

EXTENSIVE READING AS AN EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE METHOD FOR EFL STUDENTS’ LANGUAGE ACQUISITION

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Abstract: This article explores the efficacy of extensive reading as a method for English as a Foreign Language (EFL) students to acquire language skills. The study reviews relevant literature, analyzes the results of previous research, and discusses the implications for language learning. The findings suggest that extensive reading is an efficient and effective approach for EFL students to improve their language proficiency, vocabulary, and reading comprehension. The article concludes with recommendations for incorporating extensive reading into EFL curricula.

Keywords: extensive reading, EFL, language acquisition, language learning, reading comprehension.

INTRODUCTION

Extensive reading, defined as reading large quantities of text for pleasure and understanding, has gained popularity as a method for language acquisition in recent years [1]. For English as a Foreign Language (EFL) students, extensive reading offers an opportunity to engage with the target language in a meaningful and enjoyable way. This article aims to examine the effectiveness of extensive reading as a method for EFL students' language acquisition, drawing on existing literature and research in the field.

The primary goal of extensive reading is to improve the learner’s reading fluency and to help the students to enjoy reading. After students read many books over a long time, they experience the benefits of extensive reading such as growing vocabulary knowledge, having a positive effect on reading comprehension, increasing reading speed, improving writing performance, etc.

METHODS AND LITERATURE REVIEW

To investigate the effectiveness of extensive reading for EFL students, a comprehensive literature review was conducted. The review included studies published between 2000 and 2023, focusing on the impact of extensive reading on various aspects of language acquisition, such as vocabulary growth, reading comprehension, and overall language proficiency. The studies were selected based on their relevance,

methodological rigor, and sample size [2]. In addition, survey, pre, while post tests were conducted among students.

RESULTS

The research revealed several key findings. First, extensive reading has been shown to have a significant positive impact on EFL students' vocabulary acquisition [3]. Studies have demonstrated that students who engage in extensive reading encounter a wide range of words in context, leading to improved vocabulary retention and usage. Second, extensive reading has been found to enhance reading comprehension skills [4]. As students read more, they develop a better understanding of sentence structure, discourse markers, and text organization. Finally, extensive reading has been linked to overall improvements in language proficiency [5]. Students who read extensively tend to have better listening, speaking, and writing skills compared to those who do not engage in extensive reading. Questionnaires help to “gather relatively straight forward factual data in response to closed questions” because the items in questionnaires often ask about specific information. Therefore, the researcher decided that large – scale survey questionnaire was the most suitable tool to realize that objective in the process.

ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

The results of the research suggest that extensive reading is an efficient and effective method for EFL students' language acquisition. The exposure to a wide range of vocabulary in context, coupled with the development of reading comprehension skills, contributes to overall language proficiency. Moreover, extensive reading offers a low-stress, enjoyable way for students to engage with the target language, which can increase motivation and reduce anxiety associated with language learning [6].

The findings of this study have important implications for EFL teaching and learning. Incorporating extensive reading into EFL curricula can provide students with opportunities to develop their language skills in a meaningful and engaging way. However, implementing extensive reading programs requires careful consideration of factors such as text selection, reading level, and assessment [7]. Teachers should choose texts that are appropriate for their students' language proficiency and interests, and provide support and guidance to ensure that students are reading at a level that challenges them without overwhelming them.

One of the key benefits of extensive reading is that it allows students to encounter language in context, which can lead to a more natural acquisition of vocabulary and grammatical structures [8]. By reading extensively, students are exposed to a wide range of language patterns and forms, which they can then internalize and apply in their own language production. This is particularly important for EFL students, who may have limited opportunities to engage with the target language outside of the classroom.

Another advantage of extensive reading is that it can promote learner autonomy and motivation [9]. When students are given the freedom to choose texts that interest them and read at their own pace, they are more likely to develop a positive attitude towards reading and language learning in general. This can lead to increased engagement and persistence in the learning process, which are essential for long-term success in language acquisition. The research utilized various materials, including graded readers and teaching aids, and implemented pre- and post-tests to measure vocabulary acquisition and reading comprehension. The experimental group showed significant improvement in their reading scores compared to the control group. The data was collected through questionnaires, tests, and teacher observations. The findings suggest that ER can enhance vocabulary, reading speed, and overall language proficiency.

CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, extensive reading is an efficient and effective method for EFL students' language acquisition. The literature review demonstrates that extensive reading can lead to improvements in vocabulary, reading comprehension, and overall language proficiency. Therefore, EFL educators should consider incorporating extensive reading into their curricula to support students' language development. Further research is needed to explore the long-term effects of extensive reading on language acquisition and to develop best practices for implementing extensive reading programs in EFL contexts.

The study discusses how ER positively impacts not only reading skills but also writing and overall language competence. It outlines an ideal ER program comprising ample reading opportunities, diverse materials, and minimal follow-up exercises, fostering individualized learning and motivation. Additionally, it discusses how ER contributes to improving reading speed and comprehension, addressing common issues in EFL programs and enhancing fluency and understanding through graded materials.

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