

Chapter 43: Improvement of Reading Skills in my School

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Abstract: Learning English as a second language has some struggles. One of those struggles that I focus on in my proposal is reading. As you know reading is the most important skill in any language specially in English.

Here I am going to emphasize on how reading going to be improved in my classroom, what are the strategies and methods that I should use with my students to support their influence in English. In this proposal I talked a lot about the goals that I am working on to achieve in my schools. Extensive and intensive reading, and influent in reading. These goals going to be under my emphasize till I achieve it. In Saudi Arabia We have excellent students who motivate us to give them the chance to discover their abilities and to obtain an English in and outside their classrooms.

This project has a plan and specific time for each goals. I am also mention the benefits of extensive and intensive reading, and influent in reading for students in high school stage. Also, support my project by results, statistics, and resources. Through these goals students need the confidence from us as a teacher. They will obtain that when they read aloud in front of their each other. This strategy is helpful for both teacher and students.

Introduction

Developing Reading Skills for High School Students

Iqraa, which means read, is the first word revealed in the Holy Quran. It encourages people to read so that's why reading is the key of knowledge. Reading is essential for all children to succeed in school and later on as an adult. It is also significant for those who look to complete their education on the English Language. Lack of English reading skills means lack of language. The issue here is the lack of reading in Saudi schools. The students don't have the opportunities to practice English reading skills in and outside the classroom because the curriculum in Saudi Arabia doesn't support the reading skill and there are few sections in the English books dedicated to reading. As an English teacher, I need to identify the specific issues that affect the students' understanding and address them. In my classroom I have a variety of abilities to teach the students the four English essential skills to help my students be successful two of these abilities are limited time and fewer of passages. My students have a lack of reading skills, English vocabulary, phonics comprehension, and the alphabet. As an English teacher I have a limited amount of time to teach all aspects of English.

Here are some examples that demonstrate the need for focusing more on reading skills in Saudi schools. Some students don't know how to read the compound letters such as (sh, ch, gh, etc.). After graduating from high school, the students will have to do some assessment tests such as STEP, TOEFL, and ILETS because it's a mandatory to some universities admission. Through my immersion in an American high school, I noticed that the school administration focuses on reading and give the students a chance to borrow any book he/she might need. Doing that in Saudi Arabia will help the students to enhance their reading comprehension through reading short stories, novels, passages in reading books, and newspapers articles.

The goal that I have for my students is to boost their confidence by helping them learn to read fluently. Understanding the content of a passage is important to help him/her to get the true meaning of the passage. I want my students to become good readers in the future, especially in university. I want to increase their vocabularies as much as I can by having them read more because reading is the key of developing the other skills like vocabulary and writing. Improving students' linguistics is one of goals that every teacher should focus on.

In conclusion, I want my students to increase their proficiency in reading. Reading is an important communication tool. Nowadays, Saudi Arabia has become a new country through new

projects. One of these projects is called NEOM which means new future. It provides a lot of jobs and it's based on having a higher education. Because of this, students should focus on their education, especially the English language. Reading helps creativity and innovation for students. So all positive teaching methods that I have learned from American schools, I will apply in Saudi schools. In this proposal I aim to emphasize the reading skills in Saudi curriculum and I will provide a plan to motivate students in Saudi Arabia to read. I also want to organize a book fair in the school with the aim to motivate more students to read.

Literature review

Developing reading skills

One of the most challenging skills in ESL is Reading. In the past decade, there has been continuous interest in improving reading as a considerable and practical means of language development for second and foreign language learners (Day and Bamford, 1998; Krashen, 1995). Extensive reading (ER) and constant reading (RR) are two types of reading instructions that have been used in English as a second or foreign language (ESL or EFL) as useful means of increasing reading fluency and understanding. ER is a method that allows readers to choose resources from a collection of books with the objective of reaching specific target times of silent sustained reading (Donnes, 1999; Hill, 1997). ER is thought to increase L2 learners' fluency, i.e., their ability to automatically recognize an increasing number of words and phrases, an essential step to comprehension of L2 texts (Grabe, 1991; Paran, 1996; Perfetti, Van Dyke, and Hart, 2001).

