

Affective Engagement with Mass Media Texts and Perceived Acquisition of English as a Foreign Language

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Abstract : The study sets out to explore German-speaking adolescents' emotional engagement with mass media products and, in so doing, to determine if the practice of watching films and series in English has any discernible impact on adolescents' perceptions of their own L2 proficiency. Targeting 630 high-school students from Austrian Vorarlberg, a survey pinpoints high levels of affective involvement with online streaming products on the part of those individuals who watch their favorite entertainment shows in English. These individuals report higher levels of L2 English proficiency in comparison to their peers consuming similar content in German. Crucially, the multiple linear regression returns emotional engagement and English-language viewing practices as two important factors shaping learners' perceived proficiency in English.

Keywords : EFL adolescents, affective/emotional engagement, English-language viewing, integrative orientation, mass media, organismic integration theory of well-being and learning, self-reported L2 proficiency, Vorarlberg

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