

Strategies to Improve Reading Skills in Primary Level Learners

S. Vishnupriya

Abstract: Reading skill is an ability of an individual to read, comprehend and interpret written words of any reading material. Reading in second language is considered one of the most challenging and difficult tasks that most of the ESL learners face in the learning environment. Due to complexity of this skill many of the learners suffered from reading. For these reasons the main purpose of this paper is to present the effectiveness of reading comprehension skill through the intervention of specific strategies for reading comprehension and to make the learners aware of Reading skills.

Keywords: Reading skill, Reading comprehension, Reading strategies

1. Introduction

Reading is one among the basic language skills which help the learners to understand the written text in an effective manner. Reading is essential for the learners because the texts which are prescribed and given to them are in the written language. So, reading is an important skill to be enhanced for the learners to understand their text which is in written format. In reading, the information is carried out from one mind to another i.e., from the author to the learner. The purpose of reading is to understand the concept of a text and to gain knowledge of the world. Comprehension is the ultimate goal of reading. Reading process will be complete only when the comprehension takes place in the minds of the learners. Reading comprehension involves understanding the content, recognizing words, ability to summarize and so on. Reading comprehension builds up the mental representation of the text from the learners.

Selected Reading Strategies

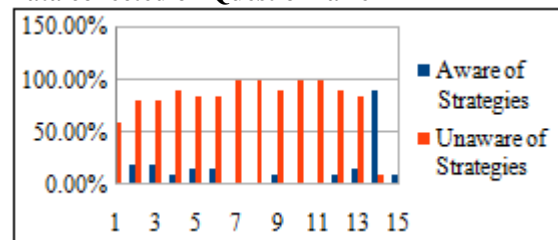
- 1) Previewing.
- 2) Understanding.
- 3) Making inferences.
- 4) Study Reading.
- 5) Summarizing
- 6) Skimming
- 7) Pattern of Organization
- 8) Reading longer passage effectively
- 9) Critical reading.

2. Methodology

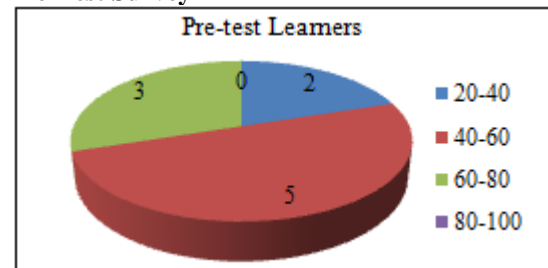
The present study has adopted qualitative methodology to collect and analyze data. In this research, a pre-study questionnaire was designed along with pre-test for the analysis of the language needs of the learners. The questionnaire consists of 15 closed-ended questions with four-point Likert-scale (with the options often, always, never and rarely) was administered. The questionnaire is about different reading comprehension strategies used by the learners. The pre-test for the learners consisted of a different reading comprehension paragraph to find out the level of students' reading comprehension skill. The selected strategies are taught to the students elaborately for developing effective reading comprehension skills by giving additional reading comprehension exercises for each

strategy. Students use the strategies while they do reading comprehension exercises and the performance of the learners is finally assessed. Data collected included student work samples from each reading passage for each strategy. At last, the post-test for the learners was administered to understand students' increase in using the strategies in the reading process for comprehending the information. The post-test contained a different reading comprehension paragraph to analyze the effectiveness of students' reading comprehension skill. The scores of pre-test and post-test are compared to check the efficacy of the intervention.

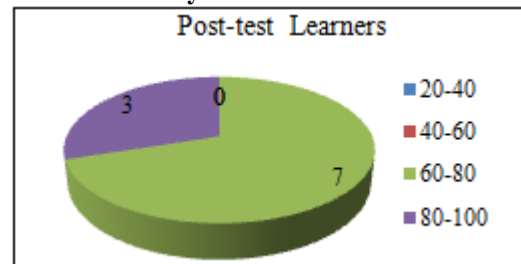
Data collected on Questionnaire



Pre-Test Survey



Post-Test Survey



3. Findings from Pre-Test and Post-Test

The scores of pre-test and post-test are taken into consideration for analyzing the development in the learners' progress by using the strategies which are taught and practiced in the classroom. The scores of Post-test is increased than the scores of Post-test.

4. Conclusion

The results of this study show that strategies for reading are more effective, helpful, and time- consuming for students, that is why, students should be interested not only in reading but also learn some of these strategies to be effective readers, but unfortunately, this cannot be achieved unless teachers teach them how to use some of the strategies to be successful in reading comprehension.

References

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