

THE USE OF EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES FOR IMPROVING LEARNERS' READING COMPREHENSION

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ABSTRACT

The ability to process literature, understand its meaning, and integrate it with what the reader already knows is referred to as reading comprehension. Reading comprehension is strongly dependent on learners' ability to comprehend the collection of words. Reading proficiency can be acquired through both excellent education and personal experience. Two levels of processing are activated during reading comprehension. There are two levels: shallow and deep. Neuroimages are used to explore this process. Reading technique is a broad phrase that refers to the deliberate and explicit acts that assist readers in translating print to meaning. Reading strategies varies depending on the circumstances. Reciprocal teaching is one of the reading strategies. This entails making predictions, summarizing, and asking questions. The method of conversation or instructional directives assists pupils in visually comprehending material utilizing higher level thinking. There are numerous tactics to employ, ranging from activation to dialogue.

Keywords: Reading proficiency, reading technique, learners' ability, strategy, comprehension, essential skill, higher level thinking, prediction.

INTRODUCTION

Reading comprehension is an essential skill that has international importance. It is the ability to understand, interpret, and analyze written text. Strong reading comprehension skills are crucial for success in academics, careers, and everyday life. In the academic world, reading comprehension is necessary for students to succeed. It is not only important for understanding textbook material but also for comprehending complex research papers and articles. Without strong reading skills, students may struggle to understand the material presented to them, leading to poor grades and academic performance. Reading comprehension is also crucial for career success. Many professions require employees to read and interpret large amounts of information. Lawyers, doctors, and engineers are just a few examples of careers where strong reading skills are essential. In addition, employees who can quickly and accurately understand written instructions, emails, and reports are highly valued in the workplace. Beyond academics and careers, reading comprehension is vital for everyday life. Reading is a fundamental skill that allows people to access information about current events, technology, and culture. It enables individuals to make informed decisions about their health, finances, and personal lives. Moreover, reading can be a source of pleasure and relaxation, providing an escape from the stresses of daily life. The importance of reading comprehension is not limited to one country or culture. It is a skill that is essential for individuals in all parts of the world. In our globalized society, the ability to understand and analyze written text is crucial for communication and collaboration across borders. It is necessary for individuals to comprehend

information from different cultures and perspectives, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of diversity.

Reading methods, as a mental activity, assist the reader in comprehending text more efficiently. In other words, they are the tools that readers employ to comprehend what is printed on a page. These practices, which are crucial for literacy development, can be taught directly to pupils.

Reading comprehension is also affected by the genre of the reading passages. Tales and tales are simple to understand, whereas extracts from informational textbooks, manuals, and literary novels are difficult for readers to decipher. Nonverbal imagery such as images, sketches, emoticons, and bitmojis make text easier to interpret. Making reading enjoyable is one of the most crucial tactics. Instructors can accomplish this by engaging students in reading-related activities such as games and crafts.

Kids struggle with reading comprehension. This is determined by a variety of things. The text with no illustrations and an appealing combination of terminology is an obvious example of a problem for students. Some pupils have difficulty paying attention and reading comprehension. Researchers such as Carr and Wolf argue that “embedded hyperlinks cause problems”. Teachers of English as a foreign language can address this issue by increasing students' extrinsic and intrinsic motivation.

Extremely competent readers boost students' reading comprehension by employing the following cognitive strategies:

- Activating
- Inferring
- Monitoring-Clarifying
- Questioning
- Searching-Selecting
- Summarizing
- Visualizing-Organizing
- Reading with expressions
- Establishing purpose before reading
- Schema
- Making reading interesting
- Link and predict
- Reading aloud

Priming the cognitive pump to recall relevant prior knowledge and experiences from long-term memory in order to extract and construct meaning from text is what activating is.

Inferring is the process of combining what is spoken (written) in the text, what is unspoken (unwritten) in the text, and what the reader already knows in order to extract and create meaning from the text (Abebersold, 1997).

Monitoring/clarifying refers to thinking about how and what one is reading, both during and after the act of reading, in order to determine if one is grasping the material and to clarify and correct any errors.

Questioning entails participating in learning dialogues with text (writers), peers, and teachers using the following strategies: self-questioning, question generation, and question answering.

