

How Does Music Help To Improve Effective Communication?

Richard Nathaniel ^{*1}, Dr. Sowmya Narayanan ²

^{*12} Department of Life skills, New Horizon College of Engineering, Bangalore. Karnataka, India.

richardnathaniel@yahoo.com ¹

sowmyagr@gmail.com ²

ABSTRACT

This research paper is aimed at learning communicative skills should spark all your senses, as well as your creative side and help one to try and think of new techniques that can be used in learning. At the Indian Engineering colleges, students are expected to enhance their skills in reading, writing, speaking and listening. Not only studying new English vocabulary but also practicing new English knowledge in a group with friends and classmates. However, there are several additional ways to enhance one's learning process. Music in English will certainly enhance one's language comprehension, improve one's listening skills, increase vocabulary, and help in pronunciation. Music is a fundamental channel of communication: it provides a means by which people can share emotions, intentions, and meanings.

Keywords : Music in English learning, English speaking skills through music, Effective communication and music

I. INTRODUCTION

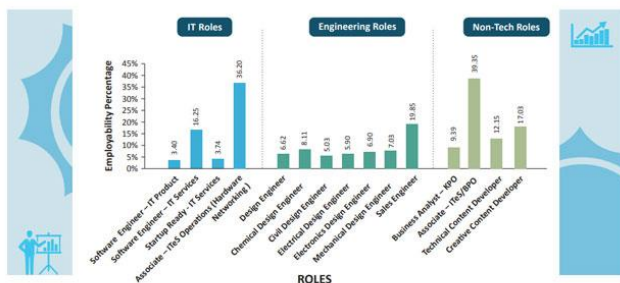


Figure 1: Employability percentage of engineering graduates in different roles

The Economic times newspaper reveals in its Employability Survey 2019:

“Jobs slip away from the ill-equipped Indian engineer. The general quality of India's engineering graduates is exactly where it was a decade ago, with next-gen tech skills still a chimera, the new Annual Employability Survey 2019 by Aspiring Minds has revealed. On top of a shocking series of revelations is

the finding that 80% of Indian engineers are not fit for any job in the knowledge economy” [1]

II. THE NEED

Through this survey it is understood that the employability numbers are the same as it was a decade ago. Our engineering students do not have the relevant skills to make a career out of it. Hence, there is a need to equip them to be employable and successful in their professional life. There is a need for cognitive and language skills to be introduced for their career growth.

The time has come that the teachers in the communication department will have to be very creative indeed, or else both content learning and the throughput rate of learners will suffer.

III. RESEARCH

A. Objective

To introduce music skills for the Engineering students in India enabling them to master English language so that they can enhance their communicative skills which in turn will help them be successful in their professional and social life. The application of song and music as a teaching and learning classroom motivation will result in creative and enhanced language performance.

B. Research Questions

How do almost all the musicians excel in their communication skills?

How does music help the students improve their communication skills to a greater extent?

C. Literature review

A research was conducted how to bridge the gap and help Indian Engineering graduates who join the jobseekers' queue in millions every year. The results reveal that these issues will have to be addressed immediately by an initiative which will make students identify their dormant qualities and unused assets so that they can sharpen and get profited by them when they face the challenges in this competitive world.

The survey was conducted with 100 talented musicians in India and around the world and found out how they were able to excel in their communication skills and whether music helped them sharpen their communication skills and gain self-confidence.

90% of the musicians agreed that they improved their communicative skills in English language by music, 6% stayed neutral, leaving 4% to disagree. [2]

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-NKM9TPDS7/#>

The results stress that by music one can improve his English pronunciation, vocabulary, use correct grammar and gain fluency in conversation.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, the poet wrote that "Music is the universal language of mankind" in 1835. Though the music we listen to has changed dramatically over the past two centuries, Longfellow's words are probably even more valid in today's life's situations.

Of late, music has become the newly adopted 'teaching methodology' in the department of communication. Music and song, whether pop, rock, rap, rhythm & blues, hip-hop, made it a better place for the learners. Though the teaching and learning lesson plan and assessment is simple, but proves to be very much experimental and practical.

IV. METHODOLOGY

A. Ethnographic Research and Qualitative Observation

As a part of the process of the research, more than 100 participants, including highly successful Engineers were reached. This was conducted through a survey by surveymonekey.com. The data and related information define the research questions very clearly.

