



The Influence of NetFlix Series on English Teachers' Language Maintenance

Miranda Muge Aisyah[✉], Ali Mustofa, Slamet Setiawan

Universitas Negeri Surabaya, Indonesia

Article Info

Article History:

Accepted 09 May 2022
 Approved 04 July 2022
 Published 23
 December 2022

Keywords:

NetFlix Series,
 Popular Culture,
 Language
 Maintenance

Abstract

Netflix series have emerged as a popular culture medium with an impact on the language skills of its audience. To explore the influence of Netflix series on English teachers' language skills, this research utilized a qualitative case study approach. A total of 20 English teachers participated in the study by completing a demographic survey. Participants were selected purposively based on their experience in maintaining language skills using authentic materials, including Netflix series. Data collection involved the use of a questionnaire and interviews. The questionnaire aimed to gather demographic information and elicit participants' perceptions regarding the benefits of watching Netflix series for language skill maintenance. Subsequently, interviews were conducted to obtain in-depth insights into participants' responses from the questionnaire. Five English teachers voluntarily took part in the interview process. Thematic content analysis was employed to analyze the data collected from the questionnaire and interviews. The findings of the study revealed various benefits for English teachers in terms of strengthening their language skills. These benefits included fostering a positive attitude towards teaching, enhancing language proficiency, and improving cultural awareness. The study suggests that watching Netflix series has a profound impact on English teachers' language development. In summary, this qualitative case study highlights the positive influence of Netflix series on English teachers' language skills. The research suggests that incorporating Netflix series into language learning routines can be a valuable tool for English teachers. The study contributes to understanding the potential benefits of utilizing popular media platforms like Netflix for language skill development among educators.

[✉]Correspondence Address :

Jl. Lidah Wetan, Kota Surabaya, Jawa Timur Surabaya, Indonesia
 E-mail : miranda.21003@mhs.unesa.ac.id

p-ISSN 2087-0108

e-ISSN 2502-4566

INTRODUCTION

Non-Native English teachers face challenges in maintaining their language skills, especially in non-English speaking environments. The COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated these challenges. Language proficiency goes beyond grammar and writing; it also includes cultural understanding. English teachers strive to enhance their English abilities, particularly in listening and speaking, as they serve as role models for their students. As educators, facilitators, and language role models for their students, English teachers need to provide a solid English model and possess sociocultural knowledge (Kohler, 2015). Popular culture, including Netflix series, has emerged as an effective tool for language acquisition (G. Murray, 2008). However, the demands of teaching often hinder English teachers' language maintenance efforts. Incorporating popular culture into language learning routines, such as utilizing Netflix series, offers a promising approach for English teachers to improve their language skills. This introduction highlights the challenges faced by English teachers, the importance of maintaining language proficiency, and the potential benefits of incorporating popular culture into their language learning routines.

English teachers encounter numerous obstacles that hinder their language maintenance efforts. The demanding nature of their profession often leaves them with limited time and energy to dedicate to their own language learning. Maintaining foreign language is essential for upholding one's identity for several reasons, one being that language functions as a means of differentiation between various groups. Effective communication can only occur when language learners possess the motivation and opportunities to express their own identity and engage with those around them (Hosni, 2014). As an illustration, Indonesian English teachers establish their professional identities based on qualities unrelated to their native language, instead deriving from their teaching

competence, understanding of student needs, and their role as language model for their students (Nurhayati, 2018). Proficiency in English sets language teachers apart, and they have opportunities to enhance their professionalism in all areas pertaining to language skills, knowledge, and the professional environment they operate in (Budiharso, 2019; Zein, 2017). Furthermore, in unsupportive work environments where emphasis is primarily placed on teaching rather than teachers' professional development, language maintenance can become neglected. As a result, English teachers may experience a decline in their language skills over time, leading to potential difficulties in delivering effective language instruction.

