

WHAT IF THE CLASSROOM IS LIKE THE CINEMA FOR ELLs?**Peter S. Shieh**Chih Lee Institute of Technology
TAIWAN**ABSTRACT**

For globalization, since five years ago, my institution has established the Foreign Exchange Programs with several colleges and universities around the world. In the course of Business English, I always have foreign exchange students from Japan, Philippine, Korea, Singapore, Thailand, India, Indonesia, Germany, South Africa, and Saudi Arabia. To accommodate the foreign students' needs from social, cultural, linguistic, and religious perspectives, and to help students develop the cultural awareness, the author conceptualized pragmatics, semiotics, aesthetics, and paralinguistics into the course of Business English by inviting students of diverse backgrounds to watch movies, talk about movies, write movies, and act movies. Pragmatics is the study of how language is used for communication in various social and cultural contexts; semiotics is the study of signs including languages, arts, music, dance, drama, films, etc.; aesthetics is the artistic stance that learners take for response to literacy experience; and paralinguistics is the linguistic behavior like the nonverbal signals including kinesics, gestures, body movement, eye contact, facial expression, voice in stress, pitch, and intonation. The purposes of this study are multi-functional: to develop the multisensory acquisition of literacy skills in thinking, listening, speaking, writing and reading in the natural authentic context, to promote students' cultural awareness, and to expand students' engagement. The multicultural movies from TV, DVD, YouTube, and Films on Demand are carefully selected to be implemented in this course. Based on my observation on students' interactive activities, collaboration in the group studies, and cultural awareness, I conclude that movies motivate students' interest in language learning, improve their listening comprehension, and provide opportunities for talking by discussing the movies, writing the movie scripts, reading their peers' movie scripts, and acting the movies. Both students from diversity and mainstream cultures acquire natural language for social function towards academic success and globalization.

Keywords: pragmatics; semiotics; aesthetics; paralinguistics, social language.