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Алматы, Казахстан

ТРУДНОСТИ В ОСВОЕНИИ НАВЫКОВ ЧТЕНИЯ НА АНГЛИЙСКОМ ЯЗЫКЕ И ПУТИ ИХ ПРЕОДОЛЕНИЯ

Аннотация

Для многих изучающих английский язык развитие навыков чтения представляет собой значительную трудность. Это связано с такими факторами, как ограниченный словарный запас, недостаточный уровень фоновых знаний, незнание отдельных грамматических тем и тревожность, возникающая при чтении. Стремясь оказать поддержку обучающимся, преподаватели часто сталкиваются с рядом типичных затруднений, которые подробно рассматриваются в данной статье. Решение данных проблем возможно посредством применения структурированных подходов, включающих отбор аутентичных и доступных по уровню текстов, использование активных стратегий чтения на занятиях, а также регулярную тренировку навыка чтения. Такой комплексный подход способствует более эффективному усвоению материала и формированию устойчивой читательской компетенции на английском языке.

Ключевые слова: интенсивное чтение, экстенсивное чтение, понимание прочитанного, подбор текста, аутентичные тексты, мотивация к чтению, стратегии чтения.

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АҒЫЛШЫН ТІЛІНДЕ ОҚУ ДАҒДЫЛАРЫН МЕНҒЕРУДЕГІ ҚИЫНДЫҚТАР ЖӘНЕ ОЛАРДЫ ШЕШУ ЖОЛДАРЫ

Аңдатпа

Көптеген ағылшын тілін үйренушілер үшін оқу дағдысын дамыту күрделі болып келеді. Бұл күрделілік үйренушінің көбінесе шектеулі сөздік қорымен, тіл туралы ақпараттың жеткіліксіздігімен, кейбір грамматикалық тақырыптардың меңгерілмегендігімен және оқу процесіне байланысты уайымымен байланысты болады. Мұғалімдер ретінде біз оқушыларға ағылшын тілінде еркін оқуға көмектесуге ұмтылу процессінде, олардың жиі кездесетін көбінесе шетел тіл үйренушілерге ортақ кедергілерге тап болатынын байқаймыз. Осы мақалада аталған шетел тілін үйренушілердің ағылшын тілінде оқу дағдыларын меңгерудегі қиындықтары егжей-тегжейлі қарастырылады. Бұл мәселелерді шешу үшін жүйелі және мақсатты тәсілдер қажет. Атап айтқанда, оқушылардың тілі мен деңгейіне сәйкес оқу мәтіндерін іріктеу, сабақ барысында белсенді оқу стратегияларын енгізу және оқу дағдысын тұрақты түрде дамыту ұсынылады. Оқу барысында қолайлы стратегияларды жүйелі түрде қолдану мұғалімдерге оқушылардың оқу қабілеттерін тереңірек дамытуға мүмкіндік береді.

Кілт сөздер: интенсивті оқу, экстенсивті оқу, мәтінді түсіну, мәтін таңдау, аутентті мәтіндер, оқуға мотивация, оқу стратегиялары..

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CHALLENGES FACED BY LEARNERS IN DEVELOPING ENGLISH READING SKILLS AND STRATEGIES FOR OVERCOMING THEM

Abstract

Many English language learners may find reading practice challenging. This can be due to problems such as having limited vocabulary, insufficient background knowledge about language, inadequate coverage of essential grammar topics, and also reading anxiety the learners may have while learning new language. As we, teachers, try to help these learners to read in English easily we may often find them struggling with common problems mentioned above, which will be discussed further in this article. Undoubtedly, these challenges can be solved through some structured methods, which may involve selecting appropriate reading materials, active reading strategies to use while reading in English, and practicing reading regularly. This article suggests practical ways how teachers can help learners to read in English without any challenges. One important method is choosing reading materials that match the learner's language level and are interesting and relevant to their lives. When students enjoy what they read and understand most of the words and grammar, they are more likely to stay motivated to read in English. By using these approaches, teachers can support their students more effectively and help them become better readers.

Keywords: *intensive reading, extensive reading, reading comprehension, text selection, authentic texts, reading motivation, reading strategies.*

Introduction Reading can be considered as foundation of language learning process. This skill is often a struggle for English language learners. These challenges can be linguistic barriers, cognitive overload, psychological factors such as anxiety and low motivation that can make reading even more difficult for learners. The key to finding solutions to these issues is identifying them. The article discusses common challenges faced by learners and a few tips to improve English reading comprehension.

Problems Learners Encounter While Reading in English

To start with, insufficient vocabulary is one of the most crucial obstacles while reading in English. For example, if learners have too many unknown words while reading, they can not comprehend what they are reading and the reading speed becomes very slow. Undoubtedly, it leads to fatigue and disappointment. Lack of a vocabulary base means that the learners cannot understand even basic words and reading becomes an overwhelming task for them. [7]

In addition to that, many complicated grammar rules due to their inadequate coverage can confuse and frustrate not only the native English speaker, but the learner who is learning English as a second or third language. For example, the sentences that are long and complex, as well as those containing clauses, the passive voice, and idiomatic expressions confuse learners and lead to misunderstandings or misinterpretations of the text. [4]

Furthermore, reading comprehension needs background knowledge, which can be a challenge in addition to vocabulary and grammar difficulties the learners may have while reading in foreign language. On the other hand, readers with prior knowledge about language as knowing some cultural events, idioms and terminology find it easier to understand a text. It is because a lot of reading texts in English makes reference to cultural events, idioms, and historical contexts that may not be known to non-native speakers. This background knowledge gap can increase reading difficulty for learners learning English as a second or third language. [3]