Language proficiency is a crucial aspect of an English teacher's competence. Proficient language skills enable teachers to model accurate pronunciation, grammar usage, and vocabulary, enhancing the overall quality of their instruction (Richards, 2017). Moreover, maintaining language proficiency helps teachers stay up-to-date with evolving language trends, cultural nuances, and the latest teaching methodologies. It allows them to connect with their students more effectively, fostering a dynamic and engaging learning environment. Related to teachers' identity, the previous studies have been done to analyze and observe teacher identity in some particular cases. Related to teacher identity study proposed by Derakhshan et al. (2020) teacher's identity is necessary to facilitate successful English exposure in learning processes. A good teacher should support their learner by improving their language proficiency. Teacher identity as the role model for English learners and must know how to motivate language learners to continue life-long learning (A. Murray, 2010). English teachers must boost enthusiasm to learn by understanding the learner's need and it should be brought into the class to inspire their students to expand their intercultural awareness. There are many factors that cause English teachers to maintain their English proficiency, especially listening and speaking

skills. meanwhile Ko & Kim (2021) reveal that the construction of the teacher's identity was strongly impacted by both their personal experiences and the societal and institutional factors they encountered, including the methods of communicative language teaching. The teacher sought support to navigate the demanding expectations and engage in effective language instruction, which played a significant role in shaping their identity development.

In recent years, the incorporation of popular culture into language learning has gained attention as an effective and engaging approach. Previous studies have demonstrated the positive impact of utilizing popular culture such as movie, including tv shows for language instruction (Albiladi et al., 2018; Dizon & Thanyawatpokin, 2021; Green-Eneix, 2019; Halawa et al., 2022; Vijayakumar et al., 2020) reveal that authentic audiovisual materials, like TV series and Netflix series can improve learners' listening comprehension, vocabulary acquisition, and overall language fluency. The contextual and visual cues provided by popular culture resources facilitate language learning by creating a rich and immersive learning experience. Related to this topic, Metruk (2019) reveal the findings of the study demonstrate the positive influence of utilizing movies and TV programs in English for practicing listening skills among English learners. The study investigates the impact of extensive exposure to English materials on learners' listening abilities, highlighting the benefits of engaging with authentic resources such as videos to enhance language acquisition, specifically in terms of listening skills. This is related with Liu & Lin (2017) that explain how culture is determined in the everyday speaker's conceptual representations taken for granted.

Authentic material is the best ways to improve learner both the listening and the speaking skills through the conversations that represent how native-English speakers communicate verbally in real life, so language learners learn from authentic conversations (Vijayakumar et al., 2020). It describes the way

these encodings diverge across languages as 'semantic perspective' and argues that language teachers need to pay attention to this phenomenon. When the learner fully understands with interlanguage and it help them to recognize the structure of the language they are learning. Pop culture is one of effective tips that will improve English teacher's language proficiency and sociocultural knowledge (Murray, 2008). Despite the extensive research on the use of popular culture in language instruction, limited attention has been given to its potential benefits for English teachers' language maintenance. However, given the widespread availability and popularity of streaming platforms like Netflix, there is an opportunity to explore how engaging with Netflix series can positively influence English teachers' language skills.

This present study objectives to address this research gap by examining the influence of Netflix series on English teachers' language maintenance. Employing a qualitative approach, the study investigates the impact of incorporating Netflix series into language learning routines and explores the potential benefits of utilizing this medium. The findings of this research contribute to the existing literature on language maintenance for English teachers and provide valuable insights into the role of popular culture resources in supporting their language proficiency. By exploring the potential benefits of Netflix series on English teachers' language maintenance efforts, this study aims to offer practical recommendations for educators and institutions to enhance language proficiency among English teachers. These recommendations may include integrating popular culture resources like Netflix series into language curricula and providing support for ongoing language learning and professional development. In summary, this introduction has highlighted the challenges faced by English teachers in maintaining their language skills, the importance of language proficiency in their profession, and the potential benefits of incorporating popular culture, particularly

Netflix series, into their language learning routines. The subsequent sections will delve into the previous studies related to the use of popular culture in language instruction and provide an in-depth analysis of the impact of Netflix series on English teachers' language maintenance efforts. Unlike the previous studies, this study wants to know more about How English teachers maintain and improve their English. Therefore, this study tries to reveal. In order to explore and answer the following research questions: 1) What role does Netflix series play in the English teacher's language proficiency? 2) How effectively does using Netflix series influence English teacher's language proficiency, and cross-cultural understanding?

