

## TEACHING ENGLISH THROUGH ENGLISH MOVIE: ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES

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**Abstract:** Technological advances in globalization era demand all English teachers to be more creative and innovative in using instructional media. Movie or film is one of audio-visual media that teachers can use to improve students' English skills. There are some advantages of using English movie in English teaching. For example, movie can keep students' interest in learning English, movie can improve student's listening and speaking skills, and movie can improve student's pronunciation and vocabulary. However, teaching English through English movie also has some bad effects or disadvantages. For example, it takes long time to watch a movie so that students may get bored, students prefer watching actors or actresses to focusing on the main instructional goal, fiction movie can cause students think and imagine something illogically, and movie can cause students imitate bad scenes from the actors or actresses. To overcome the bad impacts of movie, English teachers should consider some solutions. For example, teachers should use short English movie to save time in learning, teachers should always remind students the main instructional goal before and after watching the movie, teachers should control student's thinking, imagination, and emotional, and teachers should select a good educational English movie.

**Key words:** *Teaching English through movie, advantages, disadvantages*

Since long time ago till now, English is considered as one of the most important languages to learn. Nowadays English has become more necessary to learn. It is because the globalization has been growing rapidly and it brings a big challenge for the future generation. Almost every country all over the world learns English, including Indonesia. However, teaching English in a non-English-speaking like in Indonesia must be different from teaching English in a native country or in

natural environment where English is spoken every day like in England and United State.

In Indonesia, English is taught as a foreign language (EFL) from kindergarten to university. Just the same as the other countries, the teaching of English in Indonesia aims to develop four skills of language, reading, listening, speaking, and writing. Since it is not easy to interest students in improving the four skills of language, English teachers should plan the lesson as maximal as possible. The

teaching of English should be active, innovative, creative, educative, and enjoyable.

In order to deepen teaching reform and improve teaching quality, a wide variety of teaching methods should be used in the EFL classroom. English teachers are not only demanded to be creative in applying a learning methods or strategies, but also in using instructional media. Since technology is an excellent method to reinforce and transform dull lessons into attention-grabbing and motivating learning experiences, English teachers should use interesting technological media in the classroom. There are many technological media that can be used in EFL classroom such as websites, songs, games, cards, magazine, et cetera. Movie or film is one of instructional media that can be used by English teachers to improve student's English skills.

#### **TEACHING ENGLISH THROUGH ENGLISH MOVIES**

Movies can be an entertaining and motivating tool for students. Using movies has brought authenticity, variety, reality and flexibility into EFL classrooms. Movies provide the learners with real-life language input, which may be difficult to receive otherwise in a non-English-speaking environment. Ruusunen (2011,p.13) explains that there are several reasons to use English movies in EFL classroom. Some of these reasons are authenticity, the quality and amount of input provided by movies and the several positive effects that movies have on language learning, for instance the exposure to foreign language and the entertaining aspect of films which also affects students' motivation.

Alberta (2013, p.14) stated English movies usually subordinate narrative technique to keep the audience focused on character and story. This characteristic opens the opportunity for English teachers in Indonesia to bring movies into EFL classroom since the current curriculum (Curriculum 2013) emphasizes on genre-based texts as English subject material, and one of them is narrative genre. Teachers of English can use some kind of narrative English movies such as action, drama, comedy, romantic, horror, science fiction, suspense or thriller, commentary, nonfiction, etcetera.

#### **ADVANTAGES OF USING ENGLISH MOVIES**

There are many advantages of using English movie in EFL classroom. First, movies can keep student's interest in learning English. Mirvan (2013, p.62) stated that Using English movies in the EFL classroom was new and very pleasant experience for the students. The students enjoyed the assigned activities in the classroom. Students were more motivated to see and hear real life situation than to follow the activities in the text book. They gave impression that movies also provided a relaxed atmosphere.

Second, movies can improve student's listening skill. In this case, it is better for English teachers to play English movies with English subtitles. Rokni and Azzam (2014, p.721) stated that movies with English subtitles had a significantly positive effect on the students' listening skill compared to the movies with no subtitles. Students can listen to English being used in a very natural way. Some actors and actress may speak too fast so that it is difficult for students to understand

what they are talking about, but it will be a perfect way for students to listen to native speakers. Students can also listen to informal English and slang words and phrases that they often do not find in books or dictionaries.

Third, movie can improve student's speaking skill. Listening to native speakers in English movies can also help to improve student's speaking skill, especially their fluency. Students can watch English movies with their friends and speak about them afterwards. They can also find movie scripts online and imitate what the actors said in the movie. Then they can replay the movie to check whether their pronunciation was correct or not. According to Kalean (2013, p.155) teaching English by using English movie as media in the EFL classroom is a good way to teach the students how to speak well by imitating the actors and actress in the movie. Students can listen how to link their words together.

