

TITLE: The Use of Film as a Tool in Second Language Acquisition

AUTHOR: Melinda D. Childs

FACULTY SPONSOR: Scott Crossley, Department of Applied Linguistics and ESL

There are many different reasons for a student to take up a second language, whether it is interest, a requirement, or professional factors. There are also many different tools that can aid students in learning a second language that can go beyond the typical classroom setting and that can add the student's motivation to learn. One tool that teachers or students can use to aid in the learning process is film. Film is a widely used resource for listening skills when it comes to teaching second or foreign languages to students, but is also useful in acquiring speaking, pragmatic, and semantic skills. The use of film has many benefits but also many potential disadvantages for language acquisition. While many problems can occur by using film as a tool in language acquisition (i.e., distractions, mistranslations, or using films that are difficult to understand or follow), film can still be an extremely effective tool in language acquisition because it can increase learner motivation, interest, understanding of the language use in context, and vocabulary. Thus, film can give insight into the culture of the second language and provide natural language examples that can aid in language acquisition, especially if the learner has the tools, interest, and motivations for learning their second language.