Who is the Winner in the Fight of Virtual and Real Communication?

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Abstract

Is it possible to persuade the teenagers to make fun of themselves in front of the classroom full of superstars and fashion models who are stuck either on the mirror or PC? What could be so attractive on the shopping dialogue that everybody has been listening to it breathlessly? What is humorous on the emergency phone call? Could you meet Macbeth in the medieval castle ruins in Slovakia? Performing classic national fairy tale – boredom or enjoyable event full of fun? Do you know what was Mary Stuart, the Queen of Scots, asked for before her execution? How would you feel being John Quincy Adams performing his speech about freedom and against slavery in front of the US senators opposing his opinion? And what about the interview with your ICT teacher in quite unconventional situation? Have you ever heard of a PC game called “Romeo and Juliet”?

The DVD presentation of various activities done on the English lessons with secondary school students would like to prove the fact that combination of multimedia and good old drama methods in ELT can lead into great creativity improvement, self-presentation confidence and explosion of teenagers´ imagination. Drama techniques implemented into ELT help students to use the English language textbooks vocabulary in situations copying the real life language use – improvisation. Teenagers are not eager to do role plays in front of the class. In case they have to present / express themselves as real people, they are uncertain, shy, not behaving naturally. The situation changes when they get a chance to be hidden behind the „mask“ i.e. they express somebody else’s problems. Secondly, teenagers love fun, doing and watching crazy things. In this case drama sketches are just the proper activities for them. Thirdly, drama activities in combination with use of modern technologies / digital camera and digital projector, web pages / can help teachers of English to attract students

- for reading English literature,
- for watching films based on the classic English / American literature
- for stage performances
- for work on their own DVDs.

“Mark or not to mark” such activities? Marking criteria will be introduced together with students’ opinions on this sort of ELT methods.