METHOD

This study utilized a qualitative case study approach to explore various aspects of the phenomenon under investigation. The focus was on examining the perspectives of Indonesian English teachers who actively watched Netflix series as part of their professional development and language maintenance efforts. A total of 20 Indonesian English teachers were recruited to participate in the study, and they completed a demographic survey to provide relevant background information. The participants were selected using purposive sampling to ensure alignment with the study objectives, specifically targeting individuals familiar with maintaining language skill.

Data collection involved the use of a questionnaire and interviews. The questionnaire aimed to gather information about participants' demographics and their perceptions regarding the impact of Netflix series on their language skills. The subsequent interviews provided an opportunity to delve deeper into participants' responses from the questionnaire, exploring their experiences and perspectives on how Netflix series influenced their language skills. Five English teachers

voluntarily participated in the interview process, which was conducted in English.

Thematic content analysis was employed to analyze the collected data. This analysis involved a three-step coding process, including pre-coding, initial coding, and final coding. The purpose of using coding techniques during data analysis was to identify themes and facilitate decision-making based on the collected data. This approach allowed the researchers to gain a comprehensive understanding of the participants' perspectives and experiences related to the influence of Netflix series on their language skills. Overall, the qualitative case study design and data analysis techniques employed in this study aimed to provide in-depth insights into the experiences and perceptions of English teachers who incorporated Netflix series into their language learning routines for professional development and language maintenance.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The role of Netflix series plays in the English teacher's language skills

Through an analysis of English teacher's comments, it is observed that they are using Netflix series as the media to maintain their English. Those who have watched Netflix series shows agree that they are able to realize that their language skills are gradually improving. According to English teachers, Netflix was effective to enhance their language proficiency. All participants comment that Netflix helped them to obtain valuable language and sociocultural knowledge, especially when they learn new vocabulary through English subtitles. Since Netflix helps the participant to learn English, it also helps to increase English teacher's motivation and improve their language skill. Some comments show through it, learning English became fun and enjoyable, it exposed the pragmatic knowledge and understanding of how language use in particular situation and contexts. English teachers also convenience that Netflix series not only enhance their language proficiency,

but also their sociocultural knowledge that very important to support their job as language teacher.

Table 1. English teacher ‘comments about the role of Netflix series toward their language proficiency

Participants	Comments
P1	<p>“Netflix provide many different languages and subtitles. I was used to English subtitles. So, I can practice my speaking skill through imitate the utterances and improve my listening skills. I can learn the actors’ words and learn how to use words. Some people who audio-visual will prefer watching a series rather than read a book. Through it, I can both learn about languages and cultures at same time, I enjoyed watched I can learn about the culture. There’s lots of things I can learn, more than from a textbook. The crown is one of my favourite series. It’s historical drama series about the reign of Queen Elizabeth II.”</p>
P2	<p>“Netflix is a great deal to help me to learn English in a fun way, because it has many interesting movies and dramas. It’s so useful so I can learn English positively. To be honest, my pronunciation and my vocabulary improved a lot since I started to watched a series. Netflix gain a lot of advantage for English learner. I can learn how to speak and use new English idioms in certain situations. My favorite series on Netflix is House of Cards. It is about the American White House and I learned about American cultures. I learned how to work in the US and about working attitude so it is good for me.”</p>
P3	<p>“I think it is a good way to help me learn English and also it has subtitles so it can help me catch the words. I can learn some phrases and slangs. I always imitate actor’s utterance, because it was excited. I love the accents. On Netflix I can choose our favourite movies or TV shows and because I was interested in these movies or series, I can keep watching. And most of them have many episodes so I think it is a good way to help me learn English. Besides, I want to familiarize my ear with English, to make it easy to listen the language. to be honest, it helps me a lot. Currently, the series Pretty Little Liars is my favourite series in this week. It’s a</p>

