

# Learning Intermediate English via Movies and Its Advantages to Make the Learners much more Engaged in their Lessons

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## Abstract

The exchange and cooperation between Vietnam and other countries is growing through many fields. Therefore, the demand of Vietnamese people to learn English is increasing, English language learning methods and textbooks have also become diversified to improve and improve efficiency of language knowledge. In particular, the method of learning foreign languages through movies is also being applied to many languages such as English, and Chinese. Many studies on applying films to learning foreign languages are gaining popularity in recent years. There are many studies showing that watching movies effectively improves listening comprehension, reading comprehension, translation and speaking skills. Not only that, it also helps learners increase their understanding of the culture and vocabulary of that country. This results of the paper show that watching movies not only helps students improve their pronunciation, but also creates their own excitement, helps them improve their vocabulary, develop listening, reading and speaking skills.

**Keywords:** English, knowledge, methods, movies, skills

## 1. INTRODUCTION

In recent years, the demand for English language learning of Vietnamese people has increased while English language learning methods and textbooks have also become diversified in order to improve and improve efficiency of English knowledge. Learning English through movies is one of the very effective methods applied by interns and international students studying English. However, not everyone can apply this method effectively [1].

In addition to Anime which is a English animation with many genres that both children and adults in the world love, we can also watch English dramas and movies as well for people who want to learn English [2]. If it is possible to combine watching movies and learning a foreign language at the same time, then that is a great thing. Naturally, everyone has different learning styles and methods for learning a foreign language. This method can help learners increase their knowledge, skills and excitement when it comes to movies with interesting content [3].

## 2. CONTENT OF RESEARCH

### 2.1 Literature review

Since before the 20th century, the process of teaching foreign languages has often focused on teachers and teaching methods. On the contrary, from the late 20th century until now, when the learner and learning-centered perspective has taken the leading role and has clearly achieved higher efficiency, the focus has shifted to learners and learning method aims to create and develop learners' autonomy and self-responsibility, to meet their own needs and help them become lifelong learners [2].

Thus, the methods of learning foreign languages have become diversified and applied by many people, but it is up to the learners to apply those methods effectively or not. Learning English through Anime has also been researched by many authors and Anime is one of the famous English cultures which are widely popular all over the world. There are many advantages when choosing Anime as new material to support learning English, especially listening and speaking practice [3].

Some people think that when we apply this learning method optimally, we will receive many benefits. That is to help us practice correct pronunciation skills like native speakers; accumulating many common sentences to communicate in English in everyday life; grasp the appropriate use of words in different contexts; understanding more words and slang words that a book or dictionary is not covered. We can hear many English voices in different regions and above all, we can communicate in English gently, comfortably, without being bored [4].

Additionally, there is the fact that educators have no control over what students learn and view outside of the classroom. One of the main concerns about learners' interest in anime is that they can make broad judgments or assumptions about English language and culture based solely on the anime they've watched. Since numerous studies have shown that anime has become a significant presence in most English language learners, it has become part of the responsibility of English educators to dispel prejudices about language and culture in anime. For example, students should be reminded not to expect English to speak exactly like they do in anime and not to use words or phrases learned from anime until they are sure of the meaning. This explains why the anime should be introduced in the English Language Class not only because it can be a good teaching material but also to raise learners' awareness of language prejudices and culture in anime [5].

This method is also one of the methods applicable to the English Test on how to estimate the difficulty of dialogue lines in anime using English words and grammar [6].

## **2.2 The popularity of English films in the world**

English film industry of many countries, with a history of more than 100 years. In a Sight & Sound category of Asian cinema's best films, English cinema ranks eighth in the top 12 of mainland Asia's most powerful films, with Tokyo Story (1953) is ranked first on the list. English cinema has also won many prestigious awards such as the Academy Award for the Academy Award for the best foreign language film with four nominations (The Seeker (2008), Samurai I: Musashi Miyamoto (1955), Jigokumon (1954), Rashōmon (1951) [7].

Over the past 100 years, English cinema has gone through many ups and downs, but always has unique works and its own strengths, including English animated films, also known as is Sen and Chihiro in the Mystic World (2001) awarded the Academy Award for Best Animation and La Maison en Petits Cubes (2008) for the Academy Award for Best Short Animation. Currently Japan's anime industry is estimated to dominate the global animation production market at around 60% of the film produced.

