ON LEARNERS' APPRECIATION OF THE TEACHING MATERIALS CREATED FROM ENGLISH NEWS

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(Summary)

In 1975 I brought 53 English materials from the VOA news in special English into our classes and I'm sure the students enjoyed them very much.

At the end of the school year, I investigated the students' liking inclination among these independent English materials, and also among all the lessons of their textbooks for the grades, because I wanted to grasp some developing phase of their English learning at senior high school, especially from the viewpoints of students' interests in their daily life, their psychological conditions, and their intention of learning.

With this investigation I have probed into my future making of English materials of this kind. In order to comprehend students' appreciation of these materials, I have borrowed the AVM classified table, which is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Codes</th>
<th>Categories</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>00</td>
<td>life &amp; culture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>history &amp; geography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>natural science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>industry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80</td>
<td>linguistics &amp; literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>sports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>social sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70</td>
<td>arts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

According to students' interest and their hobbies, the indication of this table clearly shows that the codes '10' and '70' have risen ski-high, followed up by the codes '40' in boys' column, and '20' in girls' column.

Of their future professional careers, many of them expect to take the fields in the codes '30,' '40,' and '50' in boys' column, and '30,' '70,' and '80' in girls' column.

Among the 53 items of news materials from the VOA, the students got the strongest impressions in the codes '50' in boys' case and '00' in girls' case, after having learned the 53 independent materials in our language laboratory, with the aid of audio-visual equipments.

They show the strongest and keenest interest in current events which are best known all over the world, and vice versa—in current trifling topics which few know even in the local districts, but which contain some sweetness in themselves.

I added some materials to make suggestions for their learning these news materials and the additional materials were made up of, for example, simplified English sentences, charts, figures, pictures on the Braun tube, etc. The students have kept the additional materials in their minds long and they know these materials played an important part in their comprehension of the English language.

As for their English materials in the textbooks, the senior high school students have a strong liking for light comic materials, romantic love stories, mysterious novels, contemporary social topics, and scientific accounts as well as classical literary works, though they make little of too simplified stories re-written out of even the world-famous literary works.

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SOME EXAMPLES of the most impressive news materials from the VOA

NN 30 Medical News:

Pregnant women who smoke cigarettes may give birth to babies that are smaller than normal.

This was reported by doctors at John Hopkins University in Baltimore. They said that women who smoke may be passing deadly carbon monoxide rather than oxygen to the blood stream to the unborn baby. "Because the fetus does not get enough oxygen," they said, "it can not develop fully." (VOA news; Sep. 10, 1975)

NN 42 And this story from Australia:

An Alsatian dog named "Duke" was given an easy job at a tennis club in Melbourne. All he had to do was "GUARD THE COURTS," which would prevent sabotage before the South Pacific Tournament.

But Duke was used to more exciting work. Guarding a tennis court at night is not very interesting. It leads to loneliness, boredom, and hunger. So Duke decided to look for bones.

When a tennis official came to the club the next day, he found that the guard dog had dug up most of the court, apparently without finding any bone. (VOA news; Oct. 9, 1975)

NN 48 News Jersey:

A court hearing will be held Monday to decide whether a young woman with severe brain damage should be permitted to die.

Karen Anne Quinlan has been unconscious for six months. She has been kept alive by a machine that helps her breathe. Her parents have asked that she be taken off the machine, but the hospital refused.

The Quinlans are asking the court for permission to turn off the machine. Opposing them is the State of New Jersey, which says, "This would be murder and would lead to death by private decision." (VOA news; Oct. 20, 1975)

NN 48 Morristown, News Jersey:

A court hearing has opened to decide whether a young woman with severe brain damage should be permitted to die. 21-year-old Karen Quinlan has been unconscious for 6 months and has been kept alive by a machine that helps her breathe.

Her parents say there is no hope that she will get well, and they want the court's permission to end the treatment. But a court-appointed guardian for Miss Quinlan said this would be illegal because it would cause her death, and the hospital has refused to take Miss Quinlan off the breathing machine unless the court gives its permission to do so. (VOA news; Oct. 21, 1975)

NN 48 Morristown, New Jersey:

A judge has ruled that doctors may not turn off a machine that is keeping a young woman alive.

A woman, Karen Anne Quinlan, has been in a deep coma for the past seven months because of severe brain damage. Her father and mother asked the judge to permit the doctors to let her die. But the judge said the most important thing Miss Quinlan has is life and he will not permit this to be taken away. Miss Quinlan's parents are expected to appeal to a higher court. (VOA news; Nov. 11, 1975)

NN 53 Space news:

The United States will launch a satellite from Cape Canaveral later Wednesday to learn if
pollution is harming the earth’s ozone layer. The ozone layer blocks much of the sun’s harmful ultraviolet radiation from reaching the earth.

Environmental groups in the United States say the protective layer is being harmed by gases from spray-cans and jet airplanes. Many scientists have warned that, if more harmful radiation is permitted to reach the earth, it could possibly cause an increase in skin cancer. (VOA news; Nov. 20, 1975)

* an additional material for NN 53

(References)
* 金田正也編『英語教育工学・第4巻教授メディアの整備』研究社，1973年。