

Using *Coke Studio* Songs to Develop Critical Listening Skills

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Focus: Critical Listening Skills

Level: Undergraduates

Estimated Time: 50-60 minutes.

Student Group Size: Ideally 20-30 students / two each for pair work

Aim: This activity aims to develop critical listening skills among undergraduates.

Objectives

1. To enable teachers to reflect on their personal practical knowledge of their teaching-learning context and put it in practice.
2. To enable learners to develop:
 - a. Critical listening skills (and note-making skills).
 - b. The ability to observe narratives in songs and to write short essays.
3. To promote use of digital technology / materials in language classroom

Teacher Preparation and Materials

The teacher will choose a song from *Coke Studio* Song Repository, reflecting on their knowledge of the context. This will include reflections on learners' cognition and proficiency levels, their cultural background(s) and availability of digital technology in classrooms.

Further, the teacher will download the song or copy and share the YouTube link with students over e-mail, mobile phones, tablets, laptops or smart boards (whichever is feasible).

Procedure***Pre-Listening Activity***

- The teacher writes the title of the song on the blackboard and asks the following questions to the learners:
 - a. Have you ever heard any song(s) based on folktales? Please name a few and tell us about them.
 - b. What are these folkloric songs mostly about? Or what kind of themes are mostly depicted in them?
 - c. Please read this song title. What do you think this is potentially about?
- The teacher further discusses the meaning of the words in the title, for example, *Chaa Rahi Kaali Ghata* (black clouds are descending).

During Listening Activity**● Task 1**

The teacher will hand over the worksheet (worksheet 1), instruct the learners to listen to the song (played without subtitles) attentively (for example - Chaa Rahi Kaali Ghata) and note down the words and phrases they find interesting or difficult to understand.

Worksheet 1: Getting Closer to the Details**1. Please make notes while listening to the song in this section**

2. While listening to the song attentively, try to observe the following and write their details:

<i>Name of the Song</i>	<i>Characters shown in the song</i>	<i>Place(s) that appear in the song</i>	<i>Words which you find interesting or difficult.</i>

• Task 2

The teacher asks the learners to work in pairs and listen to the same song (played with subtitles) and find the meanings of the words given in worksheet 2 and the meaning of words they have noted down in worksheet 1.

Worksheet 2: Understanding the Word-Play

1. Please listen to the song again, now with subtitles and extract the meaning of the following words which appear in it:

<i>Word</i>	<i>Meaning in English/ Hindi</i>	<i>Meaning in your own native language/ mother tongue</i>
Ghata	Sky/ आसमान	
	कोयल	
Song of Joy		
	बेहिसाब	
Perch		
	रस	
Calamities		
	प्यारा or अपना	

2. If possible, also think about the potential narrative that is operating in the song. Write down your observations below.

Post-Listening Discussion

The teacher recapitulates learners' understanding of the song by asking the questions below:

- a) What are the things that you liked the most about this song?
- b) In what ways do you think songs like these represent folklores? Can you give some examples?
- c) Was it a good way to learn new words?

Follow-On activity

This activity benefits the development of critical reading and listening skills, note-making skills and rhetorical questioning ability. Since the songs (from the repository) mostly revolve around cultural representation, they can be used as effective audio-visual aids to develop the above-mentioned skills.

The teachers can observe pupils' interaction with the songs and the worksheet to guide them when needed.

The assessment can be based on the lexical depth in their narrative description, the number of word meanings they got correct and classroom participation.

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