P4	<p>school situation, I can relate to the scene in my own life and make it as a topic conversation with my little sisters or friends. So that was the biggest good point for me. Through American series felt a strong attraction to the people and their lifestyle.”</p> <p>“As an English teacher, I need to practice a lot my skills. since I live in non-English speaking countrie, I need to practice my English skills. After watching some American series, my listening skills have improved since this year. Maybe I could learn some idioms which were used many times in the series. I could catch them easily than before. I heard some new words a lot in their utterances. I didn’t use the word in the utterances with my interlocutor but I could understand the context, since it is a common word in American or in English so maybe I can use it from now on. Most of my favorite series was produced by the United States. It also common to portray American culture these days besides the culture has for long time been shaping our beliefs and values to experience different perspectives. One of my favorite series is stranger things. It’s a mystery series that involving a secret experiment and occur terrifying supernatural forces. I loved to tell my students about this series because make them curious with the American society and fantasy.”</p>
P5	<p>“Netflix is open a new dimension for entertaining their audiences. Through it, I can find a thousand series titles from all around the world. I felt Netflix helps me a lot to maintaining my English, especially my vocabulary building and speaking. I learnt many things from the series that I watched, I learnt new idioms phrase and tried to imitate the actor’s utterances. For example, when I thought it was a very important expression or I don’t know the word, I will check it on my thesaurus. When it comes to watch a series, I can see the other world and I think it influence my motivation to improve my English, so I prefer choose English subtitles to help me check some utterances that I don’t know. Not only improved my English skill, but I also learnt about sociocultural things, that very useful to introduce the culture for my students. Currently, I watched family reunion. It is about Black-American family who moved from Seattle to small-</p>

town Georgia, where the extended family lives. It's a family situation, I just learn about how Black-American family struggle's and I can relate every scene with family or friends. So that was the biggest good point for me to learn sociocultural."

Findings showed that motivation was playing a very important role in English teacher's language maintenance. Netflix series has been a source of motivation to maintaining English, English teachers' interest in American culture. According to an English teachers' comments above, they want to maintain their language skill hence they can preferably understand and get to know the people who speak the language and their culture. This in line with Vijayakumar et al. (2020) it was observed that the audience could acquire new idioms and phrases from English series. The study also suggested that witnessing real-life situations within the context of language provided valuable insights into pragmatics. They learn how to communicate verbally in real life through series conversation. In the English teachers' comments follow-up how Netflix series had impact on their language skill and cultural knowledge. English teachers came into English through Netflix series, because they impressed by the language. Most of series that they watched, it was American series that contains American culture such as their dream, lifestyles, and society. The power of pop culture is influenced the audiences desire to live in certain culture or to be part of the other group. American dreams always appeal a lot people, this desire advanced into the motivation to learn new culture and languages (Dizon, 2018). English teachers find certain series highly appealing, as they serve as both user-friendly and motivating language resources. Additionally, the language features offered by Netflix series have the capacity to assist language learners at all proficiency levels.

All participants had strong desire to enhance their language skills and cultures. The primary focus of this study was to examine how popular culture, specifically the Netflix series, contributes to the improvement of English

teachers' vocabulary, speaking skills, and listening comprehension. In line with Dizon & Thanyawatpokin (2021) The study revealed that English subtitles had a notable impact on vocabulary acquisition, albeit slightly less effective compared to first language subtitles. But the English teachers endeavoring to motivate themselves through Netflix series and look beyond the boundaries. Pop culture allow a language learner to seeing into others cultures, personalize their learning process, adapt their personal needs and interest and also motivate the learner to come long life-learner.

The effectiveness using Netflix series to enhance English teacher's language skills, and cross-cultural understanding

English teachers in this study found motivation and sociocultural content in Netflix series. The participants, who were highly motivated, actively engaged with the series' content. As a popular culture product, Netflix series attracted a wide audience, particularly those seeking English materials online. The English teachers in the study relied on pop culture, including Netflix series, to serve as a source of content for their language learning. They found that Netflix series provided them with language input, sociocultural knowledge, and topics for conversations.