B. Findings

- It is found through this study that almost all the musicians who are into different professions agreed that by music they have developed their communicative skills and gained self-confidence.
- Through music they were able to think in a new way
- Music was the motivation behind the learning. By the words from the songs they could analyse the meanings and the figurative language could be identified and discussed in the context of the text.
- The overall singing in a group or a solo developed their Para-language skills like accent,

young students. Singing the lyrics is a natural response from them. The classroom will bring an “electric mood” and that learning will have a vibe. Then the words of the lyrics are transferred onto the overhead projector screen. Then the teaching and learning begin. Actually, this is when the teaching and learning continue.

As a result of Ethnographic research and qualitative observation, it is identified that introducing English learning and sharpening communicative skills through music to the first year Engineering students will be fruitful.

C. Music and learning

A. The plan

The objective in using music is to motivate the teaching and learning communicative skills. Not only are the lyric productions beyond expectations, but language ability in the written task improves as well. Music will also make the environment more learner-friendly. Music will motivate the learners to go beyond their language limitations and respond. It is confirmed from the survey that music as an innovative teaching and learning intervention which works.

Gradually the oral presentation can be added into this section. For many, their confidence in using their limited knowledge of English visibly grow. The writing task will produce efforts that range from mediocre to outstanding. They can be encouraged to videotape themselves performing their song as part of their presentation.

D. Music and Effective Communication

Language learning has a profound relationship with music in that they can both develop and support each other. They are interdependent.

“Melodic recognition, contour processing, timbre discrimination, rhythm, tonality, prediction, and perception of the sight, sound, and form of symbols in context are required in both music and language” Stan sell [4].

To make the learning of language more effective, traditional language teaching methods will have to be reviewed, and music should be introduced as one means of further enhancing learning. Fluency would be the outcome of merged methods of teaching and learning, together with motivated learners, improved vocabulary development, use of vocabulary in context and communicative confidence, as evidenced by the case study cited. They will have a positive impact on the four key language learning skills: listening, reading as passive skills and writing and speaking as productive skills.

“Researcher Stansell [4] more academically states: “The universal element of music can make the artificial classroom environment into a ‘real’ experience and make new information meaningful, bringing interest and order to a classroom.”

As educators, how can one define the relationship between language learning and music? Oats and Grayson [5] write of language acquisition being rooted in phonology - which consists of symbols that represent the sounds of language, morphology – a form of words establishes meaning and grammatical function, syntax – an order of words constitutes sentence formation and semantics – vocabulary which creates meaning and understanding.

1) English pronunciation [6]

Phonetic symbols

used in the dictionary

Consonants		Vowels and diphthongs	
p pen /pen/	s so /səʊ/	i: see /si:/	ʌ cup /kʌp/
b bad /bæd/	z zoo /zu:/	ɪ happy /ˈhæpi/	ɜ: bird /bɜ:d/
t tea /ti:/	ʃ shoe /ʃu:/	ɪ sit /sɪt/	ə about /əˈbaʊt/
d did /dɪd/	ʒ vision /ˈvɪʒn/	e ten /ten/	eɪ say /seɪ/
k cat /kæt/	h hat /hæt/	æ cat /kæt/	əʊ go /ɡəʊ/
g got /ɡɒt/	m man /mæn/	ɑ: father /ˈfɑ:ðə(r)/	aɪ five /faɪv/
tʃ chain /tʃeɪn/	n no /nəʊ/	ɒ got /ɡɒt/	əʊ now /naʊ/
dʒ jam /dʒæm/	ŋ sing /sɪŋ/	ɔ: saw /sɔ:/	ɔɪ boy /bɔɪ/
f fall /fɔ:l/	l leg /leg/	ʊ put /pʊt/	ɪə near /nɪə(r)/
v van /væn/	r red /red/	u actual /ˈæktʃʊəl/	eə hair /heə(r)/
θ thin /θɪn/	j yes /jes/	u: too /tu:/	ʊə pure /pjʊə(r)/
ð this /ðɪs/	w wet /wet/		

(r) indicates that British pronunciation will have /r/ only if a vowel sound follows directly; otherwise it is omitted. In American pronunciation, every ‘r’ of the ordinary spelling is retained.

Songs give you perfect pronunciation models. As you learn to sing them, you are practicing your pronunciation, you are imitating native speakers, and you are learning how to speak better. The rhythm naturally leads to better pronunciation, better intonation, and more fluency.

