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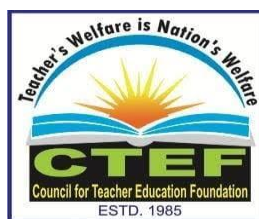
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19	Somatic and Psychic Slip in Blaine Harden's <i>Escape from Camp 14</i> and <i>The Great Leader and Fighter Pilot</i> <i>J Anusha Snowly & Dr Sheeba S. Nair</i>	106-110
20	Shaping the Future of Executive Function Research and Its Development <i>Mrs Sonia. R & Dr Deepa R.P</i>	111-115
21	A Review on the Importance of Walking in Women: Health, Psychological, Environmental and Social Perspectives Y.C.Viji*¹.,Sreeya G .Nair².,Radha .R³ and N.R.PadmaPriya	116-121
22	Human Values and Ecological Consciousness in Tim Winton's <i>Blueback</i> <i>Athira S S & Dr. N. U. Lekshmi</i>	122-126
23	Ashes of Conflict and Whispers of Peace through Art in Pat Barker's <i>Life Class</i> <i>Monisha Mary Dhas S & Dr R. Janatha Kumari</i>	127-129
24	Beyond the Silence: Feminist Theoretical Approaches in Alison Gervais's <i>The Silence Between Us</i> <i>Subha. M & Dr. N. U. Lekshmi</i>	130-135
25	Beyond the Frames: Leveraging Cartoons for Enhanced Aural Processing <i>Susmitha Sharu R & Dr. R. Abilasha</i>	136-141
26	Enhanced Degradation of Textile Rose Bengal dye by Pr modified Lanthanum Ferrite Nanoparticles <i>S Adline Benila & V Anslin Ferby</i>	142-151
27	Tailoring The Structure of Titania Nanotubes: Effects of Anodization Time Intervals <i>A. Ashika & V. Anslin Ferby</i>	152-156
28	Rooted in Goa: Unpacking Place Attachment in Clyde D'Souza's <i>Susegad: The Goan Art of Contentment</i> <i>Archana N. S & Dr. Sheeba S. Nair</i>	157-165

Beyond the Frames: Leveraging Cartoons for Enhanced Aural Processing

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Abstract

Language is a medium through which one shares one's thoughts to others. Acquisition takes place when a person develops knowledge subconsciously about a specific concept. Acquiring mother tongue is a natural phenomenon of acquiring language and when it comes to second language, the process revolves around learning the language consciously. In the present scenario, the learners have started imbibing second language through various AI tools using audio-visual aids. Cartoon is one among them, where the learners are entertained as well as educated. The paper entitled *Beyond the Frames: Leveraging Cartoons for Enhanced Aural Processing* studies how English language acquisition takes place among the primary level learners through cartoons. It further compares the process of acquiring language through cartoons as an instructional pedagogical tool.

Key words - Cartoon, acquisition, learning, language skills, listening

Introduction

Communication plays a crucial role in personal and professional development. It assists an individual in their personal growth wherein one is able to share ideas and thoughts in efficient manner. Communication is a needed assert when it comes to career development. The main aspect that any employer would expect from the employee is good communication. Language acts as a medium in conveying the messages commendably. Language helps in arranging complex concepts into understandable sentences. It serves as a tool to engage with people of various cultural and social identities and helps in exploring the norms and practices of diverse societies. Language allows individuals to enhance their personality, building their interpersonal skills, innovation and problem-solving skills. Generation has evolved, teaching the generations have evolved as per the need and necessity. Education has evolved and it is expected that even morals have to be imparted through cartoons and comics.

English Language Teaching

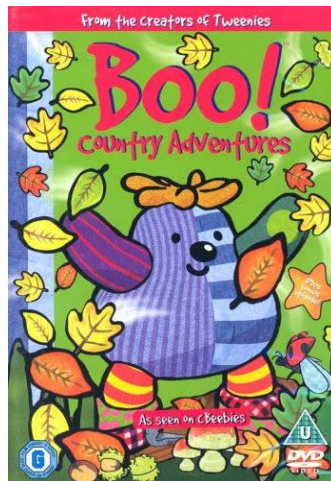
Teaching English language has become a need in today's scenario. English is taught as a second language in India. Teaching English as a Second Language helps the learners in adapting to the language in a rapid manner. English is being taught in classrooms using various teaching aids and methods that include the Direct method, Grammar Translation method and Audio-lingual method. English is learned in schools and institutions through learning the rules of grammar and following the instructions, wherein mother tongue is acquired by the learners unconsciously. Acquiring English language is possible when the process takes place unconsciously. This unconscious process is imparted through various

teaching materials, which include movies, literature and comics. The kids of three to five years are taught rhymes in elementary schools, which is a method of acquiring English language. This entertainment part where the kids listen and repeat the rhymes makes a huge difference in their language skills. They subconsciously learn the words and pronounce them in the appropriate manner.

