

THE ROLE OF READING ARTICLES TO IMPROVE ENGLISH LEARNERS’ READING SKILLS

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Abstract: This article examines the importance of reading articles in language learning, focusing on its benefits to comprehension, vocabulary, critical thinking, and overall literacy development. In addition, reading articles regularly helps students enhance their reading fluency, which is understanding and analyzing information fully. By reading articles, learners find out various writing styles, structures, and topics which assists them to develop vocabulary, critical engagement, and strengthen the ability to understand information fully. In this paper, researchers explain the significance of reading articles and mention the findings of research about improving overall reading proficiency by reading articles.

Keywords: reading articles, reading comprehension, improving reading, reading skills, article role.

Introduction

Reading plays a paramount role in students’ academic and personal development. There are numerous materials and strategies available to improve reading, but articles serve as an effective resource for enhancing students’ reading skills and comprehension. Articles indeed expose students to a wide range of topics, concepts, writing styles, and vocabulary. Students may enhance their ability to process information quickly, analyze arguments, and develop a deeper understanding of texts by reading well-structured articles. Furthermore, reading articles daily helps learners to build confidence and fluency, which are crucial parts of academic success. This article highlights the value of articles in strengthening reading skills and comprehension, discussing their role in fostering critical and language proficiency.

Reading articles offer numerous benefits accross educational, cognitive, and language development domains. When it comes to the educational benfits of reading articles, a researcher Sungingwati (2018) noted that reading scificent articles aids

students to improve their ability to determine topics, expand vocabulary, and manage time effectively. Moreover, this process enhances their ability to summarize and paraphrase information, which are really fundamental for reading skills. Moreover, articles serve as a broader knowledge base. This is because articles provide diverse source of knowledge, helping readers to read better and effectively, which can also enhance their ability to read books [Serrano, 2011].

Articles can also be an effective tool for practical exercises. Engaging in practical exercises, such as reading news articles and identifying grammatical structures, can improve language competence. For example, according to the research conducted by Yén T & Le T (2020) shows that reading BBC news has significantly reduced the number of errors among English majors.

As for cognitive benefits, Renandya (2006) mentioned that reading articles also enhances cognitive and metacognitive strategy use, which is connected to better reading comprehension. Orlov (2021) mentioned that teaching students to read articles critically involves a providing structured framework for analyzing methods and results. This strategy assists students to develop better understanding of the content and improves their critical thinking skills.

Additionally, articles also include social advantages. For example, reading is associated with many social benefits, including improved communication skills and the ability to engage in informed discussions. Once students read a wide range of articles that cover various important topics, they can take part in informed discussions and explain their concept about the topic freely, as they have already got deeper understanding about the theme.

Reading is a fundamental skill which plays an essential role in language proficiency. Reading articles regularly is one of the best ways to improve reading. There are various types of articles, including news reports, academic papers, and comprehension and reading speed. One of the most noticeable benefit of reading articles is vocabulary expansion. In contrast to traditional textbooks, which often provide structured vocabulary list, articles introduce words naturally in different contexts. For instance, articles about environmental problems might contain scientific phrases such as “carbon emissions”, while business articles may include specific terms such as “financial projection” or “market trend”. Readers can gain better understanding of these words’ meaning and use in numerous contexts by seeing them in real-life usage. Additionally, articles assist learners to understand different writing styles and sentence structures. Academic articles typically use formal and complex sentence structures that articles help learners to improve formal writing skills.

Articles also strength comprehension skills. Unlike fictional stories which follows a clear narrative structure, articles often present facts, arguments, discussions in more analytical way. Another benefit of article is the increase of reading speed and fluency.

The majority of people still struggle with slow reading, since they pronounce words while reading. Reading different articles expose students to various reading techniques. For example, skimming allow readers to quickly identify main notions while scanning helps to find specific words efficiently.

Methodology

This study employs a quantitative research to investigate the impact of reading articles on improving reading skills. A survey based method will be used to collect the data from participants, enabling statistical analysis of their reading habits and skills development.

Participants will include university students whose levels are intermediate and focuses on the ages of 18 and 20 in Uzbekistan. 50 university students take part in this survey.

Data collection tools

Data is gathered using structured questionnaire. The questionnaire is divided into 3 sections:

1. Demographic information: the survey focuses on the ages of 18 and 20. These participants are male and female of university students whose levels are intermediate in english.
2. Reading habits: participants were asked about their frequency of reading articles, type of articles they read and the duration of time they spend to read the article.
3. Reading skill improvement: at the end of the survey participants were asked what benefits they got by reading articles. The options include reading speed, reading comprehension and critical thinking. Their object was to select the improved reading skill of them.