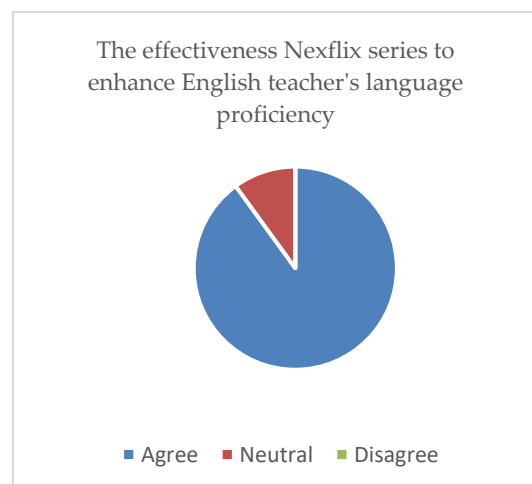


Figure 1. The effectiveness Netflix series to enhance English teacher's language proficiency

Netflix series provide valuable support for English teachers in acquiring the English language through the utilization of audio and visual input. It provides them by the audio but also support by the subtitles. English subtitle is the best supported vocabulary and listening comprehension for the audience. This is in line with Wang (2019) English subtitle helps them to figure out or confirm what they hear or aural input's meaning. English teachers engage in listening activities and promote metacognitive awareness. Developing listening skills is a strong aspect of becoming a proficient language learner. Both English teachers and learners should prioritize this skill. One effective approach to enhancing listening abilities is through practicing advanced-level listening exercises.

This is occurred in learning process to have better understanding related to language context. It indicates they were not relying on the subtitles based on their proficiency level to acquire the literal meaning. Subtitles provide strong evidence to improved target language of language learner bimodal input. In line with Birulés-Muntané & Soto-Faraco (2016) audience can observe how native speakers naturally express themselves, including colloquial expressions, idioms, and cultural references. This exposure to real-life language contributes to learners' linguistic and cultural competence, enabling them to communicate more effectively and fluently.

This resource give advantage for language learner to represent the audio input to assist audiences to understand the speaker saying and convey the message. English teachers show their agreement toward the effectiveness Netflix series to enhance their language proficiency. Their comments revealed how Netflix series play an important role in their process. It proved when English teacher tells that imitate actor's utterances to practice

their speaking skill and it helps a lot English teacher to practice their pronunciation too. This in line with Messum (2007) Imitating actors' utterances is a beneficial practice for improving speaking skills due to several reasons. First, when English teachers imitate native speakers, they have the opportunity to model correct pronunciation, intonation, and rhythm. By closely mimicking the actors' speech patterns, learners can develop a more natural and authentic speaking style. Next, imitating actors helps English teacher acquire new vocabulary and idiomatic expressions in context. Through exposure to various dialogue situations in movies or TV shows, they can learn how to use language appropriately and effectively. They can expand their repertoire of phrases and expressions, enhancing their fluency and communicative abilities. Furthermore, imitating actors' utterances promotes listening comprehension skills. By closely listening and reproducing the spoken language, English teachers can train their ears to understand and process spoken English more effectively. This, in turn, supports their overall language proficiency, as speaking and listening skills are interconnected. Speaking is a skill that must be mastered by English teacher, due to the great use of speaking in the implementation of communication for several purposes. Language teacher should have good speaking skills, so they will be able to deliver their thoughts, desires, and share their knowledge to their students.

Despite dedicating a significant amount of time to learning English, these English teachers still face challenges in terms of sociocultural knowledge and communication skills, which affect their overall language proficiency. Through Netflix series, they have an opportunity to know the use of English in real-life contexts which present the American society. Language learner always faced the difficulty to use the correct expression and phrases in real communication with native speaker. Context in communication is important. In order to understand what the interlocutor imply; the speaker have to know

the situation where they are used. American series effectively to help them understand the situation and language context. The comments from English teachers in this study highlight the significance of pop culture as a valuable source of language input. However, their remarks also emphasize the importance of cultural knowledge as a crucial aspect of both understanding and expressing oneself in a language. Effective communication requires having meaningful topics to discuss and share with interlocutors. Some people faced the difficulties to communicate with other because they don't know about interlocutor's culture.

