



Explaining World Cultures to Students through Authentic Videos

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Abstract: In an increasingly globalized world, fostering intercultural competence among students has become essential. This thesis explores the use of authentic videos as a powerful educational tool to introduce students to the diverse cultures of the world. Through exposure to real-life language, customs, traditions, and social behaviors captured in authentic video materials, students not only improve their language skills but also develop a deeper understanding of various cultural values. The study highlights effective strategies for integrating videos into the curriculum and presents practical recommendations for language and culture educators.

Keywords: Authentic videos, culture teaching, intercultural competence, language education, student engagement

Understanding different cultures is vital for learners in today's interconnected world. Traditional classroom materials often lack the dynamic and realistic portrayal of cultures. Authentic videos, including documentaries, interviews, travel vlogs, and social media clips, can serve as engaging resources to teach students about the lifestyles, beliefs, and traditions of various nations.



Problem Statement

How can authentic videos be effectively used to teach students about world cultures, and what impact do these materials have on learners' cultural awareness and language proficiency?

Objectives.

1. To examine the role of authentic video materials in teaching cultural content.
2. To evaluate students' response and engagement with authentic cultural videos.
3. To identify effective techniques for integrating such videos into language and culture education.

Methodology

The study employs a mixed-method approach involving classroom observation, student surveys, and teacher interviews. Authentic videos representing different cultures (e.g., festivals in India, daily life in Japan, American family traditions) were shown to students over a 6-week period. Their cultural understanding was measured before and after the video sessions.

Findings and Discussion

Students showed increased interest and motivation when exposed to cultural videos. Authentic videos enhanced their listening skills and vocabulary acquisition. Learners demonstrated improved awareness of cultural norms, gestures and etiquette. Videos provided visual and contextual cues, making cultural differences easier to grasp.

Authentic videos are effective tools for developing students' cultural understanding. When used thoughtfully, they can create immersive learning experiences that go beyond



textbooks. Incorporating such materials into educational settings supports both linguistic and intercultural development.

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