

Using Audiovisual Material to Develop Selective Listening Ability of Children from Different Cultures Learning Italian as a Second Language

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Abstract

Children from other cultures attending regular lessons at school have often problems to face texts containing specific language of different areas, even if they've lived in a new country since their early childhood. Starting from a real experience conducted in a classroom the paper will show how the use of Disney video material about animals (inspired by The Jungle book and mixing cartoons and film's elements) can develop the ability of selective listening in children with different language-level and how it can improve their scientific language's command at the same time. At the beginning I will examine the importance of using video in language learning and teaching especially from a child-centred perspective. Then, taking into consideration the relationship between image and listened "text", I will show the criteria of analyzing the listened and watched "text". The found principles should give impulse to prepare different worksheets which should be used as while-listening / while-watching activities and should be tailored to the individual needs of the students. I will finally show in details how the realized material has been used in a didactic unit (about 5 hours) in classes for students of different cultures with a A2/B1 level of the CEFRL. The unit also included speaking and writing activities aiming to promote and stimulate the students' learning autonomy.