LYRICAL LESSONS: THE POTENTIAL OF INFORMATIVE COMEDY MUSIC AS SUPPLEMENTARY TEACHING MATERIAL

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ABSTRACT

The comedic arts have provided opportunities for humourists to spread information to audiences, sometimes intentionally and other times as a side effect while trying to create laughter. Educators have also found success incorporating comedy into the classroom with humorous activities. While research regarding comedy as a tool to spread information or educate audiences has focused primarily on literature, broadcast media, and film, the area of informative comedy implemented through music remains relatively unexplored. In this paper, the researcher defines 'informative comedy' and takes a critical literacy approach analysing song samples of comedy musician 'Weird Al' Yankovic—one of the notable comedic music artists in the 20th and 21st centuries—and discusses how his music could be used in a classroom setting. While comedy such as Yankovic's is not designed to be an educational tool, the researcher suggests that his songs could be used as supplementary materials in the classroom to reinforce concepts specifically regarding cultural issues through commentary as well as lessons in science and grammar. A central aspect of the exploratory paper involves Yankovic's mix of comedy and informative content focused on culture in the United States, using the popular music genre to convey ideas in ways that may be more palatable for wider audiences and that could be used to assist classroom instruction.

KEYWORDS

comedy music, humour, education, critical literacy

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All video resources presuppose active teaching. Materials alone don't teach - teachers do. The effectiveness of the use of video resources for teaching foreign languages depends both on precise determination of its place in the educational system, and on how efficiently the structure of the video lessons is organized. The introduction of video materials in teaching considerably diversifies the process of perception and processing of information. Thanks to the computer, the Internet and multimedia that students have an opportunity to take in large amounts of information with its subsequent analysis and sorting. ЛИТЕРАТУРА. 18. Willis D. The potentials and limitations of Video. Video applications in ELT. Oxford: Pergamon Press, 1983, pp. 17-24. Elicit supplementary materials and/or write it on the board. In pairs, participants brainstorm and each make a list of all the supplementary materials related to each unit.