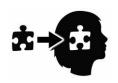
TESOL France 2014 Priming for Listening

Annie McDonald

annie@hancockmcdonald.com http://hancockmcdonald.com



1. Viking mice audio script

Apparently, eh mice, eh according to a report, eh, let me just get this absolutely right, it's from a a Scientific American story, eh, mice, Viking mice sailed as far as Greenland according to Elena Jones of Uppsala University in Sweden and her colleagues, they looked at the eh, what's called the mitochondrial DNA from mice skeletons or mouse skeletons on Iceland and Greenland, dating right back to the Viking heyday which was about a thousand to ehm, twelve hundred years ago, and ehm, they compared that DNA with that of known Viking mice from the UK and Norway, and what they realised was that eh these Viking mice travelled all over the world everywhere Vikings went, mice went with them.

2. Schema theory

- Theory (or theories) about background knowledge how we make sense out of what we read or hear by seeing how it fits in with *what we already know*. They guide expectations in our attempts to understand a meaningful piece of language written or *spoken*.
- Schemata are networked, they can interact
- They are acquired through experience, and can be restructured

Content schemata: about the physical world of discernible objects and actions – world/topic knowledge

Formal schemata: is abstract, an encoded, internalized, knowledge e.g. textual organization (genre - rhetorical patterns, story grammar, narrative scripts); language (grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation): speaker (accents, style, speed, pitch etc

3. Activating and developing content schemata – some activities

A Visuals



B Wordles



C Mindmaps



D Teaser (+ audio script)



4. Activating and developing formal schemata – some activities

A Genre

- 1 Once upon a time ...
- 2 Have you heard the one about ...
- 3 Are you doing anything this evening
- 4 Can I help you?
- 5 Apparently ...

B Language (1) – Acoustic drilling

The same word? according to a report from a a Scientific American which was about a thousand

they compared that DNA with that of known was that eh these

C Language (2) – Folk fonetics

'sail does far

lep me juss get this

*they look tut thee ya

⁴which wa zabada thousand

fall over the wood

⁶mice fum new kay an Norway

D Speaker knowledge – tuning in / unprepared speech / accent repertoires

Apparently, eh mice, eh according to a report, eh, let me just get this absolutely right, it's from a a Scientific American story, eh, mice, Viking mice sailed as far as Greenland

5. Priming for Listening: Content ...

Content schemata

- Pictures
- Mind maps
- Wordles
- Teaser
- Quizzes
- Discussion

+ 1

+ Formal schemata

- Predicting text type (genre)
- Sequencing information (genre)
- Acoustic drilling (language)
- Sentence stems for prediction (language)
- Guessing vocabulary (language)
- Folk fonetics (language)
- Tuning in (speaking)

+1 Use the text type, audio script and student familiarity with speaker qualities to guide your choice of focus for a second pre-listening activity.

6. Your turn



91.8 Hayes FM local news summary!

A man was found dead in the early hours of Tuesday morning at Hanwell Flight. The man who has not yet been named was discovered at around two am by a stretch of the Grand Union Canal. Police were called to the Grand Union Canal following the discovery of the body. The 41 year old man was taken to hospital, where he was pronounced dead. Enquiries are underway to establish the circumstances of the incident.