Fourth, movies can improve student's pronunciation. We all know that English pronunciation is extremely difficult and when students read words, it is very difficult for students to say the words. Listening to native English speakers talk to each other can help students to hear how words are pronounced. Students can know where to put intonation on certain words and sentences. Students can also distinguish and compare British and American style when the actors are talking in the movies. Through her research, Pratiwi (2010, p.140) reported that English movies really affected students to comprehend pronunciation. Before students watched English movies, the students had some difficulties in English stress patterns. After they watched English movies they were so good in English

stress patterns. Besides, they had better understanding in producing unfamiliar sounds like /æ/ after watching English movies. Thus, Student's pronunciation difficulties in mastering vowels, diphthongs, stress and intonation could be decreased by watching English movies.

Fifth, movie can improve student's vocabulary. English movies with English subtitles can help students to see how the words are written. By watching English movies, students listen to many new words and phrases, especially idioms and colloquial expressions. Students can keep a note book with them and writing down any new words or phrases they listen. They can look up the meaning later or ask their English teachers. Putra (2012, p.2) states that when students are watching English movies with English subtitles, they can learn some new words and phrases used in the movies, and also help them to acquire new vocabulary and idioms.

## **DISADVANTAGES OF USING ENGLISH MOVIES**

As it is well known, everything has its drawbacks. Aside from so many advantages, the use of English movies in EFL classroom still has the disadvantages or problems. First, it takes long time to watch the movies so that students may get bored. Using English movies in the EFL classroom will reduce student's time to do classroom activities such as writing or having discussion. According to Mirvan (2013, p.65) a movie generally reduced active time into more than an hour so that it would be a boring time for students to finish the movie till the end. In line with that, Champoux and Robert (2007, p.247) stated that some students might resist viewing English film with English subtitle since it is

take more time and effort to follow because they should read the subtitles and watch the scenes at the same time. Second, students prefer watching actors or actresses to focusing on the main instructional goal. Every student has their own favorite actors and actress. When they watch a movie that was starred by their favorite actors, they will focus on the actors, not on the main instructional goal. Students will forget what the teacher asked before they watched the movie. Ying and Zhang (2012, p.1011) states that the students may be attracted by the actors and actress of the movie and forgot the purpose and aim of watching the movie. While they are watching the movie, they cannot pay attention to their tasks. Third, fiction movies can make students think and imagine something illogically. As we know, many English movies such as Harry Potter, Narnia, Alice in Wonder Land, and Peter Pan are not based on true story and illogical. Of course, It is out of teacher's ability to control the movie directors in producing movies. Bottomley and Richard (2013, p.5) states that after watching English movies students sometimes imagine if they were in a fairy tale world. They build their own fantasy and act like a prince, a princess, a witch, or an angel. Fourth, movies can make students imitate bad scenes from the actors or actresses. As it is reported in some news, many students become victims of bad effect of movies in every year. There are some bad scenes of English movies that usually students imitate such as fighting scenes, adult scenes, smoking scenes, et cetera. Sargent (2005, p.350) reported that most of Hollywood movies had a scene that showed the actor and actress were consuming cigarette.

## **SOME SOLUTIONS TO OVERCOME THE DISADVANTAGES OF USING ENGLISH MOVIES**

To overcome the bad impacts of movie, English teachers should consider the following solutions. First, teachers should use short English movie to save time in learning. There are some short English movies that can be used by English teachers in order that it does not take very long time from classroom activities such as Endgame (with length time 8 minutes), The Most Beautiful Things (with length time 11 minutes), Frozen Fever (with length time 8 minutes), Validation (with length time 16 minutes), Alive in Joburg (with length time 6 minutes). Second, teachers should always remind students the main instructional goal before and after watching the movie. English teachers can always keep students concentration on their tasks by giving them answer sheet. English teachers can also pause the movies when the students start not to focus and remind them about their exercise. Third, teachers should control student's thinking, imagination, and emotional. English teachers should always remind students that the movies they watch are not real so that they do not be allowed to try the scenes at home. Fourth, teachers should select a good educational English movie. In addition to selecting short English movies, teachers also need to consider the value of movies. Since a good movie is a movie that contains good moral value, teachers need to preview the movies first before playing the movies in front of students the students. Beside short movies, Endgame, The Most Beautiful Things, Frozen Fever, Validation, Alive in

Joburg are also educational English movies with good moral value.

## CONCLUSION

Movie or film is one of audio-visual media that can be used by English teachers to improve student's English skills. There are some advantages of using English movies in English teaching, such as movies can keep student's interest in learning English, movies can improve student's listening skill, movie can improve student's speaking skill, movies can improve student's pronunciation, and movie can improve student's vocabulary. However, teaching English through English movies also has some bad effects or disadvantages, such as it takes long time to watch the movies so that students may get bored, students prefer watching actors or actresses to focusing on the main instructional goal, fiction movies can make students think and imagine something illogically, and movies can make students imitate bad scenes from the actors or actresses. To overcome the bad impacts of movies, English teachers should consider some solutions such as teachers should use short English movie to save time in learning, teachers should always remind students the main instructional goal before and after watching the movies, teachers should control student's thinking, imagination, and emotional, and teachers should select a good educational English movies.

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