

An Introduction to English Language Teaching

Second Year 2020-2021

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First Semester
Week 5:
Lecture 10:
EFL/ESL Materials and Media





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Who creates materials to language teachers?

Language materials used in language classrooms are created by four groups of people:

1. Publishing companies,
2. Government agencies,
3. Curriculum development teams at the school level,
4. Classroom teachers.

Teachers who teach in private schools usually use commercial materials that include EFL/ESL texts, audio CDs with workbooks, video CDs with worksheets, and computer programs.

Teachers who teach in public schools use materials produced or selected by a government education agency or committee.

Teachers at universities that do not follow a centralized education system usually teach locally designed materials.

Teachers who are not satisfied with the textbook, probably adapt the text or design lessons with materials they create by themselves.



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How do materials reflect the beliefs of those who create them?

Language materials differ according to the beliefs of those who create them. Curriculum designers and materials creators have different points of view towards what language should be introduced to the students and how it should be introduced and what language areas should be emphasized materials emphasize grammatical rules. So according to the beliefs of those people, we can find language materials that emphasize the following areas:

1. Study of structures (grammatical rules)
2. Study of language in situations (different contextual situations)
3. Developing communicative skills
4. Exploration of personal feelings and attitudes
5. Problem solving
6. Use of language for specific purposes

Study of Structures / Grammatical Rules

Those who believe in the importance of the linguistic makeup for the development of students usually create materials that emphasize grammatical rules.

Study of Language Situations

Those who believe that students can learn English by considering the language used in different social contexts, for example, in a restaurant, in the hospital, police station ...etc they create materials that focus on the language used in these particular social contexts.

Developing Communicative Skills

Those who believe that the major aim of materials is to teach communicative competence, create materials that focus on developing communication skills. So they create materials that help promote the students' ability to communicate in English according to the situation, purpose and roles of the participants.



Exploration of Personal Feelings and Attitudes

The writers of materials that explore personal feelings and attitudes believe that students gain much by expressing their feelings and attitudes in the target language.

Problem Posing

Writers who create problem posing materials believe that students learn English by solving everyday problem in English.

Use of Language for Specific Purposes

Some materials creators believe that students in specific fields need to focus attention in the kind of language used within their particular field. These materials are geared specifically toward people working in different service industry occupations – such as army, police, restaurant chefs, secretaries, farmers.....etc