

Shadowing: An Effective Language Learning Technique

Shadowing is an effective technique that could be used in second language acquisition. It is the act or task of listening in which the learner tracks the heard speech and repeats it as exactly as possible. It is different from dictation because in shadowing you are not writing down what you heard but you are repeating what you heard as quickly as possible after hearing. Early researches into shadowing were carried out in the field of psychology and it was used to train interpreters. It helps one develop “a good ear” for language, specifically in regards to accent and intonation, as well as improving overall listening ability. One of the polyglots, Alexander Arguelles who is said to communicate in 50 languages including Turkish, is the one who first used this technique in second language acquisition. Basically, shadowing is an autodidactic technique for language learning as it is more like a self-activity. However it could be easily used in classrooms while studying reading, listening, and vocabulary.