Teachers should use different types of reading styles to improve EFL such as the intensive and extensive reading. Those two types are suitable for those who look to reach the upper levels of English language. According to ERICA FERRER KENDRA STALEY (2016) When designing a creative reading plan, one can consider two admired perspectives to teach reading in the EFL classroom, intensive and extensive reading. While intensive reading entails that "each text is read carefully and thoroughly for maximum comprehension" (Aebbersold & Field, 1997, as cited in Hedgcock & Ferris, 2009, p. 161)

According to Alghamdi in reading skills, there are more specific criteria for each skill that conclude reading performance. For instance, counting how many words were read per minutes (WPM) is one way of evaluating the students' reading fluency (Young & Daly, 2016).

It's a good challenge that give a student's kind of enthusiastic that let him/her compete with his/her friends and then get a huge of vocabulary and enhance reading skills.

Using technology to improve reading skill

Technology can be beneficial in improving reading skill. The use of technology became a significant tool for learning in and out of the class. Ahmadi (2018) stated that technology has been used to help and develop language learning. He added by saying that technology allows teachers to adjust classroom activities that increase the language learning process. Technology became a valuable tool to help teachers smooth the progress of language learning for their learners.

Technology is an important section of teaching and learning environment. It is an indispensable element of the teachers' profession which they can use it to ease learners' learning.

Since technology is part of our everyday lives, it is time to integrate technology into the curriculum and help to implant technology into teaching to support the learning process. Technology becomes an essential part of the learning and a significant matter for teachers, start from preparing learning experiences through to teaching and learning process (Eady & Lockyer, 2013). So, teachers should use technology to enhance students skills in reading.

The application of technology has considerably changed English teaching methods. According to Patel (2013), technology provides so many alternatives as making teaching attractive and more fruitful in terms of advancement . In traditional classrooms, teachers stand in front of learners and give lesson as a lecture, explanation, and instruction through using blackboard or whiteboard. Its be boring without attractive uses.

History of Education in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Education in KSA formally began in the 1930s, with the founder of the third KSA government, King Abdul-Aziz (ALQHAMD I, A . May - 2019). Prior to the 1930s, there were a few informal schools scattered across the country. These schools used to teach religion and basic knowledge ,such as reading and writing. Few formal schools were created, mostly by volunteers, from in or outside the country. For instant , according to Wikipedia, an Indian woman created a formal school in Makkah, which is a city in KSA, in 1860s called Alsoltia School. This school was operated for around 150 years.

In 1990, introducing the English language as obligatory subject in Elementary schools for the sixth grade only the eight years ago. Also, for the fourth and fifth grades as proposal project in some schools only two years ago . However, this issue has been evident since the early 1990s. as Abdan's (1991) study on introducing the English language in Saudi public elementary schools. Ministry of Education decide to provide English language because it's importance in the future.

Implementation plan

Saudi high school students essentially possess deficiency on their personal language skills and limited fluency of reading passages due to traditional instruction that does not motivate them to learn. Reading is an acquisition skill based on vocabulary and background of prior knowledge. In addition, the curriculum does not have a short stories that contain daily life experiences. Students prefer clear topic which is relevant and motivates them to read. Also, students doesn't have the opportunity to read a lot because my school does not provide a reading competitions that encourages them to be good readers. Classrooms are one of the most significant contexts that help students to learn. It should be include motivating signs are posters. In my proposal I want to focus in increasing. To help students became better readers, I am going to focus on 3 things. Also, I use strategies to help my students be more extensive reader, intensive reader, and more influent reader.

Many studies shown that reading has a positive impact on ESL. So, most of them focus on extensive reading. Because it is the way that increase reading skills and accept the student a lot of knowledge. In my school Abi Alqassim Alrafee in Riyadh I will provide an English books and students have an ability to borrow books. In addition, I will provide a grapgic organizer to help student to know what they read. That will be twice a week.

