

Teaching Figurative Expressions Through Pictures

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Abstract

Figurative expressions plays an important role in both personal and professional life. However, figurative expression tasks have proven to be a challenging for students. For this current research, guessing the meaning of figurative expressions from pictures strategy was implemented in English language and literature department at Karakalpak state University. A pre-test, a post-test and a survey were collected to determine how the implementation of the technique affected student's comprehension skill.

The results showed that teaching the students to guess the meaning of figurative expression via pictures brought about positive changes in students' comprehension skill. The students also felt motivated when doing figurative expression tasks. It is hoped that the findings of the study will be a potential solution for teachers who have the same difficulties in teaching.

Overview of Action Research

1. Plan

The idea for my action research came to me while I was teaching stylistic and text analysis for my students of English language and literature department. In general, my students found that texts relating to their major in English was a challenging. I tried to find a solution for that problem by figuring out the main reason why my students could not perform well in their comprehension tasks. Moreover, I read journal articles including ideas, suggestions, techniques or strategies which might work in my own teaching context. Finally, I decided to enlarge my students' vocabulary by teaching them how to guess the meaning of words from pictures. My action research aimed at answering the question: "How does guessing the meaning of words from pictures technique impact students' comprehension?"

2. Act

At the beginning of my action research, students were asked to do the pre-test with the aim of checking students' proficiency at that time. Then, the use of guessing the meaning of figurative expression from pictures was implemented during four weeks (from 15 February, 2020 to 15 March, 2020). I met my students three times a week and taught them how to guess the meaning of figurative expression via pictures for ten minutes per a period. After four weeks, a post-test and a survey were delivered to measure students' changes.

3. Observe

Both qualitative and quantitative research methods were used to interpret the data. The pre-test and post-test were collected and scored. All results were calculated in percentage. The survey was analyzed to examine students' attitudes toward the technique.

4. Reflect

The results of the study showed that most of students got higher scores after practicing the technique.

They performed better in the post-test. Moreover, 75% of students felt more motivated and confident. After carrying out this study, I understand the importance of modifying my teaching method and developing students' "self-study". In text comprehension, guessing the meaning of figurative expression through pictures can be a potential solution for my students in my own teaching context. Therefore, I will continue to apply this technique to them in the future.

Teaching "heart" used in figurative expressions through pictures

1. Heart of stone



To have a heart of stone means the person does not show any sympathy, conscience or pity.

Example:

Def Leppard's song "*When Love and Hate Collide*" has a chorus that goes:

"Without you – one night alone
Is like a year without you baby

do you have a heart of stone?

Without you – can't stop the hurt inside

when love and hate collide."

The *heart of stone* metaphor used in this song equates to despair and sadness as the person is constantly being ignored by his loved one.

2. Heart of a lion



Having a heart of a lion means you are brave and courageous, similar to a lion.

Sentence example: My father has a *heart of a lion* because he always protects me from strangers and bullies.

Heart of a lion is a good analogy for someone who is brave and guards the safety of other people, willing to risk his or her life for the greater good. In this case, parents place themselves in danger just to protect their children. Like how lions protect their pride, parents protect their children not of sheer compliance as parents, but out of unconditional love.

3. Heart of gold

Having a heart of gold means you are a very kind person.



Here are examples of quotes from authors that use this metaphor:

“I’d rather have a *heart of gold*
Than all the treasure of the world.”

— Ana Claudia Antunes, *Memoirs of An Amazon*

“It’s that *heart of gold*, and stardust shine that makes you beautiful.”

— R.M. Broderick

The said quotes simply mean that no treasure in this world can ever match or beat the value of having a heart of gold.

4. Heart and soul

The *heart and soul* metaphor means that you do things with a lot of energy and enthusiasm.



Sentence Example:

The caregiver worked *with heart and soul* despite having an exhausting and draining job because she needs to make a living for her family.

Heart and soul means having to give an extra effort but with the right mindset and attitude. In this example, we all know how tiring a caregiver’s job can be, but work should be done with heart and soul because her end goal is to give a great life for her family.

