YouTube's sound quality is not good. I listen to Jango too much. Especially, I listen to 80s music. There is a lot of music that I heard when I was child and it's very fun! Especially, I listened to 80's pop music. I heard ”Take On Me,” a song by A-ha, ”Beat It,” a song by Michael Jackson, and ”Private Eyes,” a song by Daryl Hall/John Oates and more. I will continue using Jango. I installed the application on my iPhone, so I can listen to it any day and any time.  
  
**Reddit**  
I made a Reddit account. It looks just like 2channel. I thought that it was only articles about politics. However, there were a lot of very unique articles. I see the photographs well on Reddit. Accidental Snow White cosplay. Wolves in sheep's clothing.  
  
**Videos**  
Recently, I watched ”Baymax.” It's a movie by Pixar and the DVD was released recently. This movie was very impressive! The charming thing about Baymax is that the main character is pretty. Baymax's sound while walking and her movements are so cute. The original version of this is by Marvel, so there were many action scenes in this movie. I like the exhilarating action scenes and the friendship between characters. The English in this movie is easy to understand and it is worth studying. There are many wise sayings. "It is alright to cry. Crying is a natural response to pain." These are such gentle words. And I learned some new words. One expression is ”fist bump”. A fist bump means the gesture made by two people when they lightly knock their fists together as a sign of friendship, respect, or agreement.   
  
**Word of the Day**I use the site called Weblio. I always use this site frequently. This site is very famous, and it is easy to use. Weblio can translate English words into Japanese or Japanese to English. In this site, we can learn many foreign languages as well as English. However, I have only used the English translation.  
  
With Weblio we can see the meaning of English sentences. And this site displays the words the user searched. We can learn English by various methods on this site so I often check it. Recently, I learned ”comradeship”. It means ”fellow feeling” (仲間意識).  
  
**Online Comics**  
Smiling Ribs - This comic's author is Derek Achoy. I have seen this author's comics on Twitter before. His comics are very simple and cute. I chose ”How Calicos Give Birth.” This is a story of a girl and her mother and their cat. The cat's name is Muffin. The girl is pleased that Muffin is having babies. Her mother does not understand the situation. Her mother is rushed by the girl and two people go to see Muffin. Muffin has a lot of kittens that are born from the spots on her fur. Her mother says ”That's too many. Go put one back.” The girl attaches one kitten to Muffin unwillingly. I like this comic because it is very cute and humorous. And I found an English word ”Calico”. I didn't know this word. Calico means ”三毛猫”. This comic is based on a dream the author's girlfriend had. The dream of the person is very interesting. I like this comic.  
  
**Blogging**  
I wrote a blog on two topics in two years. Last year, I introduced my favorite Japanese novels. I like reading novels, so I wanted to introduce them to everyone, but the theme was hard for me. It was very difficult to explain the plot without spoiling it for others. I tried hard to explain some key elements without giving away too much, and I think I made some attractive blogs. This year, I changed the blog theme to 'shoes.' I introduced stylish and rare shoes, among others. It was very interesting to introduce my favorite shoes, but it was so difficult to explain the functionality of each type. Both of my themes had some difficult points for writing. Here, I introduce one blog which I wrote last year about Japanese novel.

**Tegami**  
  
Today, I review a Keigo Higashino novel again.  I have already introduced his novels two times. This novel is the most serious story of the novels which I reviewed. The novel's name is ”Tegami.” In English, it means ”Letter.” The chief characters are an older brother and a younger brother.

Outline: The older brother, Tsuyoshi, and the younger brother, Naoki, do not have parents and they live together. The older brother works, but his salary is low. And Naoki injures his waist, so he gets fired from work. Tsuyoshi wants money so Naoki enters university. Tsuyoshi burglarizes an the old, rich woman's house. However, Tsuyoshi is discovered by an old woman, so he murders her. He was reported to somebody and was arrested. ”My older brother is a murderer.” Because of that, Naoki has a hard life. Still Naoki is able to marry Yumiko. She is a gentle woman. For a little time, Naoki is happy. However, Naoki's daughter is bullied at school. His daughter's classmate says ”Your father is a murderer's brother !” He thinks about the meaning of living fair and square with his family. And Naoki decides to write a letter to Tsuyoshi to disown Tsuyoshi.  
  
