

Films for Eliciting Narratives

Frog Where are You? video format

Discovery Kids - Backyardigans, Charlie and Lola, Caillou

New Standards Speaking and Listening for Preschool through Third Grade (National Center for Education and the Economy) video collection

Episodes of the (oldish) British TV show Pingu

The Snowman -- silent kids film

The Red Balloon -- short film (excerpts possible)

Excerpts from My Neighbor Totoro or Kiki's Delivery Service (without the sound track)

Documentaries:

Out of the Mouths of Babes (1973) The Canadian Broadcasting Company. (30 minutes). Beautifully photographed and still remarkably pertinent. It was in the Nature of Things series (narrated by Peter and Jill DeVilliers.) It's available from the Filmmakers Library in NY: [HYPERLINK "http://www.filmakers.com/indivs/OutofMouths.htm"](http://www.filmakers.com/indivs/OutofMouths.htm) <http://www.filmakers.com/indivs/OutofMouths.htm>

Babytalk. Nova film (60 minutes) produced in Boston by WGBH for PBS.

Language Development. No 6 in the Discovering Psychology series, a telecourse hosted by Philip Zimbardo and available from PBS: [HYPERLINK "http://www.learner.org/discoveringpsychology/index.html"](http://www.learner.org/discoveringpsychology/index.html) <http://www.learner.org/discoveringpsychology/index.html>

The Human Language Series . 1995. director: Gene Searchinger. NY: Ways of Knowing. part 1. Discovering Human Language, part 2. Acquiring Human Language, part 3. The Human Language Evolves

The Secret of the Wild Child. 1994. director: Linda Garmon. (NOVA documentary about Genie)

The Language of Being in the series called, "A Baby's World". It was put out by The Discovery Channel in 1994 and is distributed by Discovery Enterprises Group, Bethesda, MD, 20814. The series consultant is Professor Karmiloff-Smith. Undergrads love this one.

Acquiring Human Language - Playing the Language Game. 56 min. A good look at the main theories.

Case Studies in Communication Sciences and Disorders: Child Language, Gillam et al (1999)

The Secret Life of the Brain. Episode 2 focuses on language and the child's brain, and talks a bit about children's language delay/disorder, lateralization and hemispherectomies. <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/brain/episode2/index.html>

The ffh.films.com site has good summaries of these additional films that they sell. To locate these, you can put in the title or you can search by "Psychology > Human Development > Language Development"

- Baby Sign Language
- War of the Sexes: Language
- Read my Lips
- Kids and Language
- Language Development
- Doing what comes naturally: Child language acquisition
- Born Talking

Second Language and Bilingualism: films available from ffh.films.com on World English

- Multilingual Hong Kong: A sociolinguistic case study of code-switching.
- Many Tongues Called English, One World Language.
- The Empire Strikes Back.
- Speaking American.

Related:

American Tongues. 1987. By Andrew Kolker and Louis Alvarez. NY: Center for New American Media. (American dialects)

The Singer's Voice. 1993. By Joan Wall and Robert Caldwell. Dallas TX: Pst... Inc. (the vocal tract and articulatory phonetics)

Scientific American Frontiers: Growing up Different, from 2001 with segments on children with William Syndrome, Autism, and a Cochlear Implant: <http://www.pbs.org/saf/1205/index.html>

Fiction:

Alice in Wonderland (1951) Animation; Disney Studios. Students will probably need some guidance in discovering the language issues. Carol Anne Miller uses the queen's croquet game as a way of discussing classical vs. prototype theory.

The Miracle Worker (1962) starring Anne Bancroft, Patty Duke; directed by Arthur Penn; MGM/UA Studios. Movie based on the story of Helen Keller and Annie Sullivan.

Mind Your Language. A British comedy series about a group of ESL learners in England. Available from HYPERLINK "http://www.blackstar.co.uk" www.blackstar.co.uk and amazon.com.

My Fair Lady (1964) starring Audrey Hepburn; directed by George Cukor; Paramount Home Video. Eliza Doolittle, street-urchin-turned-proper-lady, is the central figure in this film version of the Lerner and Loewe musical, based on George Bernard Shaw's play Pygmalion. The original film version of Pygmalion does a better job than the more recent version, particularly in the scene in which Eliza shocks the stuffy aristocrats by using lower-class Cockney epithets with upper-class pronunciation.

