

The Impact of Content Familiarity of Receptive Skills on Language Learning

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Abstract : This paper reviews the importance of content familiarity of receptive skills and offers solutions to the issue of content unfamiliarity in language learning materials. Presently, language learning materials are mainly comprised of global issues and target language speakers' culture(s) in receptive skills. This might lead learners to focus on content rather than the language. As a solution, materials on receptive skills can be developed with a focus on learners' culture and social concerns, especially in the beginner levels of learning. Language learners often learn their target language through the receptive skills of listening and reading before language production ensues through speaking and writing. Students' journey from receptive skills to productive skills is mainly concentrated on by teachers. There are barriers to language learning, such as time and energy, that can hinder learners' understanding and ability to build the required background knowledge of the content. This is generated due to learners' unfamiliarity with the skill's content. Therefore, materials that improve content familiarity will help learners improve their language comprehension, learning, and usage. This presentation will conclude with practical solutions to help teachers and learners more authentically integrate language and culture to elevate language learning.

Keywords : language learning, listening content, reading content, content familiarity, ESL books, language learning books, cultural familiarity

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