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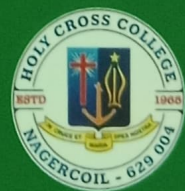
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The Cartoon Connection: A Study on the Impact of Cartoons on Grammar and Vocabulary Development

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ABSTRACT

Education as a field has underwent changes over decades. New methods, inventions and techniques have elevated the process of learning to the next level. Cartoons as an edutainment provide the viewers with insights on knowledge and language. Acquisition is a subconscious process through which one acquires one's mother tongue. English as a language can also be acquired if the language is imbibed involuntarily. The paper entitled The Cartoon Connection: A Study on the Impact of Cartoons on Grammar and Vocabulary Development deals with the role of cartoons in enhancing grammar and vocabulary. The paper further explores the learner psychology in acquiring a language and its impact in improving language skills. Grammar and good vocabulary paves way for better communication. The aim of the study is to identify the impact of cartoons in education. A quantitative research was undertaken to analyze learners from various disciplines of arts and science aged between 17 and 19. The study and the results are drafted based on their responses.

Keywords: Acquisition, cartoons, grammar, language learner, vocabulary

Introduction

Transforming ideas and thoughts from one person to other person through verbal and non-verbal cues is communication. It helps in maintaining a good relationship among people and aids in understanding and connecting people. Good communication bridges the gap between individuals. Language plays a vital role when it comes to effective communication. It helps in sharing one's thoughts and notions with others and it is important to encode and decode ideas between sender and receiver and to provide proper feedback. Language connects people from different countries, societies and identities. It supports in education, where acquiring and learning take place. The four basic skills Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing are also acquired through language. English is the third most spoken language in the world. English is considered as the universal language, which makes the communication part easier. English is a link language which joins people from various parts of the world. Grammar and vocabulary plays a major role when it comes to effective communication.

Objective

The research studies

- the impact of cartoons in developing vocabulary and grammar skills.
- cartoon as a form of edutainment wherein language acquisition takes place subconsciously.

Methodology

A questionnaire was prepared using Google forms and circulated among the first year Under Graduate students of arts and science disciplines. Sixty learners' responses were collected and the results were analyzed.

Review of Literature

Muhammad Farriz Bin Aziz (2021) in "English Major Students' Perceptions of Using Animated Cartoons on English Vocabulary Knowledge of Rare Words in Malaysia" [5] illuminates the English major students' views on incorporating cartoons for vocabulary learning. An interview based on the students' interest towards using animated cartoons as material was conducted. The learners have showed significant improvement in learning rare vocabulary. This study further suggests that animated cartoons could be used effectively in the process of education for a better result.

Zülal Ayar (2020) in "The Effects of Cartoons on the Use of Vocabulary Learning Strategies: A Case in Turkish EFL Classes" [4] aims at identifying the effects of cartoons in vocabulary learning. Random people of varied age groups are chosen and were put into two groups - controlled and experimental groups respectively. Results varied with respect to the gender and age groups. Additionally, the survey also segregates the difference in learning strategies among the individuals using cartoons for vocabulary learning.

Abilasha R (2019) in "Enhancing Language Skills at the Primary Level through Cartoons" [1] explains how language skills can be enhanced at the primary stage using cartoons as an effective tool. The paper also widely explores the methods of enhancing language skills through cartoons in children at a young age. In "Enhancing Second Language Skills Using Multimedia" [2] the author further expands the idea of using multimedia platforms as a tool in improving language skills.

