

Teaching discourse intonation through film

Nowadays intonation is acknowledged as an indispensable component of language and communication. However, it is often neglected in EFL teaching practices in Ukraine due to the lack of teaching materials that focus on prosody. The book 'Teaching Discourse Intonation in an EFL Milieu' by Viktoria Bokova and Liliana Novikova is fully devoted to teaching English Intonation to pupils and students through authentic materials.

The course book contains both the teacher's and the student's books and is geared towards various age groups (ages 14 and up) provided their level of knowledge equals that of B1 or B2. Three Hollywood cartoons ('Shrek', 'Cars' and 'Monsters, Inc') are used as teaching material. The films are broken into short pieces, which illustrate certain intonation features. Activities are constructed around each piece.

The course is primarily based on the theory of Discourse Intonation by David Brazil, including Brazil's terminology and notation. This theory was deemed by the authors as the easiest for comprehension and remembering and hence the most effective.

The activities in the course are aimed at teaching the students to:

- 1) place accents/prominence properly;
- 2) use correct tones/tunes in accordance with the discourse structure in standard situations;
- 3) understand proper native speakers' oral discourse within the realm of the students' lexical and grammatical competence;
- 4) use prominence and high key for purposes of emphasis and contrast.

The benefits of the course as compared to the ones pursuing comparable goals lie in the nature of materials used. First of all, Hollywood's animated cartoons are an excellent source of motivation, because they are exciting (unlike a manual), funny and generally positive. Second, movies present a broad discourse context and a large choice of authentic communicative material. The course has been tested by the authors in their classes and proved highly motivating and effective.