PRESS ENGLISH

LEARN ENGLISH THROUGH JOURLANALISTIC TEXTS

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Preface

Communicative competence is the ultimate goal of language learners and fostering this in language learners is the ultimate goal of language teachers. Language teaching specialists believe that communicative competence can best be achieved by providing activities that are truly communicative. The basic feature of communicative activities is the authenticity of such activities. By the authenticity scholars in the field mean the extent to which a text or task enjoys all areas of language knowledge such as lexical, grammatical, textual, functional and pragmatic knowledge. As long as the language teaching and learning is concerned, authenticity is of three main types 1. Authenticity of the texts, which we may use as input data for our learners. 2. Authenticity of the learners' own interpretation of such texts and 3. Authenticity of the tasks conducive to language learning.

For the past two decades or so, English language teaching professionals have tried a variety of ways to provide a truly communicative ambience in language classrooms; an ambience in which all the texts and tasks to be used have the features of real communicative interactions.

A glance at the contents of a Newspaper shows that Newspapers enjoy almost all the characteristics, which it will with the features of communicative competence.

Newspapers have a variety of text stypes and language styles. They are a rich source of vocabulary practice. You can find an authentic and practical source of grammar use in this genre of language use. Newspapers can enrich language learners with a variety of social, cultural, economic and political ideas and attitudes.

The present book tries to provide language learners with a variety of Newspapers excerpts followed by authentic oral and written tasks, which can be used in and outside classroom to improve students' language knowledge and skills. This book is divided into two chapters.

The first chapter deals with the structures of headlines as well as the body of Newspaper excerpts, and some tips and guidelines for language learners and teaching for studying the book.

The second chapter includes twenty unites, each having five parts, namely home news, foreign news, economy, sports, miscellaneous. In each part, one, two, or more excerpts are given. These are followed by a word power, a useful

expression, and reading, writing, speaking, interpretation and forum tasks. The tasks have been included to improve students' speaking and writing skills. It has been tried to cover as many challenging and communicative provoking issues as possible.

The book is a practical course for all language learners. IELTS Takers. Political, International relation and economics students in University. It can be used by language learners for Reading Journalistic English. Also it is a rich source for language lab and reading discussion classes as well as conversation by topic classes.

Some guidelines for teachers and students

I. Newspaper materials

There are different classifications for Newspaper materials in the literature. Some scholars classify Newspaper materials as "hard News or reports about announcements, events, accidents, crimes and ere." "Editorial", "special topics" such as economy. Sport, Art, Education and etc... and so on. By Newspaper materials; however, we mean what you find in a newspaper when you start browsing through its pages. For ease, we classify the newspaper material into five major types; I Foreign News, II. Home News, III. Economy IV. Sport and V. Miscellaneous. Each may include an editorial, some hard News, and some special topics or feature stories.

H. Structure of newspapers

Newspapers enjoy a rich array of grammatical structures. Newspapers are an applied classroom for those who want to improve their grammatical competence, Newspapers are full of sentence patterns; tenses, active, passive, gerund, infinitive, dampling constructions, conjunctions, conjunctive adverbs, subordinate chases and so many other structures.

Among the sentence pattern and tenses; however, some have a higher frequency. In the following lines, the most frequent sentence patterns and tenses are introduced.

Sentence patterns	Examples
1	
S + V + C	Leader calls for unity
2	German president arrived in Tehran
S+ V + C	here Saturday
S + to be +C	The economic growth is up 2%
Have 3	US has stepped up its efforts to
S + + V + C	convince its allies for war against Iraq
Has	
3	10 people were killed in a car accident
S + to be + V + C	in Avaj.
1	AIDS is killing thousands of people
S + to be + V + ing + C	every year.
1	The regional countries should expand
S + Modal + V + C	their friendly ties
1 2	Speaking to IRNA, the president
V ing + C, S + V + C	stressed on the freedom of expression
3	A conference on dialogue among
S + Modal + be + V + C	civilizations will be held in Tehran
	next month

There are 14 units in the book. In each unit, a number of tasks have been included. The aim of these tasks is to help students use and practice what they learn in the given newspaper excerpts. To do these tasks, students are required to use the words expressions and the structures they learn in the newspaper excerpts of each unit. Indeed, it is believed that as long as the students do not and cannot use what are presented in the book, they cannot and should not claim that they have learned the materials in the book. So, the teachers and students are asked to devote a part of the class time to do the given tasks. The fellowing examples can best demonstrate the point:

<u>Task:</u> what is the significance of expanding ties with other countries?

Doing this simple task requires knowing some related vocabularies, some linguistic structures, and last but not the least some world knowledge.