## **2.3 Some problems when applying the method**

Learners can practice listening to English, practicing reading and even practicing English pronunciation through movies. However, when applying this English learning method, some of the problems that we can encounter are as follows.

The first is that the film selection is not suitable for the current level. Finding a movie that suits your level is very important. If we just started learning English, and choose a movie with confusing content, difficult-to-understand speech or words, etc. we won't be able to absorb it because at that time the vocabulary and grammar were not enough to understand the movie [8]. On the contrary, when we have a good amount of knowledge in English but still choose a movie that is too easy or too dependent on subtitles, it will be very difficult to improve our skills. To improve the level, it is very necessary to increase the difficulty level of the lesson.

Next is the length of the film is too long. If watching a movie for academic purposes, a movie with a long length will definitely not be suitable. Watching a 15 - 20 minute episode will be much more receptive. Especially for those who are just starting to learn English, it is more effective to watch a short episode [3].

When we watch a movie, we don't just watch it once. We can practice listening, speaking, and checking vocabulary in movies when we feel curious, so it's not enough to watch the movie once. Therefore, choosing a movie with a moderate amount of time will be much easier. We can both enjoy the full content of the episode and can rewind to learn without causing boredom.

As mentioned above, if the purpose of watching movies is learning, that means that watching a movie once is of course not enough. Besides there are many things we need to practice like listening, speaking, vocabulary, watching movies once is not enough for us to grasp knowledge. Surely, when watching a movie, there are many places that make us wonder: "What does this word mean?", "How to pronounce this word?" etc. Watching it over and over will help us to better understand usage of certain grammar or vocabulary [5].

In addition, watching movies with incorrect subtitles is also an easy problem. In this era of technological development, we everyone can learn a lot with just a smartphone or a computer. It is easy to find a good English movie with Vietnamese subtitles for study and entertainment purposes. However, sometimes we ignore the accuracy of those subtitles. If the subtitles are incorrect, it will greatly affect our English knowledge.

## **2.4 Research methodology**

The research paper is based on opinion polls on the Internet. The scope of the survey is at University. Respondents are students are studying at universities and reached intermediate English proficiency level. The data and answers were then analyzed and discussed in order to confirm the effectiveness of this approach.

## **2.5 Results and Discussion**

The figure 1 below refers to the survey results of 40 students with intermediate English proficiency from three classes in the method of studying English through film. The results in the figure show that lot of students (33%) have applied the approach but not very effective.

