



Evaluating the Use of Novels and Film in the Language Classroom

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Abstract

This research is an evaluation of using the novel and the film clip (hereafter N/F) in the language classroom. This may be done through selecting a passage from a novel, and the film clip that corresponds to it. The extract chosen in this research is taken from Charles Dickens's novel *Oliver Twist*, and the film is David Lean's *Oliver Twist*. The subjects for this study were fourth year university students and native speakers of Arabic, studying English as a major subject of specialization in the department of English Faculty of Education, University of Al-Mergeb during the academic year (2012/2013).

The findings of the study showed that students find this technique novel/film (N/F) more helpful and it enhances both their linguistic and metalinguistic features. It is also interesting to note that 60% of the participants prefer to begin with the film clip, claiming that this leads to save time and effort, while, 30% of them agree to start with reading passages. This is because the participants think that starting with the book will prepare them to understand the images on the screen. The other 10% of the participants gave no answer.

Interestingly, it has been observed that most of the participants of this paper have found some differences between the extracts from the novel and the images from the film with respect to the dialogues and the description of the characters.

Key words: novel and the film clips, extract, linguistic, meta-linguistic features