The main data collection tool for this study is a structured questionnaire, developed specifically for this research. It was distributed through Google Forms and participants were given enough time to respond.

Results and findings

1. Demographic information:
Age: 60% of students were aged 18, while 25% were 19, and 15% were 20.
Gender: 40% identified as male, and 60% as female.
English level: 80% of participants rated themselves as intermediate, 15% as beginner,
and 5% as advanced.
2. Reading habits:
Frequency: 42% reported reading articles every other day, 30% daily and 28% once a week or less.
Article type:
 - Political articles (18%)

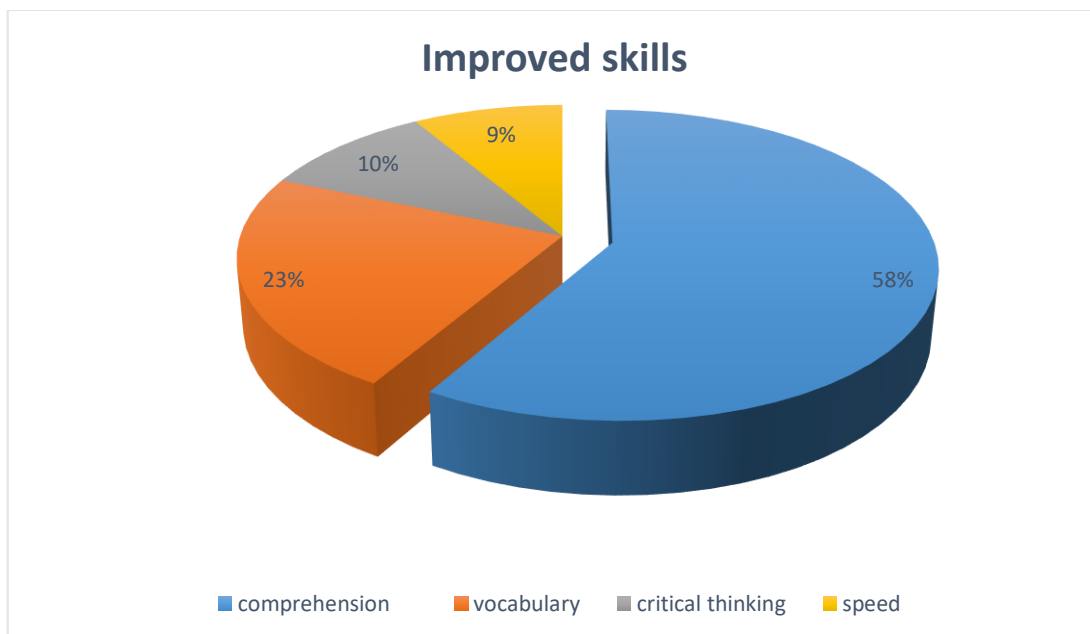
- News articles (55%)
- Academic articles (27%)

Participants noted spending 15-20 minutes on reading articles.

3. Reading skill improvement:

- Reading speed (9%)
- Vocabulary expansion (25%)
- Critical thinking (10%)
- Reading comprehension (58%)

An analysis of correlation indicated a positive relationship between the frequency of reading articles and claimed improvement in their reading skills. Participants who read articles often (daily or few times a week) represented a higher self-reported improvements in reading comprehension and speed compared to those who read less frequently (once a week).



This visual representation shows how reading skills growth happened under reading articles frequently. The data indicates that students gained better reading comprehension, understanding the context fully and clearly. Additionally, reading articles assisted students to build strong vocabulary source in different contexts. Reading speed and critical thinking of students showed similar proportions of 10% in the chart.

Conclusions and recommendations

The purpose of this study was to analyse how reading articles affected english learners’ reading skills. The results show that reading articles on a daily basis significantly contributes to reading comprehension, vocabulary enhancement, reading speed, and critical thinking skills. According to the findings, participants reading skills

enhanced significantly when they read articles more regularly. Moreover, the most popular article sources were news and academic articles. The correlation analysis further supported the idea that the more people read articles, the more they develop reading skills.

Based on the findings, these recommendations are proposed:

1. Develop a regular reading habit – reading articles daily or a few times a week enhance reading skills greatly.
2. Diversify reading sources - try to engage with various type of articles (news, academic, political) to expose yourself to varied vocabulary.
3. Use active reading strategies – while reading articles, highlight new words, summarize information and discuss them for boosting reading skills.

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