

English is a Popular Language in Bollywood

*Surendra Kagat

Abstract

As language teachers, we look out for some newness in our approach to engage our students in picking up the use of English and to add excitement to language classes. It is a fact widely acknowledged that students are drawn towards entertainment, mostly films, Bollywood gossips, popular lines from movies, or lyrics buzzing around. Movies with English names and songs are a new fad in Bollywood. The learners connect with these more easily than with the textbooks. If we engage them in doing an activity on this, they would respond to this with interest and motivation. We can bank upon this fact so as to involve the learners in conversing in English. The teacher has to guide the learners in carrying out this activity.

Keywords: - Bollywood, movies, titles, lyrics

Introduction

The movie English Vinglish depicts how a housewife struggles to learn English and earn respect for herself in her life. The students can narrate and discuss the learning scenes from the movie. Today, spoken English has become a mix of Hindi and English. In our daily conversations, do we actually talk only in Hindi or English? No. Even if we are talking in Hindi, we do tend to use English words. English titles work perfectly because there is a fun and cool element attached to them, says actor Gul Panag, adding, My film Turning 30 talks about a woman who is going to turn 30. Can there be an apt title in Hindi for the same subject that can also sound cool and easily connect with the audience? English titles connect with today's public. Probably the same goes for movies like Rock star, No similarly, most of our songs have English lyrics too. However, the trend isn't new, it's been going on for a while now. One of the songs in our film goes by the names 'All Is Well' Give me some sunshine". Playback singer Neeraj Shridhar, who has also been a part of many such songs, says, In many of my songs, the English influence comes naturally and is not forced – be it Hare Krishana hare Ram (Bhool Bhulaiyaa, 2007), I'll do the talking tonight (Agent Vinod) or even the latest Tum hi ho bandhu (Cocktail).

If we ask our students to trace this trend from the late '50s and early 60s' till now, they would definitely do it with interest and there will be an interesting group discussion in the class.

Objectives

To enable the learners pick up English words and expressions as well as learn grammar from the popular films.

The Students in a lab class are divided into groups.

One group of students collects a list of old Bollywood movies having English titles. The other group collects a similar list of new movies having English titles. Another group prepares a list of old Bollywood songs with English lyrics. The fourth group collects a list of recent songs with a blend of Hindi and English. The fifth group collects famous dialogues for translation in English.

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Different groups of students give presentation in the class to illustrate that there is scope to study grammar and vocabulary beyond the textbook. They find out the parts of speech, tense and sentence structure in the titles and lyrics. They also engage the class in translating in English famous dialogues from Bollywood. The teacher acts as a facilitator and guide throughout.

Grammatical Conditions

- (a) In the title 3 idiots, identify the part of speech: 3 is Adjective and Idiot is Noun.
- (b) In the title Bullet Raja, Bullet is Adj while Raja is Noun.
- (a) In the song, "Give me some Sunshine/give me some rain/Give me another chance or wanna grow up once again' the structure is imperative,

Similarly, in the lines, why did you break my heart?/ why did we fall in love?/Why did you go away, away, away, away?. The learners can find out the interrogative structure wherein they can distinguish the auxiliary verbs from the main verbs.

- (b) In the famous song from Julie (1975), the learners analyse the grammar and learn the word 'fleeting' unfamiliar to them. The title, Julie is a proper Noun.

My heart is beating, keeps on repeating (the pronoun "it' is missing)

I'm waiting for you (present continuous tense)

My love encloses a plot of roses (present indefinite)

And when shall be then our next meeting (time future)

That time is fleeting; time is fleeting (presents continuous tense)

Time is fleeting.....

The famous dialogues form Bollywood can be used for translation into English wherein learners apply their grammatical knowledge.

- (a) Main aur meri tanhayi, aksar ye baatein karte, hai.....tum hot to haisa hota.... Tum yeh kehti, tum who kehti, tum is baat pe hai raan hoti, tum us baat pe kitni hasti.....tum hoti toh aaisa hota, tum hoti to waisa hota.....main our meri tanhai, aksar yeh baatein karte hai.

Translation

Me and my loneliness, often we talk....if you had been here then how would it have been.....you would have said this and said that, you would have been surprised at this, how much would you have laughed at this....if you had been here then this would have happened and that would have happened.....me and my loneliness, often we talk.

- (a) Kehte hain agar kisi cheez kodil se chaho....to puri kainath use tum se milane ki koshish mein lag jaati hai.

It is said that if you really desire something from the heart.....then the whole universe will work towards getting you that.

Further Activity

The learners can independently learn English form Bollywood movies with English subtitles. They can compare this feature with the moves released in their own state. Further, they can guess Hindi

movie names based on the English translation: Man, Drunkard, Something is happening, Say that there is love, The brave heart shall take the bride, Enemy, Bullet king, Gardener.....

Relevance

The language teacher can use the above samples to design similar other activities in the communicative class in schools as well as colleges.

**Department of English,
SBRM Govt. P.G. College
Nagaur (Raj)**

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