

**TEACHING READING TECHNIQUES AND STRATEGIES IN ENGLISH
LANGUAGE LEARNING**

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Abstract

This article explores the importance of teaching reading techniques and strategies in English language learning. It discusses the nature of reading as a receptive skill, types of reading strategies, and effective pedagogical approaches used to develop learners' reading comprehension. The paper also highlights the role of pre-reading, while-reading, and post-reading activities in improving learners' understanding of texts.

Key words; Reading skills, reading comprehension, reading strategies, skimming, scanning, intensive reading, extensive reading, English language teaching, text analysis, vocabulary development, pre-reading activities, while-reading activities, post-reading activities, learner autonomy

Introduction

Reading is one of the most essential skills in language learning, as it provides access to information, develops vocabulary, and supports overall language acquisition. In English language teaching, reading is not only about decoding words but also about understanding meaning, interpreting ideas, and critically analyzing texts.

Effective reading instruction requires teaching learners how to use different strategies depending on the purpose of reading and the type of text. Therefore, reading strategies play a crucial role in developing independent and competent readers.

The Nature of Reading Skill

Reading is a receptive language skill that involves interaction between the reader and the text. It requires both bottom-up processing and top-down processing. In

bottom-up processing, readers decode words and sentences, while in top-down processing they use background knowledge to interpret meaning.

Successful reading depends on vocabulary knowledge, grammar competence, text structure awareness, and cognitive engagement with the content.

Types of Reading Strategies

Reading strategies are techniques that help learners improve comprehension and reading efficiency.

Skimming is used to quickly understand the general idea of a text without focusing on details.

Scanning helps locate specific information such as names, dates, or facts.

Intensive reading involves careful analysis of a short text for detailed understanding.

Extensive reading refers to reading longer texts for general meaning and fluency development.

Teaching Reading Techniques in the Classroom

Effective reading instruction is organized into three stages.

Pre-reading activities activate background knowledge, introduce key vocabulary, and encourage prediction about the text.

While-reading activities focus on comprehension tasks, identifying main ideas, and understanding supporting details.

Post-reading activities involve discussion, reflection, and application of information in speaking or writing tasks.

Role of the Teacher in Developing Reading Skills

Teachers guide learners in using reading strategies effectively. They model strategies, provide support, and encourage active interaction with texts. Selecting appropriate materials that match learners' level and interest is also essential for motivation and success.

Challenges in Teaching Reading

Common challenges include limited vocabulary, slow reading speed, and over-reliance on translation. Learners may also struggle with complex sentence structures. These issues can be addressed through strategy-based instruction and continuous practice.

Conclusion

Teaching reading techniques and strategies is essential for developing effective readers in English language learning. Skimming, scanning, intensive, and extensive reading strategies help learners improve comprehension and fluency. Structured classroom activities and teacher support are key factors in successful reading development.

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