

Original Research Article

The Contextual Factors on English Listening Test

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Abstract: Context is a very important concept in linguistics, has a very important role in language acquisition. This paper, through analysis of the English listening test and application context theory to help the candidate to overcome the difficulty in English listening test.

Keywords: Context; Linguistics; Language Acquisition; Listening Test

1. Introduction

"Listen to the words of an input is a positive acceptance of information and information processing^[1]." Second language acquisition theory tells us that most basic requirement is language acquisition, language input^[2]. "listen" for the students' language acquisition is very important, however, the auditory input, most learners in China, due to the lack of a good language environment for the visual input to much less, so the hearing to become a "bottleneck" of Chinese learners of English. For how to improve English learners' listening comprehension ability, some domestic scholars discussed the importance of contextual factors.

2. Contextual factors

2.1 Non-Verbal context

"Non-verbal context, including the situational context, that is, the communication time, place, topic, etc.; background context, culture refers to the Statute, the session rules."

2.2 Situational context

The time and place at least elements of the language communicative activities in the context of the objective factors^[4]. Words at different times and places are not the same, people's communication methods and terminology are not the same.

2.3 Background context

Specific cultural and social background context must focus on to consider a factor^[5]. It is because of the existence of such cross-cultural differences, speech activity constitutes a wide diversity today. On the nature of language is a social, cultural behavior. differences of social and cultural background will be a direct reflection of the language, content and form of the language have a certain role in the understanding of discourse should be constrained attention to cultural background, only to understand the speaker's social background and cultural habits in order to accurately grasp the dependence of the cultural connotation of the words surface meaning.

3. A number of strategies to solve the defect of hearing testing context

3.1 To improve cross-cultural knowledge of the candidate

Listening comprehension is the listener heard the result of the interaction of content and cultural knowledge. Good listening comprehension depends on the listener's understanding of the topic, background knowledge. to improve their English listening ability, must be studied under a number of Western cultural knowledge, including the political, economic, cultural and other fields to understand the human geography of the English nation, customs, etc., in order to enhance the sensitivity of cross-cultural knowledge. In listening teaching, teachers can on the one hand there are plans to introduce the East-West cultural differences, the Anglo-American countries and cultures, on the other hand can encourage students to read books, and heart to understand, master, and the accumulation of a wide range of background knowledge, to increase the listen to the familiarity of the material, and thus a more accurate understanding of listening to the content.

3.2 Use selection context prediction

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"Hearing tests are mostly around the question of the context of various elements"^[6]. In order to test whether the candidate to understand a short passage, and provide choice just implies a context and short. Therefore, in everyday teaching, teachers should guide examination good at the beginning of a book written material and answer choices to find some background information, narrowing the topic of conversation, forecast to be listening to the content of the material, try to figure out the intent of the questions, imagine the problems that might be mentioned, so find out by listening to the type of content and structure, and even theme is helpful if the choice of a title, time, place, person or number, the candidate to listen to the recording can be targeted to pay attention to these specific details, which quickly and accurately to make a choice.

3.3 Great importance to voice, tone, contained in the emotional significance

The emotional significance of changes in the tone of voice changes in the expression, for the candidate often is the most easily overlooked, but to understand them is the most difficult, because of the emotional significance does not like the concept of meaning as clear, but implicit in a tone of voice, but it changes with the communicative content are closely related. The same words, used in voice tone different, the expression of connotation is also different. in the hearing test, speech, intonation is an important basis for the candidate to judge speaker attitudes of the to infer, according to the original reading when used in a different voice, intonation, the speaker doubt, denial, impatience or appreciation, certainly a different attitude to elect the correct answer and hearing the original, the grasp of the emotional significance actually has embarked on a deeper level of communication content to understand, to grasp the emotional significance conveyed by tone of voice, no doubt help to improve the candidate's overall hearing level.

4. Conclusion

Reasons why many hearing tests are unable to improve their listening comprehension ability. The fundamental reason is not good at listening to the process found that contextual factors, are unable to known information and new information to be linked, in order to fundamentally improve their listening comprehension, the learner must gradually develop to accurately capture the locale information, the role of attention to contextual factors in listening comprehension, and awareness to understand and master the knowledge of the culture of some Western countries, thus eliminating cultural barriers caused by cultural differences, as long as the learners have the relevant background knowledge and language information, encounter no matter how complex, can also produce the corresponding contextual factors, so as to achieve a smooth hearing level.

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