

Understanding humour as popular culture in Jimmy Fallon's Show

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In the modern world humour has become inseparably linked to culture. The impact of the technological progress has made the American and English humour viral, as a result this type of humour has infiltrated the Internet and cable TV industry. The era of the Internet has made a new cultural space in which memes ("mem is an idea, symbol or image that spreads rapidly from person to person and on the Internet" [4]), sophisticated English jokes and metaphors are widespread. For understanding these things, the English-speaking world itself is starting to use the Internet to understand the jokes.

"The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon" is a show, which consists of entertainment content with important figures from various spheres. The presenter is Jimmy Fallon, an American actor and comedian who has been running the show since 2014. The success of this talk show is credited to its main concept: it is not about interviews with celebrities, but about the comedic effect in interactions with them. The entertainment value of the interviews is no longer found in the distribution of information, but in the novelty of observing celebrities participating in absurd activities.

The Jimmy Fallon's Show has attracted high ratings since its debut in 2014. Many clips from the show have become individual popular videos on video hosting sites. The show has been nominated for nine Primetime Emmy Awards, and won two of them. The success of the programme is inseparable from Jimmy Fallon's ability to communicate and his good sense of humour when hosting a talk show. His great sense of humour as a stand-up comic, as demonstrated by his awards and nominations such as American Comedy Awards, Primetime Emmy Awards, Critics' Choice Television Awards and many others, is one of the most important factors in the success of the show. By using this show, we could learn how to maintain social relationships through conversation using one of the strongest social tools – humour [1].

The humour in Fallon's show often comes from jokes, puns and situational humour, which is a good basis for advanced English language learning. The variety of such humour is not just an entertaining part of an English language show, but becomes a cultural representation that shows the nuances of the English language as well as the culture of different guests of the show, which come from all over the world and have different ethnic backgrounds. The humour in each culture has its own characteristics and is developed by layering it onto the English-speaking culture and the English language itself [2].

Thoughtfully watching the Jimmy Fallon's show could lead to an exciting exploration of American humour that is directly inspired by British humour, which has its own unique distinguishing features.

Modern British humour is a unique phenomenon that has different characteristics from the humour of other countries. It is built on a sense of irony and enjoyment of sarcasm, known as banter. At the core of British humour is the frequent use of irony, which is often directed at the self, making it self-abusive. Irony helps keep conversation easy and is often used in everyday situations.

Moreover, British humour is known for its word-play jokes known as puns. Puns are word-plays that, from an educational perspective, help practise vocabulary and help distinguish between similar sounding words. They are often used in comedy shows on television and in everyday conversations [3].

The Jimmy show is doing a wonderful job at showing different components of cultures and lines of work of different celebrities, which helps in learning English. This shows the importance of the multicultural aspect of the show. A confirmation of this fact is the interview with Khaleesi (a character from the TV series Game of Thrones). The segment of this interview consists of irony and self-irony, which is an integral part of English humour. Situational humour and unpredictability are evident in the Bradley Cooper episode. The humorous musical part of the show represents a great example of entertaining wordplay and intriguing cultural references.

The comedian's show presents itself as an excellent subject for research and a useful tool for exploring the components of cultures and spheres of work of various celebrities. Immersion in such variety of personalities is not only beneficial to the development of the mind, but also greatly helps in learning English, which, being an international language, mixes in itself the features of many characteristics related to humour, culture and oratory skills.

Literature

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