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Using movies and subtitles to promote cultural understanding in the foreign language classroom: *My Family* in a language class for translators

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The study of cultures is both fascinating and a powerful teaching tool for the EFL classroom, particularly for students of translation who are preparing to be professional intercultural mediators. Recent studies have also highlighted student interest in films as a medium for EFL education. Furthermore, they have explored ways of using such authentic documents as an effective method to boost learners' overall knowledge of the foreign culture. In addition, DVDs have substantially improved the opportunities to use the movie medium in the language class, offering a variety of special features including interactive menus, foreign languages, captions and subtitles, and immediate scene access. As such, they provide a wide array of pedagogical options and represent a rich resource for students of translation who can be led to use subtitles and dubbing as a valuable aid to understand the foreign language and be introduced to comparative culture.

In this article, we wish to suggest that movies can be instrumental in increasing translation students' awareness of the foreign culture. Taking examples from *My Family*, the famous British sitcom squarely created in the American tradition, we will suggest activities to promote active viewing and interaction in a language class for translators.

Key words: movies, culture, translation, EFL, language teaching.