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The Importance of Literature in Foreign Language Acquisition

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Abstract

The teaching of literature has been considered a vital component of English language acquisition. Over the past few decades, there has been much discussion on the value of literature, as part of an English language syllabus. We will go through these attitudes and will provide arguments to sustain that literature is a vital component in language acquisition. This paper explores the use of literature in teaching English as a foreign language. It shows how integrated skills can be acquired and practised not only during literature classes but also in other classes. Literature gives the student an ideal opportunity to bring together the skills of reading, grammar, writing, speaking and listening. Literature is also an appropriate vehicle for language learning and development since the focus is now on authentic language and authentic situations.

Keywords: literature, interaction, motivation, vocabulary