Cartoons

Kids and cartoons are inseparable. During the early stage of their growth they are attracted towards colorful visualizations and rhyming tunes. Cartoons are the sources that provide the kids with colorful visuals and rhyming tunes. Cartoons that come in simple English language easily impress the kids. When the boring immediate environment is replaced by cartoons, the children tend to pay attention leading to their language growth. Cartoons can also be used as an instructional tool in language teaching. Cartoons deliver complex ideas in simple language, therefore imparting social and moral values among the learners. The children are most likely to follow and interpret the visual media than to follow the oral advises. Cartoons in a way teach the audience values. Through cartoons they tend to learn the four basic skills of language, particularly listening skills.

Review of Literature:



Sandamali Gamage [2019] “Cartoons as an Authentic Supplementary Teaching Tool in English as a Second Language Classrooms” deals with learners of English as a Second Language. The study discloses the usage of cartoons in developing speaking skill among the learners. The empirical investigation conducted by the researcher proves that majority of the students actively participated in the assigned tasks related to cartoons and the learners also demonstrated a positive perception towards the use of cartoons.

Manar Ali AboElhaded Tamer [2021] “The Effectiveness of Using Cartoon Films in Enhancing Primary School Pupils’ EFL writing skills” states that through effective usage of cartoon films the writing skills can be enhanced. A group of sixty learners were divided into two groups such as experimental group and controlled group. The experimental group learners who were exposed to cartoons showed affirmative response. Thus, using cartoon films is encouraged for effective teaching of writing skills.

Yayu Sri Rahayu [2021] “The Effectiveness of Using Cartoon Videos in Improving Students’ Listening Skill” speaks about how listening skill can be enhanced using cartoon videos. The researcher analysed the students on two bases, prior and post to the exposition of

cartoons. The post test results show that the cartoon videos have improved listening skill among the students.

Aray Mukazhanova [2022] “Using Cartoons and Animated Films to Teach Listening Skills to Young Learners” deals with the use of cartoons and animated films to teach listening skills to young learners. The study provides selective cartoons and animated films that can be beneficial in teaching listening and understanding among young learners. It also pronounces that cartoons provide encouragement and motivation to young learners.

Thomas & Friends



Cartoons are also available in various official and regional languages. The classic cartoons that can only be watched in English to enjoy the essence are the ones that aids in English language teaching. These cartoons include Thomas & Friends, Boo! and Teletubbies. These cartoons entertain and educate the viewers unconsciously. Thomas & Friends is a British television series that is specially meant for children. It was aired from 9th October 1984 to 20th January 2021. The series was originally titled as Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends and it was aired for six series and later the title was altered to Thomas & Friends; Big World! Big Adventures! which aired for the last two series. This series consists of 584 episodes. It has been broadcast in channels such as Nick Jr, Cartoon Network and ITV. It is the story of a tank engine, Thomas and his friends. The story is built in such a way that it engages the viewers with its theme of adventure. The main characters include Thomas, Edward, Henry, James, Gordon and Percy. The story revolves around Thomas, a tank engine who is a hard worker and about his friends, whom Thomas thinks are not so hard working as him, “Thomas was a cheeky little engine, too. He liked best of all to come quietly beside a big engine dozing on the sliding and making him jump.” The opening song has become a greater hit after the release that it makes the toddlers to hum and even sing, “Thomas the Tank Engine, yeah!... And he is the one that has been done.” The series not only entertain the audience but also educate them on the real life struggle of railway workers.

Boo!

Boo! is also a British animated series made for children. The series runs for about 104 episodes. The series is about a pear shaped eggplant Boo and its game of hide and seek. There are three other characters that support the title character. This series is of simple English language making it easier for kids to grab and repeat. This series is useful in making the kids learn new words or short phrases that are not too complicated. The songs in the animated series help the kids in remembering the words with the tune, “Where’s Boo? Where’s Boo? Can you find Boo? It’s all you have to do.” The series is all about finding Boo is different

places. The colorful characters and animation occupy the kids and it further helps them in concentration. The series also teaches the kids about various places that they have not seen. It provides the kids with knowledge about the geographical areas as well as it teach them new and simple words.

Language Acquisition through Cartoons

Acquiring English language starts off with listening and observing things keenly. Through cartoons the listening skill of the tiny toddlers is sharpened. Cartoons provide the learners visually pleasant scenes which indeed make the learners to concentrate longer. Using cartoons as an instructional tool makes the process of learning easier. Cartoons certainly break the boring process of the learning. Simple language that cartoons provide is a relief to students who find it hard to understand complex phenomenons. Cartoons also teach the right children pronunciation and spelling, which indeed helps the children with better communication and good writing skill. Cartoons act as a source that provides the learners with the entertainment that they long for as well as the teaching that is supposed to be done.