1) Listening skills

When one starts paying attention to the lyrics his listening skills naturally will improve. After learning a few songs, one will start gathering an immense repertoire of songs and vocabulary. This will activate the listening skills and listening to music in English will become an enjoyable learning exercise.

2) English vocabulary

When you listen to songs repeatedly the lyrics won’t be easily forgotten. It will stay with you and you will really enjoy it. A song a week will fetch you 52 songs in a year which in turn will help you master many vocabularies and phrases.

3) Correct Collocation

Stories are told through songs, and through this we learn correct collocation which we hear over and over again and incorporate them into our own way of speaking. Collocation is the cultural context and placement of words. It’s what sounds natural to native speakers. It usually doesn’t have much logic to it, and it’s almost impossible to teach. It is something that’s acquired with time and contact with the language in authentic cultural contexts. [7]

E. The Value of Understanding the Lyrics

- This study bridges the gap between experimental investigations and applications in the classroom. [8]
- Learning through this method can always begin by choosing the song which they already know and understand.
- Developing the skill-acquisition of learning songs by ear.

- Involves a deep integration of listening, performing, improvising and composing.
- By understanding the lyrics we can demonstrate our paralinguistic skills in volume, pitch, modulation, facial expression, eye movement, tone of voice, etc.,

Implementing aspects of this model in the Aural Skills curriculum provides an opportunity to observe our students' learning process in real-time. Although the end goal may be performance based, the emphasis on shared experience and critical thinking encourages the practice of traditional concepts and skills in 'real-life' situations. This presentation will introduce several project-based tasks, share videos, and address challenges in implementation and formal assessment. Hence, learning English music can be a perfectly natural, enjoyable, rich part of your daily life. [10]

F. Music and motivation

The case study indicated that music enhances one's skills in academic achievement, self-esteem, and self-confidence. Music is a means of communication. It is an innate part of a person's being. Depending on taste, it soothes and relaxes, inspires and motivates. Used carefully in the learning situation, it can turn the beat of the learning process around.

Various studies prove that music does contribute to a learner's academic achievement, motivation and creative development. They conclude that music helps one to learn more, and more effectively. Music contributes to all of education. The learner benefits by enhancing key developmental goals such as self-esteem and creativity. [9]

It is common knowledge that Indians have a natural sense of rhythm. For an Indian life skills trainer, this strength should be exploited and developed into a teaching tool that supports the learning of language. It is highly recommended:

- to use music as a complementary method as it makes full use of visual, auditory, movement and tactile senses;
- to introduce simple songs with catchy melody;
- to have music educated teachers in life skills departments, music venues and suitable instruments and equipment,
- to organize music programs that support teachers and students;
- to integrate music into the aspects of skills development;
- to encourage parents to improvise music/sound related activities with their children, for example, family singing, listening to music and doing household chores to music;
- to encourage parents be involved in their student's taste in television and you tube to guide the kind of music and language that influences their listening and speaking

In the education context, it is critical that the educator recognizes the relationship between music, motivation and learning. This case study provides evidence that music actively motivated people to believe in themselves, to take on seemingly difficult learning tasks and to gain confidence. It became clear that being competent in one area and feeling good about one's performance in this area, actually helped learners to cope with weaknesses in other areas. The premise is that if one is good at music, this strength makes up for one's lack of sport, language, academic or social skills. This case study provides actual evidence that music gives academically unsuccessful students a place to succeed. Music then, is a tool for motivation in learning. Music can be effectively used to achieve non-musical goals.

This research makes us understand that music and singing are the integral parts of learning English and it cannot be ignored. Not only are students motivated, but also they are given a learning situation where they can enjoy learning in a relaxed, non-competitive environment. The singing enables

learners to discover language structures and new words incidentally and are able to use them in communicative contexts.

VI. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the research paper reveals that using songs and music is an innovative teaching tool which will help students come out of the humdrum life style, get interested and involved in learning and practicing language skills. By this process the pessimists get transformed into optimists. This paves way for a positive mind set which will motivate them to take part in language activities like group discussion, presentation, impromptu speeches, and role plays without hesitation. As they overcome self-consciousness and stage fear, an important thing happens here....like a bird which was freed from a cage they fly into a new horizon and enjoy their freedom. They are ready to face the interviews boldly with confidence and get placed. Since their communicative skills are sharpened they will never give up at any point of time. This will certainly make difference in the employment percentage too. This is not only meant for engineering colleges, but also for every educational institution in India, where they want their students to get equipped and be successful in their professional life.

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