

The Role of Listener's Interest and Speaker's First Language in Listening Comprehension

Abstract:

The study seeks to gain insight into the role of some factors in listening comprehension. The first factor that the study investigates is the interest of the listener, while the second factor is speaker's first language or accent. As a secondary purpose, the study explores the extent to which listening causes difficulty for Jordanian learners of English as a foreign language (EFL). In collecting the data, the three-video task is utilized, where each of those videos is four minutes long and played only once. Two videos are Talk shows; one video is with the voice of a native speaker and the other is with the voice of a non-native speaker. The third video is a documentary with the voice of a native speaker. Twenty EFL learners pursuing their bachelor's degree participate in the study. The participants are third-year students, who are chosen randomly using systematic random sampling. The findings reveal that the interest of listener has little impact on listening comprehension. This is because the participants achieve better comprehension level at the documentary video than the Talk Show video, which is stated as their favorite. In addition, the study arrives at the result that speaker's first language or accent does not contribute actively to listening comprehension, meaning that the participants have compatible score in both the video with the voice of a native speaker (Talk Show) and the video with the voice of a non-native speaker (documentary). It is also found that listening constitutes a great difficulty for Jordanian EFL learners.

Keywords: documentary; interest of listener; speaker's first language; Talk show

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