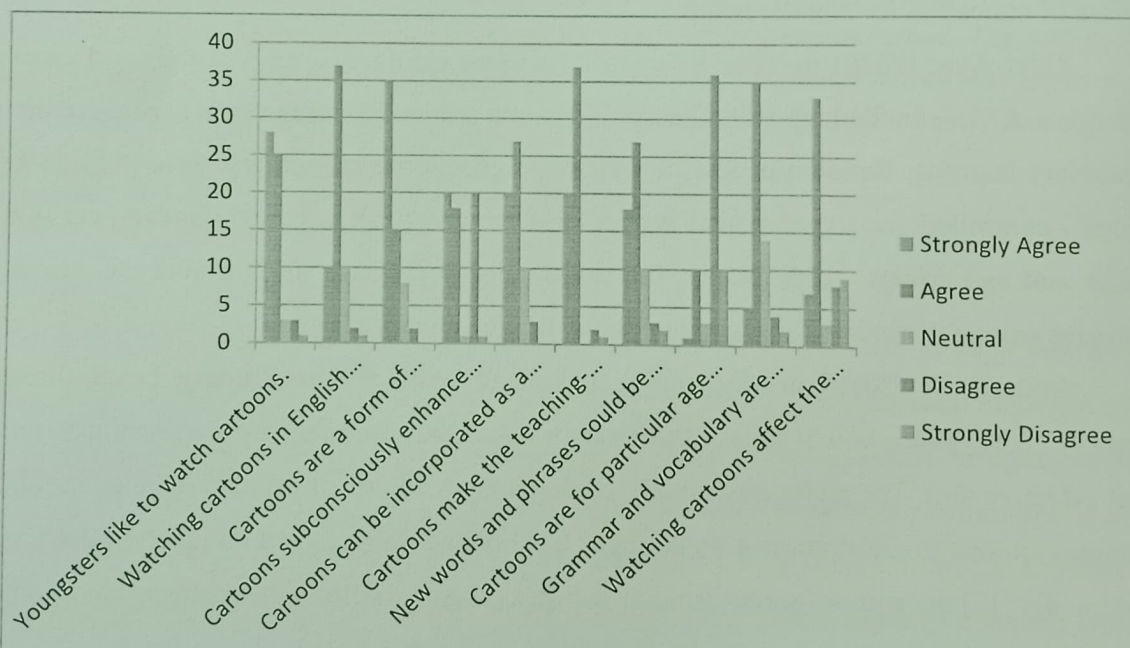
Arda Arian (2010) in "Contextualizing young learners' English lessons with cartoons: Focus on grammar and vocabulary" [3] explains in detail about the efficiency of cartoons in teaching grammar and vocabulary to young learners. Thirty IV grade students were divided into two groups. One group was taught grammar using conventional classroom technique, while the others were exposed to a cartoon called "The Simpsons". The results proved that the experimental group outsmarted the controlled group of students. Thus the paper visibly states that cartoon as a teaching material enhances the learners' competency.

Grammar and Vocabulary

Grammar and vocabulary are two important areas an individual could concentrate, when it comes to language acquisition. It is also the section which any learner finds difficult to learn. The grammatical concepts and rules are to be taught and practiced frequently in order to have a bigger hand in the language. Cartoons could be used as a teaching material in grammar and vocabulary learning. In comparison to the conventional setting, where the learners are taught the rules through oral classes, cartoons make the difference by subconsciously enhancing the process.

Analysis

The need of the hour is to focus on the under graduate learners' language skills. The necessity to learn the skills are more for the first years, since they come from both Tamil and English medium schools. The questions and the responses are given below in the form of a table.



Sl. No.	Statements	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1	Youngsters like to watch cartoons.	28	25	3	3	1
2	Watching cartoons in English language	10	37	10	2	1

	is the favourite entertainment.					
3	Cartoons are a form of edutainment.	35	15	8	2	0
4	Cartoons subconsciously enhance language skills.	20	18	1	20	1
5	Cartoons can be incorporated as a part of the teaching-learning method.	20	27	10	3	0
6	Cartoons make the teaching-learning process stress-free.	20	37	0	2	1
7	New words and phrases could be learnt from cartoons than in conventional classroom.	18	27	10	3	2
8	Cartoons are for particular age groups.	1	10	3	36	10
9	Grammar and vocabulary are made easy with the incorporation of cartoons in teaching.	5	35	14	4	2

10	Watching cartoons affect the behavior of an individual.	7	33	3	8	9
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Findings

- Cartoons are not for a particular age group but for varied age groups.
- Learners like to watch cartoons in English language.
- The impact of cartoons in the behaviour of an individual is an accepted fact.
- Cartoons could be incorporated in the teaching-learning process, as it makes the process easier.
- It is certainly a form of edutainment as it also enhances the grammar and vocabulary knowledge of the learner subconsciously.

Conclusion

Language acquisition takes place through various modes and medium. The crucial areas, grammar and vocabulary are majorly learnt in conventional classrooms. This study paves way for the educationists to incorporate cartoons as a material in the process of learning grammar and vocabulary. It also further discloses the minds of the learners with respect to watching cartoons. Through a questionnaire circulated among the first year under graduate students of varied disciplines, it is evident that cartoons not only entertains the audience but also educates them subconsciously. Education has evolved and therefore the process through which it is taught has also been evolving. The current trend is to adapt to the new technologies which can make the process easy and really quick. The benefits that pupils attain from cartoons are not only limited to better communication and writing, but also help the young learners in creative and innovative thinking. It opens doors for cognitive thinking.

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