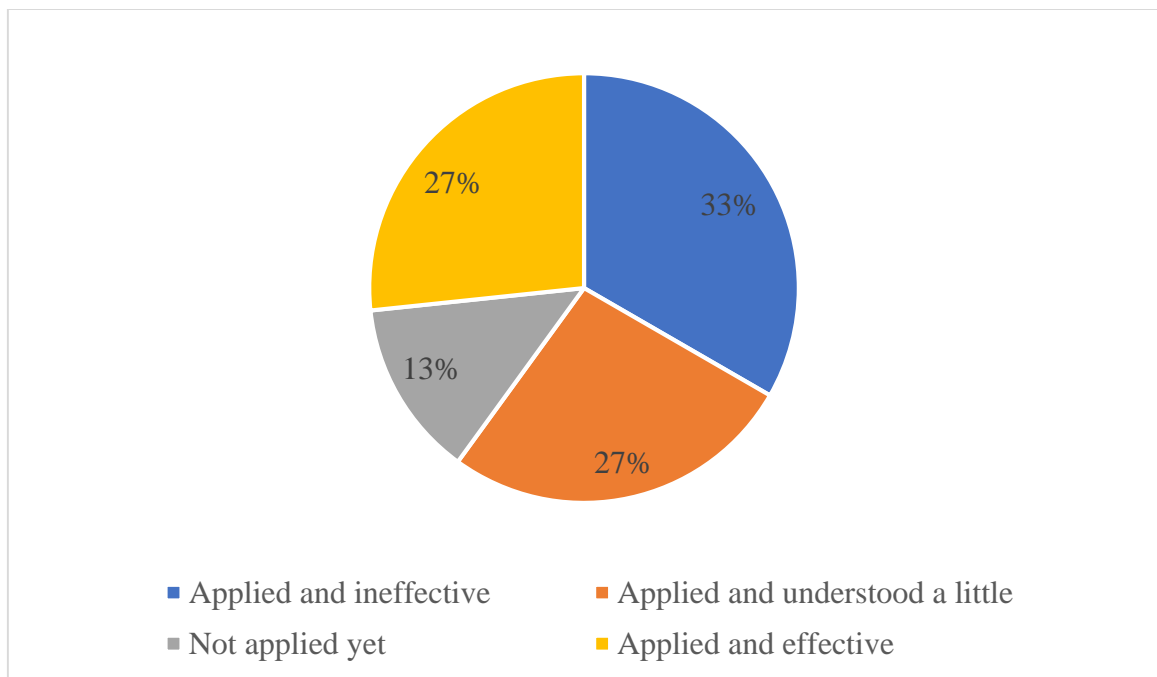


Figure 1. Number of people who have tried the method of learning English through film

The above figure also shows that those with intermediate English proficiency have tried this method of learning English but almost half of them are ineffective (Figure 1) while there are a few (13%) have never tried this approach. That means if they know how to improve English language by watching Anime or English movies, acquiring a second language is not that hard.

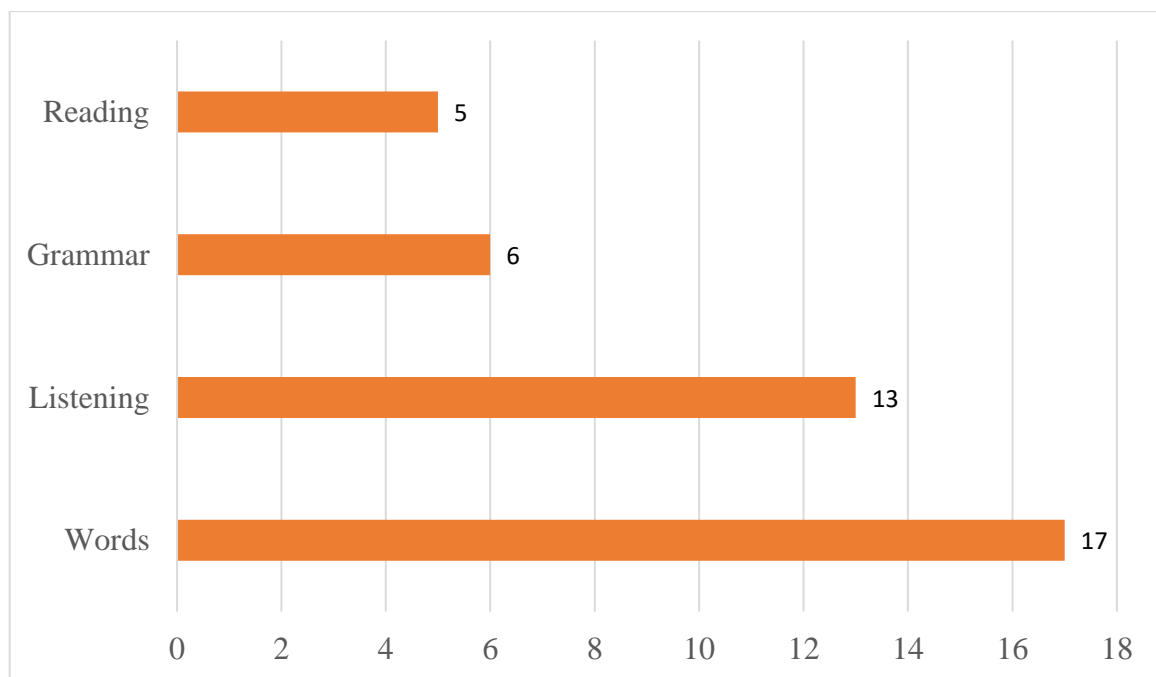


Figure 2: Skills acquired when applying the English method of learning through movies

Through the figure 2, those (30/ 40 respondents) who have used the method have grasped the amount of vocabulary and listening skills better. However, some skills such as reading comprehension and grammar skills are only understood by a few people. Thus, the figure shows that this movie-watching method can practice English learning skills (Figure 2).

