

Using comic booklets as a tool of English language learning for specific purposes

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ABSTRACT

Introduction

The purpose of this research is to explore the effectiveness of using comic booklets/cartoon strips/illustrated stories as a tool in facilitating English Language learning from students perspective. In line with Pavios concept of Iconic Memory the research examines how the use of illustrated stories /situations could improve comprehension, vocabulary, question formation, and overall English language competency.

Methodology

The subjects of the research include first year students from MBBS and SHS (Speech and Hearing Sciences) courses of studies. Data was collected during the Intensive Courses of English at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya by way of questionnaires distributed among 5 students followed by interviews with randomly selected 1 informants.

Results

Over 90% of students perceived the use of comic booklets in English language learning as a highly positive methodology in enhancing their language skills. The students claimed that their English competency improved in the spheres of vocabulary building, question formation, grammar, translation, interaction while stimulating their interest in language learning.

Conclusion

This study reaffirms the necessity of using a variety of innovative teaching methods such as the use of comic illustrations to teach English particularly for specific purposes. It facilitates the contextualization of language giving wide exposure of English language to students at weaker levels.