Methodology

Thirty two students of classes LKG and UKG were randomly picked. The students were taught the basic language skills through instruction. They were also put under a situation where they were provided with the instructional method of teaching and cartoons in a blended manner in cycle I. In cycle II they were exposed only to cartoons, which indeed enhanced the students' attentiveness in the content. The students were exposed to cartoons such as Thomas & Friends and Boo!. The students were able to follow the contents and the dialogues in the cartoons. When the students were asked questions related to the topic that was taught, the students were not able to answer them appropriately. The same part of the topic was taught through cartoons and the students were questioned. They were able to answer the questions appropriately as an after effect of cartoons. The study reveals that students under a controlled environment lack listening skill which is the most important part in acquiring any language, wherein the students who were exposed to cartoons edutain themselves and their listening capability is also enhanced. It acts as an interactive tool and it also boosts the innovation and cognitive thinking among the students. The following are the results that are derived from the students.

Results

Table 1: Increased activity in pre cycle and cycle I and II

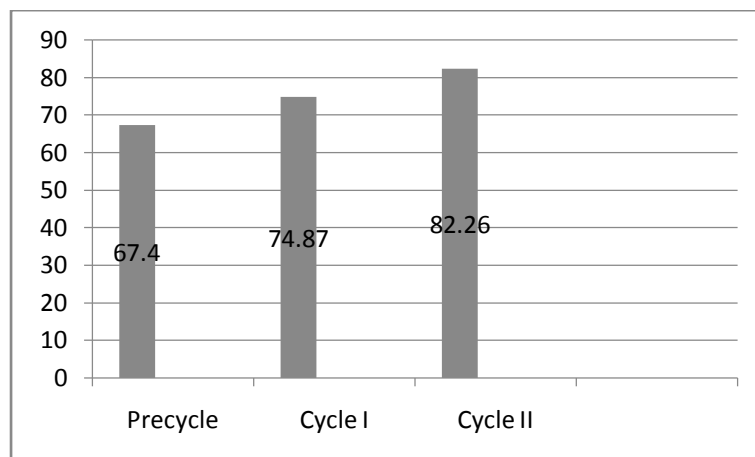
Activities	Observation (%)	Result (%)
Pre cycle	53	Enough
Cycle I	75	Good
Cycle II	100	Very good

Table 1 reflects the initial and the increased activity in pre cycle, cycle I and cycle II. Column one indicates the cycles. Column two shows the observations in percentage in three stages, teaching English language through instructions and rules (Pre cycle), acquiring English language through cartoons and through instructional medium (Cycle I) and acquiring English language through cartoons as an instructional tool (Cycle II). The change in the percentage is clearly visible in the given table. The following table, table 2 displays the improved language skills among the primary level learners.

Table 2: Improved listening skill for primary learners

Aspect	Pre cycle	Cycle I	Cycle II
Average value	67.74	74.87	82.26
Improved listening skill	28.12	53.12	96.87
Number of students who have improved	9	17	31
Category	Has not succeeded	Has not succeeded	Was successful

Table 2 displays the improved analysis of listening skill among the primary learners. Column one indicates the average value, improved listening skill, number of students who have improved and category of the primary learners. Column two shows the pre cycle figures and column three and four indicates the improved analysis during Cycle I and Cycle II. Cartoon serves as a medium which motivates the students in education. It is evident from the results that the students were unable to answer attentively due to the pressure of the situation, but when it comes to cartoons the pressure is eliminated and they tend to watch cartoons as a part of enjoyment.



Graph 1: Diagram of Results of Improved listening skill among the primary learners. It is clearly evident that the students who are exposed to cartoons outsmart the students under a controlled environment.

Analysis

Acquiring takes place when the students are in a situation where there is no need of conscious instructions and rules that are to be imparted. A subconscious or unconscious way of learning is known as acquiring. The results of the study shows that students respond better when they are in a pressure free environment. It can be done at any part of the stage.

Conclusion

Cartoon as an instructional tool helps the students and teachers innumerable ways. It makes the learning process easy for the learners and the process of teaching is also made easy through cartoons. Cartoons are a source of knowledge, language, values and culture. Cartoons go into the sections where even the teachers and parents are not given access. It is the era where the mass media and AI takes control over the manual teaching. Cartoon enhances the

personal skills among the students. It helps them overcome their fears and struggles they face in classroom environment. The present study dealt with listening skill that is acquired through cartoons. The students might face misinterpretation when it comes to manual teaching, cartoons with its simple and understandable language assists the kids with clarity of the concept. The basic need for any learner inside a classroom is entertainment and when it comes in the form of cartoons it is accepted widely and nevertheless they are also a source of education.

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