Searching-Selecting is the process of exploring a range of sources for relevant information in order to answer queries, define words and concepts, clarify misconceptions, solve problems, or gather information.

Summarizing is the act of restating the meaning of a text in one's own words — words that differ from those used in the original text.

Visualizing/Organizing is the process of creating a mental image or graphic organizer in order to extract and generate meaning from text.

Reading with expression is the practice of training kids to read aloud (Bernhardt, 1991). If there is an exclamation point at the conclusion of a sentence, they should read it loudly. If students read a sentence that ends with a question mark, they should employ an interrogative voice. This requires very little training and practice, but it improves students' comprehension of what they are reading by engaging them in the material. This can greatly improve their comprehension and help them develop fluency.

Another successful technique for teaching reading comprehension is to set a reading goal. Teachers should have students write out their objective before assigning a novel or short story to read. "Schema is one of the most effective ways for teaching reading" (Carrel, 1998). This technique requires pupils to make connections between what they currently know and new concepts provided in the text. The theory is that if they can connect new material to what they already know, they will learn it faster and remember it for longer.

For example, if kids know how to drive a car and are told that it has four cylinders under the hood, they will grasp that these objects allow their engine to function properly because they already know how an engine works. This allows them to learn faster than someone who knows nothing about vehicles or engines.

Making reading enjoyable is one of the most crucial tactics. Instructors can accomplish this "by engaging students in reading-related activities such as games and crafts" (Amer, 1997). This is especially beneficial if they have an older child who is having difficulty reading. When they are having fun, they are more inclined to participate in activities that require reading.

It is suggested that "students make connections between what they already know and the theme of the narrative or book they will be reading" (Bernhardt, 1991). Instructors could ask students to guess what will happen in the story or text based on the title, drawings, or cover; they should also be asked if they believe characters will change as the story unfolds.

Using reading tactics before, during, and after reading has various advantages. Knowing how text is arranged can assist children in understanding what they read. Before reading and utilizing this information, a reading approach such as previewing can provide an overview of the text organization. Reading, on the other hand, can assist you read a text in detail or skim it. Reading techniques can aid in comprehension monitoring by assessing what children understand during and after reading. They can assess their understanding by asking questions while reading. After reading, summarizing and recounting might help you review your understanding. "There are numerous methods for retrieving information from memory that can help with comprehension" (Bernhardt, 1991). For example, recalling facts from a text is made easier if children utilize a mnemonic device to make a link between new and familiar information previously stored in their long-term memory. Students can use reading skills to gain access to information that is not directly expressed. They "assist readers in deducing

meaning, drawing conclusions, and generalizing information. Reading methods are useful for reading books with complicated ideas and language” (Amer, 1997). Pupils can utilize them to improve their comprehension and reading skills.

Overall, reading strategies are acts that a reader performs to aid in the construction of meaning from text. Reading comprehension refers to the ability to comprehend what is read. Early childhood education programs allow children to learn to read. Early intervention has been demonstrated to considerably increase a child's reading success. “When reading strategies are used, the possibilities are limitless” (Hamra, & Syatriana, 2010). Reading methods enable readers to make sense of the text. This can be challenging for some kids who haven't been taught specific skills to assist them understand what they're reading. There are simple, easy-to-implement tactics that can assist you in becoming a successful reader. Reading techniques can provide children with a road map for becoming better readers. Your pupils will be more invested in the novels they read, which will keep them interested. “Reading is one of the most important and significant courses in any school or university curriculum. Students are urged to read as much as possible, however many people find it difficult to read a book, and others even find it uninteresting” (Abebersold, 1997). Nonetheless, reading is one of the most important components in academic success since good readers are also good writers. Reading methods assist pupils in understanding what they read in ways that they can grasp. They also assist kids in discovering new ways to make reading more enjoyable and accessible in order for them to absorb what they have just read. Skimming, scanning, and in-depth reading are the three sorts of reading methods. Reading strategies is a broad phrase that refers to the planned and explicit behaviors that can assist readers in translating print to meaning. Reading methods are only used to improve text comprehension. Reading methods are critical for teaching pupils how to think like competent readers. Teachers can improve students' reading comprehension and enjoyment of reading by applying reading methods and modifying how they read.

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