5. Let your heart rule your head



Letting your heart rule your head means that you make decisions based on feelings and emotions.

Another alternative for this metaphor is *heart over mind*.

Example:

80’s hit maker Jennifer Rush (*The Power of Love*) has a song entitled *Heart Over Mind*. The chorus of the song goes:

“Look over your shoulder then leave it behind

Put all the heartbreak away,

We’ll start all over one step at a time

Don’t let the past take my place

It’s *heart over mind, heart over mind*”

The song talks about one person in the relationship having inhibitions and reservations in continuing the relationship, but the partner doesn’t want the relationship to end and encourages the other half to let the heart make all the decisions.

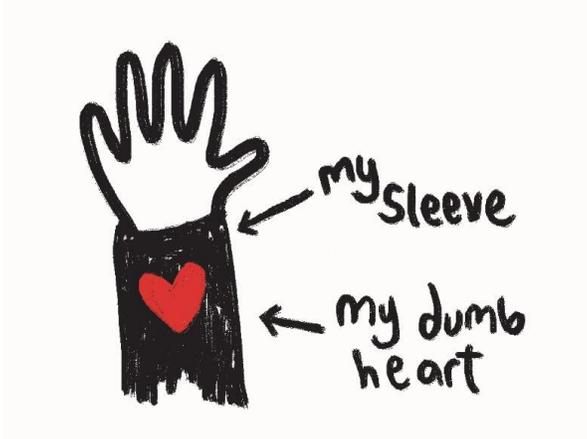
8. Pour out your heart to somebody

When you pour out your heart to somebody, you tell them all your problems, confessions, interests, feelings, and other things you are not comfortable sharing with other people.



9. Wear your heart on your sleeve

Wearing a heart on your sleeve means you to allow your feelings to be seen and felt by other people.



The first recorded use of this heart metaphor was written in William Shakespeare's Othello.

The antagonist Iago says to confederate Rodrigo:

"For when my outward action doth demonstrate/
The native act and figure of my heart/

In complement extern, 'tis not long after/
But *I will wear my heart upon my sleeve/*

For daws [birds] to peck at: I am not what I am."

For daws [birds] to peck at: I am not what I am."

Iago believes that when he would reveal what he feels in his heart, he will be vulnerable.

10. Set your heart on something

To set your heart on something means you want something very much.



We have a lot of dreams, wishes, and aspirations. When we set our hearts into something we really want, we will accomplish that dream or wish eventually.

11. Speak from the heart

To speak from the heart is to say something that is sincere and honest.



When we confess to someone about our true feelings, it is ideal to speak of the truth. If someone said something derogatory and you felt offended, tell him how you really feel. When we speak from the heart, we will free ourselves of feeling unnecessary pain.

12. Break one's heart

Breaking one's heart means you make someone feel very unhappy and depressed.



Having a broken heart is every single person's nightmare. People don't want relationships to end, and sometimes it ends in a bad and chaotic mess. One way to avoid a break-up this is to keep constant communication. If both parties are constantly in contact with each other, then it provides an opportunity for issues and misunderstanding to be solved immediately without having to result in a break-up.

13. Win somebody's heart

On the other hand, if you win somebody's heart, you receive love from the person you gave love to in the first place.



One of the best feelings one can ever obtain is to win somebody's heart after giving all of your's. This [Valentine's Day](#), expect a lot of people to court or propose to their significant other.

14. Have a big heart

Having a big heart means you are a kind and generous person.



It takes guts to have a big heart in this cruel world. There are a lot of people who don't care about your feelings. Even if your kindness and generosity are relentless, it does not guarantee that the other people will give back. Your kindness and generosity should not be wavered due to the lack of reciprocation. Having a big heart also means that you do not expect something in return.

15. The heart of the city

The heart of the city simply means the capital or center of the city. It could be a landmark, a business district, or any other public place.



The heart of every city is where the hustle and the bustle can be found. It is where the concrete jungle thickens and where the inhabitants of the jungle are striving hard to survive.

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