Assessment of Pragmatically Complex, Authentic Listening Tasks

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Language Skill: L2 English Listening
Students Population: Advanced (C1) L2 English Language Learners
Item Type: Course Materials or learning objects
Location of Materials: Qualtrics, Kaltura Mediaspace

I. Rationale for Assessment:
The use of authentic materials has grown in second language (L2) classrooms within the last decade due to contributions in technological accessibility. This is beneficial for the L2 classroom, as communication does not exist within a vacuum but instead is experiential and multi-modal. A speakers’ performance constructs a more complex, dynamic relationship between verbal and nonverbal expression. It is our duty as language teachers to prepare students for the world beyond the classroom: a dynamic world. Such dynamism can be seen in the accompanying media of a culture, where conversations include contextualized pragmatic exchanges and their nonverbal compliments.

In this one-directional listening assessment of complex pragmatic exchanges between native speakers of English, students view clips from authentic American sitcom media (Friends). Each scene is framed around a large, overarching speech act context and involves a point of contention or misalignment in understanding between characters. Students are assessed based on their ability to identify the source of conflict, infer meaning of interactions involving physicality-linked communication or prosodic cues, and predict and support rationale for future outcome.
II. **Suggestions for Pre-Taught Topics:**
- Genre awareness of television sitcom media
  - In piloting this assessment, it was found that some students called upon their understanding of the video clips’ genre to make inferences.
  - Experience with the genre and features such as laugh-tracks is beneficial as often even advanced learners struggle with interpreting types of American humor.
- Physicality meaning-interpretation alongside textual analysis
  - In piloting this assessment, it was found that students value physicality as a tool to interpret in oral interpretation tasks, but some are unlikely to note physicality as evidence in written responses.
  - Work on noting physicality while watching videos may be helpful to performing critical thinking regarding the connection (or lack of connection) between textual information and delivery of facial expressions, bodily gestures, and prosodic features.
  - Tasks could include appropriateness judgements of gestures in portraying intended meanings and group-based analysis tasks.

III. **Materials**
1. **Live Qualtrics Example Assessment:**
   Click on the following link to see an example of this assessment on Qualtrics:
   [https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2aYSL8Kpx1SYgrs](https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2aYSL8Kpx1SYgrs)

2. **Qualtrics QSF Download:**
   If using Qualtrics as the instrument for assessment delivery, make a new survey and upload the QSF file to import the pre-made assessment form:
   [https://www.dropbox.com/s/zxhci5sy4qbdkee/Assessment_of_Practically_Complex_Authentic_Listening_Tasks.qsf?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/zxhci5sy4qbdkee/Assessment_of_Practically_Complex_Authentic_Listening_Tasks.qsf?dl=0)
### Video Descriptions and Links:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Speech Act</th>
<th>Context</th>
<th>Summary</th>
<th>Link</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Apology</td>
<td>Joey and Ross are arguing over an issue regarding trust, Joey apologizes in an attempt to end the conflict by apologizing but misapplies non-verbal air quotation implying lack of truth. Ross remains unamused and tries to leave. Joey attempts to defuse the situation by encouraging Ross to hit him.</td>
<td>![Link](<a href="https://mediaspace.ms">https://mediaspace.ms</a> u.edu/media/1+Video/1_8sx1ea4e)</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Invitation</td>
<td>Rachel finds a letter on her table and learns that it is Ross’ wedding invitation, to which Rachel is distressed but poorly attempts to not show it. Monica apologizes, feeling bad for Rachel and attempts to comfort her. Chandler inquires if this means he can’t go because he’d already bought a ticket. Monica suggests that it would be strange if Rachel didn’t attend and asks her to consider the invitation. Rachel suggests that she’ll think about attending while displaying unease.</td>
<td>![Link](<a href="https://mediaspace.ms">https://mediaspace.ms</a> u.edu/media/2%20Video/1_3yf3aha6)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Planning</td>
<td>Monica and Pheobe are planning a dinner party, which Monica details excitedly, at a table. Phoebe gets upset, stating that Monica has done all the planning and did not include her. She replies in sarcasm and pushes away from the table to leave in anger when Monica makes a new suggestion for Pheobe to tend to cups and ice. Phoebe is unimpressed, but approves of the opportunity in lingering spite.</td>
<td>![Link](<a href="https://mediaspace.ms">https://mediaspace.ms</a> u.edu/media/3%20Video/1_ycfy9fx1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Request</td>
<td>Monica enters the scene asking Joey to keep a secret. Joey plays off of this request, insinuating Monica to be suggesting an affair. Monica dismisses him by saying it would be great, revealing that her intended request is for money. Joey dismisses her, moving away and saying that lending money is a mistake, asking what her need is. When Monica admits she needs $2000 for rent, Joey explodes but ultimately agrees because he has the means as a soap opera star.</td>
<td>![Link](<a href="https://mediaspace.ms">https://mediaspace.ms</a> u.edu/media/4%20Video/1_3f06bjax)</td>
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4. Printable Version of Qualtrics Quiz:

What is your name? ______________________________________________________

Task A
Watch the following video clip from the television series "Friends". You may pause and repeat as many times as you would like, but you may not take notes. When you are ready to answer questions, please click "next". You will answer 4 questions about the clip.

There are two characters:

Joey and Ross

1. Summarize in as much detail as possible what happened in this clip.

2. Why was Ross upset when Joey apologized in the beginning?

3. When Joey says to Ross, "Hit me!", why did Joey say that?

4. Do you think Ross will hit Joey? Explain why or why not.
**Task B**
Watch the following video clip from the television series "Friends". You may pause and repeat as many times as you would like, but you may not take notes. When you are ready to answer questions, please click "next". You will answer 4 questions about the clip.

1. Summarize in as much detail as possible what happened in this clip.

2. How does Rachel feel about receiving the news? How do you know this?

3. When Rachel says to Monica, "I'll think about it (attending the wedding).", why did Rachel say that?

4. Do you think Rachel will go to the wedding? Explain why or why not.
**Task C**
Watch the following video clip from the television series "Friends". You may pause and repeat as many times as you would like, but you may not take notes. When you are ready to answer questions, please click "next". You will answer 4 questions about the clip.

1. Summarize in as much detail as possible what happened in this clip.

2. How does Pheobe feel about the change in plans?

3. When Pheobe says to Monica, "Thanks, cohost!", what does she mean?

4. Do you think Pheobe will take her new job seriously? Explain why or why not.
**Task D**
Watch the following video clip from the television series "Friends". You may pause and repeat as many times as you would like, but you may not take notes. When you are ready to answer questions, please click "next". You will answer 4 questions about the clip.

1. Summarize in as much detail as possible what happened in this clip.

2. At first, what did Joey think Monica was going to ask him? How do you know this?

3. When Monica says "It (Joey's suggestion) would be great.", what did she mean?

4. Do you think Joey will give Monica two thousand dollars? Explain why.