In addition, learners' engagement with English texts is severely affected by reading anxiety. Finally, some learners read in English with anxiety, either hoping that they will understand what they read, and easy that they would make mistakes when they have to read aloud. This apprehension might stop the learners from interaction with the English texts and would reduce their chances of practicing reading.[5]

A second major problem is poor reading strategies. There are learners that are not familiar with some reading strategies such as skimming, scanning, or inferring meaning through context. Instead of using the strategies mentioned above, they might resort to translating word for word, which slows down their reading pace and impacts their overall understanding of the text. Undoubtedly, reading in English without using effective strategies could make the process even more challenging. [10]

Tips to Help Students Read Better

If vocabulary is limited, the learners can engage themselves with reading material in different forms like graded readers, articles or books that they are able to enjoy. Learners can also guess the meaning of new words by looking at the context when they read. This helps them learn new words without using a dictionary. They can also keep a simple vocabulary notebook and write down new words they find. Over time, this helps them get used to new words naturally. [11]

Reading different text types can also be good practice. Reading diverse texts such as news stories, works of fiction, academic papers, blogs can teach learners to become acquainted with various styles of writing. This variety improves their comprehension skills and familiarizes learners with various reading texts in English. [8]

Active reading strategies are another key element in understanding texts better. When studying learners should practice techniques that help them read effectively. For example, skimming (reading quickly for the main ideas) and scanning (looking through a text to find specific information, rather than reading it all) In addition to that, predicting meaning of new words from context and writing a short summary after reading would help to comprehend the text better. [2]

Also, there can be culturally rich texts, to understand them there is a need to have background knowledge. To get background knowledge, the learners should consume English-language media and read more about history, traditions, and current events in English. It is because knowledge about culture improves reading comprehension and build confidence to read in foreign language. [1]

Another way to improve reading skills is the reduction of reading anxiety. The reading anxiety of learners can be reduced by identifying and putting realistic reading goals, rewarding small progresses they made after reading texts, and reading pleasurable content. Indeed, if all of those things done within relaxing environment, the reading can become interesting activity for learners. [5]

Furthermore, technology can also provide extensive help to comprehend the texts better. For example, electronic books with glossaries, reading clubs, and language apps are great digital tools with the opportunity to translate words that can make reading in English more interesting. The use of audiobooks and subtitles would also assist learners to develop not only reading comprehension but also listening concurrently. [12]

Developing a Reading Habit

Moreover, consistency is a key element in improving reading skills. Readers who turn reading into a daily habit tend to do better over time in terms of comprehension and fluency. For instance, If the learners set aside time to read a little each day, even if it is just 15 to 20 minutes, the learners will make it through a lot of books over time. Also, selecting reading materials that are interesting and appropriate for the learner's language level is also an important factor. In case students ask, teachers can help in this case to find and select language-appropriate books for their students. Undoubtedly, reading the materials which the learners want to read supports motivation and engagement. [11]

As it was mentioned above, learners can also identify and put their own reading goals to check their own progresses. Such objectives can be writing down the number of pages they read a day,

summarizing what the learners read by writing short summary after reading, or retelling the reading content to friends.

The Role of Extensive Reading

Another approach called “extensive reading”, which involves learners reading books and other texts well within their ability range, has been shown to promote vocabulary growth, increase reading fluency and comprehension, lead to better achievement in reading overall. Unlike intensive reading, which focuses on closely analyzing short texts and their vocabulary, extensive reading allows learners to read longer texts for general understanding. This method helps students engage with the story and ideas more naturally, without needing to focus on every single word. Research by [9], has shown that students who regularly practice extensive reading often develop more positive attitudes toward reading and feel more confident when reading in English.

Teachers and language programs might supply graded readers, refer exciting books, and develop reading contests attachments motivation to read widely in English.

Encouraging Peer Interaction and Teacher Support

Another valuable approach to improve reading in English involves peer interaction and teacher support. Undoubtedly, group reading activities, class discussions based on reading materials, and reading circles can make the reading process more engaging and collaborative for learners. Peer discussions allow learners to share their personal views, ask some questions about some confusing passages if there are any, and build confidence in their reading abilities. Therefore, collaborative learning fosters a supportive environment where learners are more motivated to read and participate actively during class activities conducted in class specifically for improving reading skills. (Harmer, 2007).

Furthermore, teachers also play a significant role in motivating students to read in English. They can guide learners in choosing appropriate reading materials, demonstrate effective reading strategies to use while reading, and provide constructive feedback based on the learners’ reading performances. Teachers who create in students a positive attitude toward reading and share their own reading experiences can inspire students to view reading not as a overwhelming and boring task, but as an enjoyable activity.

In addition to that, structured classroom activities such as paired reading, reader response journals, and thematic discussions can make reading more interesting activity. Teachers may also implement scaffolding techniques to support learners gradually, such as pre-teaching vocabulary, previewing texts, and using graphic organizers. As a result, with the ongoing support from teachers, learners develop the autonomy and confidence needed to read more complex English texts independently.

Conclusion

The learners who find reading in English difficult, can combat their struggles by developing vocabulary, familiarising themselves with different types of text and learning effective reading strategies and practicing them while reading in English. A reduction of anxiety and the use of innovative digital tools can increase reading motivation and improve reading comprehension.

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