This is a very serious story, but I was impressed when I read it. Tsuyoshi and Naoki trusted each other. This is Brotherly love! This is not a novel to make somebody cry. Keigo Higashino's novels are like reality, and indifferent. But this novel is thought-provoking.   
  
This novel was filmized in 2006. The cast is Takayuki Yamada, Tetsuji Tamayama, and Erika Sawajiri.  
  
**Graded Readers**I like reading Japanese novels, but I don't read English novels. I don't have any English novels in my house, so I bought a book at the book store. The book's title is ”Mulan.” It is a famous Disney movie. I think that everybody knows it. I know this movie too, but I have never watched it. Recently, I haven't been reading any English sentences, so it was hard for me to read this book. In this book, I found some difficult new words. For example, the first word is ”army.” It means ”軍”. The second word is ”honor.” It means ”名誉”, ”名声”. I think I have forgotten many English words that I learned so far. I want to read more English novels and watch English movies frequently from now on.  
  
**ESL Online**I used the website ﻿VOA Learning English﻿. This website introduces various countries news and various genres. The website's contents is not too difficult English so I can understand. The website is easy to listen to because the announcer speaks slowly and the pronunciation is very good. I took a class called "Media English" one year ago. The class learned various foreign news by video and a sound. I liked the class. And VOA Learning English is similar to the video which I saw in ”Media English” class. I found a new vocabulary word. The new word is ”preventable”. It means ”防止できる”. I will continue checking this website from now on because there are a lot of interesting videos.  
  
  
**Collocations**I chose the collocation is ”put on”. This is a very common and easy phrase, but it has various meanings, so I was interested in this collocation. I researched some examples on alc.co.jp. It means ”～を…の上に置く”, ”身につける”, ”(電話を)つなぐ”, ”だます からかう”, and ”(ショーや劇を)公演する”. And I learned a sentence on Just the Word. For example, ”Young players put on a fine display”. It means ”若い演出家たちはすばらしい展示会を催した”. And I made an original sentence. ”She was scared, but she put on a brave face.” It means ”彼女は怖かったが、平静を装った”. This collocation is very easy, but it has innumerable meanings. I researched it and was very interested.

**Authentic VS ESL materials**I think Authentic and ESL materials are both necessary for English study. These two methods of studying English are indispensable. I think that ESL Materials are necessary for the person who is just beginning English study. It is difficult to learn grammar and spelling only by ear. And I think that Authentic Materials are necessary for the person who wants to learn natural English communication and accurate pronunciation. But I prefer Authentic Materials. I'm not good at English grammar, but only using a textbook is not enough to understand pronunciation and the movement of the mouth. Authentic Materials are more useful for learning native English than ESL materials. I think the most important thing to be able to communicate naturally in English. In authentic, I think video, movie and radio to be able to learn English very smoothly. When I watch a movie and hear a sound, I can learn the movement of a more natural English pronunciation and mouth.

Videotapes of authentic … exchanges between native speakers, radio and television broadcasts, films, songs and the like have long been advocated by foreign language educators as stimulating pedagogical aids. The proficiency-oriented classroom will incorporate such material frequently and effectively into instruction at all levels.      
  
  
**Conclusion**The topic which I treated by this class was helpful to me very much. I was able to get interesting information which cannot learn it only by sitting in the desk, and studying grammar in this class. It was effective that I learned English in authentic materials mainly. Among them, streaming radio and videos helped me. Streaming radio is very fun to learn English to listen to my favorite singer and the my favorite generation's songs. When I hear English while seeing the lyrics, I can learn a new word and learn pronunciation.

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