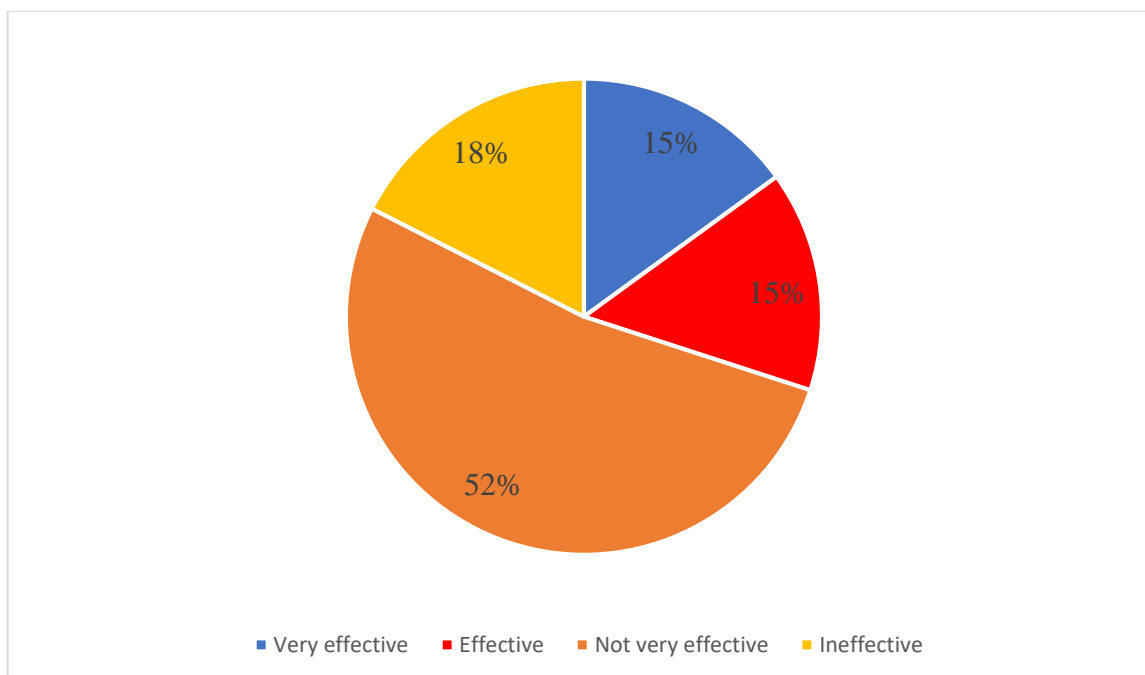


Figure 3. Effect of English language learning method through movies

Most people (52%) think that this method is not very effective and there are answers that because they do not like to watch English films and because they do not understand clearly or have time to watch, some people (15%) think that this is a good way and very effective, however, it takes time to adapt with the new method. Normally, the learners are not able to keep up with the speed and rhythm of English although it is rather relaxing (Figure 3).

## 2.6 Proposed solutions

First, you should watch the movie again with English subtitles. When watching again, let's listen to the movie with only English subtitles to get used to the typography and guess the meaning when listening to the actors speak. We can break the movie down into smaller segments to make it easier to learn [4].

During the playback process, if there are words that are not clear, press the button stop (Pause), then look up the meaning of the new word and rewrite the whole sentence containing the new word to save to memorize and make use of. If the meaning of the movie is clear, we can watch English subtitles several times without pressing stop [8].

Next is the combination of listening practice with speaking practice. When watching the movie, we can both practice listening and speaking English. If the movie has English subtitles as well, speaking practice will be too easy [9]. But most of the films have only Vietnamese subtitles. So we can practice speaking in short sentences and conversations of the characters [7]. Trying to imitate tone and incorporate more of your emotions when you speak is a great way to improve your speaking and listening skills.

Finally, watch movies without subtitles. When we have a certain amount of English knowledge it is entirely possible to watch movies without subtitles. From there you will be able to improve your listening comprehension skills more [6].

## 3. CONCLUSION

This study aims to help intermediate English learners with a certain vocabulary and grammar can apply the method of learning through movies to cultivate a lot of knowledge about English culture and communication. The results show that this learning method is not surely effective. However, through the survey, most English moviegoers can learn a lot because watching movies brings entertainment, satisfies curiosity and helps viewers improve their vocabulary and listening comprehension skills.

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