Culture is important to start the conversation, because it can prevent us from misunderstanding with our interlocutor. The focus is to getting and accepting the messages in society communication always turn around culturally related topics. To actively participate in conversations, individuals must possess an understanding of these references. People who live in different cultures have different points of view, starting from morals, ways of life, thinking, and social norms. Speaker needs to pay more attention to the differences of cultures, we can deepen mutual understanding between each other, to clear up misunderstandings between each other. Through series, English teachers in this study learnt not only the language but also engage the cultural knowledge. Nevertheless, it offered significant insights into pragmatics. The learners' experiences in this study emphasize the significance of educators emphasizing the role of pop culture in language acquisition and instruction. If English teachers lack of the cultural background, it is impossible for them to teach language successfully. If they do not understand the cultural standard and awareness, it is impossible for them to really master the language.

English teachers need to engage with cross-culture understanding, it helps them to connected to their students. To engage their students' interest, English teachers need to prepare interesting topic. Culture serves as a compelling topic for discussion and aids in

quickly engaging students in the learning process while fostering their focus on acquiring new cultural knowledge. Integrating cultural awareness into the classroom can enhance the effectiveness of teaching by generating students' interest and enthusiasm for learning English. This, in turn, becomes a key factor in stimulating students' motivation to learn. So, teaching language is not only taught about grammar and vocabulary. But also introduced cultural knowledge in order to help students develop intercultural awareness and knowledge. English teacher prepared for their student to encounters with people of different cultural background.

Every English teacher participating in this study devised strategies to harness the potential of Netflix series as a pop culture resource for their language learning. The insights shared by English teachers offer valuable strategies and their practical implementation that can positively impact their own teaching practice and benefit other language learners. According to the survey of English Teachers, it describes the role and influence of the Netflix series in their language learning. The Netflix series is the catalyst for their motivation to maintain their English skill. It responds to their need to expand their language proficiency. Moreover, pop culture serves as a dual source of language and cultural learning, both of which are crucial for active engagement in social conversations. Additionally, the role of pop culture as content motivates these English teachers to create their own learning strategies, allowing them to personalize the learning experience and contribute to a repertoire of strategies that can be shared with other learners.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, English teachers have demonstrated their ability to employ effective strategies and techniques in their personalized learning journeys using Netflix series. Their identity as language teachers serves as a motivating factor for them to continuously

improve their skills and support their students. It is important to note that individual differences exist among language learners, and while certain strategies may work for one teacher, they may not be applicable or effective for others. English teachers face various challenges in maintaining their language proficiency, and these challenges provide them with metacognitive insights and enhance their motivation.

The role of Netflix series as a popular culture product is crucial in improving English language proficiency among English teachers. The discussions and comments from English teachers shed light on new dimensions of language learning for English learners. Netflix series proves to be a valuable tool for them, offering opportunities to learn language in context, grasp idiomatic phrases, and develop socio-cultural knowledge. Watching the series with English subtitles enhances listening comprehension and improves overall understanding.

The importance of maintaining language proficiency among English teachers is evident, as it enables them to better meet the needs of their students during the learning process. Netflix series has proven to be a useful solution for English teachers, supporting their language learning goals and providing valuable linguistic and cultural insights.

In summary, the powerful role of Netflix series in supporting English teachers' language maintenance efforts is apparent. English teachers recognize the significance of maintaining their language skills and understand the benefits of using popular culture resources like Netflix series to enhance their proficiency. The findings emphasize the positive impact of Netflix series on English teachers and highlight the potential it holds for language acquisition and development.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to all the English teachers who participated in this study and generously shared

their insights and experiences. Their valuable contributions have been instrumental in enriching our understanding of the influence of Netflix series on English teacher language maintenance. I would also like to acknowledge the support and guidance provided by my research advisors throughout the process. Their expertise and encouragement have been invaluable in shaping this study.

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