

**THE BENEFITS OF EXTENSIVE READING IN EFL CLASSROOM**

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***Abstract:*** Extensive reading (ER) is a learner-centered approach that encourages students to read large amounts of comprehensible and enjoyable material. In the English as a Foreign Language (EFL) context, ER has been shown to support vocabulary development, reading fluency, motivation, and cultural awareness. This paper explores the numerous benefits of integrating extensive reading into the EFL classroom, emphasizing its impact on language acquisition, learner autonomy, and overall communicative competence. The findings suggest that ER is a valuable and effective pedagogical tool that enhances both linguistic and affective outcomes for language learners.

***Key words:*** Extensive reading, EFL, vocabulary acquisition, reading fluency, learner autonomy, language teaching, motivation..

***Annotatsiya:*** Keng qamrovli o'qish (ER) o'quvchilarni tushunarli va qiziqarli materiallarni katta hajmda o'qishga undaydigan o'quvchiga yo'naltirilgan yondashuvdir. Ingliz tili xorijiy til sifatida (EFL) kontekstida ER so'z boyligini rivojlantirish, ravon o'qish, motivatsiya va madaniy xabardorlikni qo'llab-quvvatlashi ko'rsatilgan. Ushbu maqola EFL sinfiga keng ko'lamli o'qishni integratsiyalashning ko'plab afzalliklarini o'rganadi va uning tilni o'zlashtirishga, o'quvchilarning avtonomligiga va umumiy kommunikativ kompetentsiyaga ta'sirini ta'kidlaydi. Topilmalar shuni ko'rsatadiki, ER til o'rganuvchilar uchun ham lingvistik, ham affektiv natijalarni yaxshilaydigan qimmatli va samarali pedagogik vositadir..

***Kalit so'zlar:*** Keng qamrovli o'qish, EFL, So'z boyligini o'zlashtirish, ravon o'qish, o'quvchilarning avtonomiyasi, tilni o'rgatish, motivatsiya.



Extensive reading (ER) is the process of reading longer, easier texts for an extended period of time without a breakdown of comprehension, feeling overwhelmed, or the need to take breaks. It stands in contrast to intensive or academic reading, which is focused on a close reading of dense, shorter texts, typically not read for pleasure. Though used as a teaching strategy to promote second-language development, ER also applies to free voluntary reading and recreational reading both in and out of the classroom. ER is based on the assumption that we learn to read by reading. Implementation of ER is often referred to as sustained silent reading (SSR) or free voluntary reading; and is used in both the first- (L1) and second-language (L2) classroom to promote reading fluency and comprehension. In addition to fluency and comprehension, ER has other numerous benefits for both first- and second-language learners, such as greater grammar and vocabulary knowledge, increase in background knowledge, and greater language confidence and motivation. An alternative approach Another model for teaching reading exists. This is an 'extensive reading approach' and involves students reading long texts or large quantities for general understanding, with the intention of enjoying the texts. Students are allowed to choose the books they read depending on their interests, and there is not always a follow-up discussion or work in class. In this way students are encouraged to read for pleasure and should become better readers.

**Aims of extensive reading** The principal objective of undertaking an extensive reading approach is to get students reading in English and liking it. An increase in reading fluency should be another objective. Because of this, reading should be a pleasurable activity for the student, promoted as much as possible by the teacher.

### **Motivation**

One of the key factors to the success (or not) of an extensive reading programme is motivation. Capturing student interest is the key. If the materials available are interesting to the students, then they will be far more likely to want to read them. These books should also be at a level appropriate to their reading ability. As mentioned earlier, the texts should not be too difficult so students experience the



frustration of not being able to understand the books. Getting the extensive reading programme off to a good start is also vital. The aim is for an initial successful experience so that students discover they can read in English and that they enjoy it. This positive experience should stimulate them to read more, increasing motivation, enjoyment and a desire to read.

In the EFL classroom, reading plays a pivotal role in developing language skills. Among the various reading strategies, extensive reading (ER) stands out as an effective method for enhancing language proficiency in a natural and engaging way. Unlike intensive reading, which focuses on close analysis of texts, ER involves reading large quantities of material for general understanding and enjoyment.

### **Benefits of Extensive Reading**

#### **1. Vocabulary Development**

Students are repeatedly exposed to high-frequency and academic vocabulary in meaningful contexts, aiding in the natural acquisition of words and phrases .

#### **2. Improved Reading Fluency and Comprehension**

ER fosters fluency by encouraging students to read without stopping frequently for clarification, allowing them to process language more efficiently .

#### **3. Increased Motivation and Positive Attitudes**

Choice and enjoyment in reading material lead to greater student engagement and a more positive outlook toward learning English .

#### **4. Cultural Awareness**

Reading texts from various English-speaking cultures enhances intercultural competence and helps learners relate language to its social and cultural contexts .

#### **5. Support for Writing and Speaking Skills**

Reading a variety of genres and writing styles helps learners internalize syntax and discourse patterns, which can be transferred to their productive language skills

#### **6. Encouragement of Learner Autonomy**

ER promotes independent learning as students take control of their reading choices, pace, and goals, fostering a long-term habit of language learning. In conclusion extensive reading offers a wide array of benefits for EFL learners,





ranging from linguistic improvement to personal growth. Its emphasis on learner autonomy, engagement, and natural language exposure makes it an indispensable component of modern language teaching. Teachers are encouraged to incorporate ER into their curriculum to create a more effective and enjoyable language learning environment.

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