The Heart is a Lonely Hunter (1968) starring Alan Arkin, Sondra Locke; directed by Robert Ellis Miller; Warner Home Video. Alan Arkin as a deaf man in an oral world.

The Wild Child (1969) starring François Truffaut; directed by François Truffaut; MGM/UA Studios. Fascinating film, based on a real-life, 18th-century French behavioral scientist's efforts to turn a feral boy into a civilized specimen. Apart from its cinematographic beauty, the film is an ingenious and poignant experience.

The Enigma of Kasper Hauser (1975) directed by Wetzler Hertzog; Germany. Explores Genie-type issues regarding language deprivation and language and cognition relations.

Star Wars (1977) starring Mark Hamill, Harrison Ford; directed by George Lucas; Twentieth Century Fox. Yoda's language could be used to introduce students to VSO languages. Also note the use of something like Tibetan in The Return of the Jedi.

My Dinner with Andre (1981) starring Wallace Shawn, Andre Gregory; directed by Louis Malle; Fox Lorber. Features two people engaged in a dinner conversation.

The Argument from Monty Python's "Now for something completely different" (1972) starring John Cleese, Michael Palin; directed by Ian MacNaughton, Terry Gilliam; Columbia/Tristar Studios. The film includes a sketch where people pay to have an argument. This develops into an argument about whether they are really having an argument.

The Travel Agency from Monty Python's "Live at the Hollywood Bowl" (1982) starring Eric Idle, John Cleese; directed by Terry Hughes, Ian MacNaughton; Paramount Studios. About a person who can pronounce /k/ in words beginning with the letter 'k' but not if they begin with the letter 'c' (i. e., 'king' is possible but not 'college')

Iceman (1984) directed by Fred Schepisi; Universal Studios. This is a film about a group of researchers who find a caveman frozen in the ice, thaw him, and deal with introducing to the present.

Children of a Lesser God (1986) starring William Hurt, Marlee Matlin; directed by Randa Haines; Paramount Studios. William Hurt plays a teacher newly hired at a school for deaf children, and Marlee Matlin is the deaf and withdrawn janitor who captures his attention.

Best Boy (1988) starring Ira Wohl; Today Home Entertainment

My Left Foot (1989) starring Daniel Day-Lewis; directed by Jim Sheridan; HBO studios

Dances with Wolves (1990) starring Kevin Costner, Mary McDonnell, directed by Kevin Costner; MGM/UA Studios. Segments involving the reacquisition of Navajo as a forgotten mother tongue.

Nell (1994) starring Jodie Foster, Liam Neeson; directed by Michael Apted; Twentieth Century Fox. A woman who was raised in the woods with no human contact except her speech-impaired mother.

Congo (1995) starring Laura Linney, Tim Curry; directed by Frank Marshall; Paramount Studio. One of the characters is a gorilla that talks via a voice synth translator from sign language

The Parent Trap (1998) starring Lindsay Lohan; directed by Nancy Meyers; Disney Studios. The only movie in which children have significant speaking roles and that had commentary “about “ language. The girls had to learn the California/ British colloquialisms to pass for each other.

The 13th Warrior (1999) starring Antonio Banderas, Diane Venora; directed by Michael Crichton, John McTiernan; Touchstone Video. There is an excellent discussion starter scene in which the Arab character “learns’ Norse by listening to the campfire talk.

Miss Congeniality (2000) starring Sandra Bullock, Michael Caine; directed by Donald Petrie; Warner Studios. An excellent example of how language (specifically dialect choice) affects our self-presentation since it includes specific overt references to this phenomenon.

Two Ronnie’s British comedy. The spoof on segmentation and polysemy which begins with a customer walking into a hardware store and seeming to ask for “four candles” (hint: fork handles).

‘Alo ‘Alo. British comedy. Plays the game on pronunciation. There are ample sketches of mis/nonunderstanding due to the exaggerated accent used the actor.