Intensive reading is the second goal that I am planning to achieve when I back to home school. In this goal I will provide a plan that increase students comprehension through reading a short stories. After

read these stories students should write a brief what he understand from this story and he should memorize the new vocabulary on it. I will apply this strategy once a week during the academic year.

Students might be an influence in reading. When students relies on him/herself he will creative. I will give students a chance to read infront of his colleague (presentation) this presentation should be chosen by him to increase his boldness and avoiding reading mistakes. It will be during the academic year once a week.

Goals	Objectives	Activities	Rolls	Time
1- Extensive reading.	1-Provide graphic organizer to better understand an articles 2-Give students an access in school library and also have a chance to borrow books.	1-Make a competition between students to increase their reading skills.	I will play a roll as an observer and students will read a short story individually after I read it for them and they read in groups.	Timeline twice a week. Time period During the academic year.
2- Intensive reading.	1-Reading a short story and doing a brief	Provide motivation rewards.	As a teacher observe students and support them.	Twice a week during academic year
3- Influent in reading skills.	Provide a presentation stand. And stories books	Motivation rewards.	Students evaluate themselves by using a handout that I hand it to them.	Once a week during the academic year.

Evaluation plan

The main goal that I am going to focus on, is improvement English language as a second language especially in reading skill. Because it is the most important skill in English.

EF EPI Average:

44.92



As we can see in this chart above. That Saudi education is became 11th rank of the level of Arab countries of proficiency in English. To achieve my goal I need to start working through provide the means that guide students to enhance their language especially in reading skill. Extensive reading is the first goal that I want to emphasize on.

Extensive reading form: Appendix 1

Text	Words	Duration	Word coverage rate (word/day)	Time
The old man and the sea	766	2 days	383	1 session – 15 minutes
Peter And Wendy	1380	3 days	460	1 session – 15 minutes
Treasure Island	2420	4 days	605	2 sessions – 15 minutes
The black cat	8004	12 days	667	4 sessions – 15 minutes each
Good night moon	7000	10 days	700	3 sessions – 10 minutes each
The Wind in the Willows	9002	7 days	1286	1 session – 10 minutes

In this chart I am going to assess the student by his reading the text during the academic year. This assessment going to be included words, duration, and the time. By these words students start reading a text that include 765 in 2 days. It is about 15 minutes each day. Also, to evaluate the students you should follow the steps that you put starting by perfect, excellent, very good, good, and need to learn. There are a wealth of research into benefits of extensive reading for language learner. I an going to share with you some of these benefits.

- 1- Students became a good reader.
students learn a lot of Vocabulary through extensive learning.
- 2- Improve writing skill.

Intensive reading is the second goal that I want to achieve with my students in school. It means students emphasize the language more than the text that he is reading. My role in this goal is organizer/ observer. In the beginning I will read the text and explain it for them. And then ask them to do it together, finally let students do it by himself. During this method I will provide the graphic organizer for them as the on below.

Name: _____

Flower Writing

Detail #1: _____

Detail #2: _____

Detail #3: _____

Detail #4: _____

Detail #5: _____

Main Idea: _____

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And then ask students to write what did he understand from the text. This will be once a week for whole academic year. A lot of statistic confirm that graphic organizer is reinforcement students understanding especially in reading skills. It is extremely helpful for both students and teachers.

Finally, influence in reading is one of things that all people aspire to gain fluency in the language. It has mission for those who look to success in language. There are many factors that let students become an influence in reading. For example, Motivation, prior linguistic knowledge, and learning environment.

To sum up, Reading has some struggles which affect to students to be a good reader. In this proposal I am going to focus on these steps that increase students to enhance their

language especially in reading. As a teacher I should use some variety of strategies and technique to make a class activity.

Results

The topic of this proposal is how to improve English reading skills in my home school. Through this goal I mention 3 goals that I aspire to accomplish which is extensive, intensive reading and influent in reading. I support my project by add new methods that help my study to be completed. Expected outcome of a project . He expects from his goals are will be achieved because he will provide a multi ways and methods that would be responsible to improve students reading level. Student will be able to read an influent in front his colleague and teacher with limited mistake better than before. Also, Students know how the borrow books through the bookstore that I am going to provide to them. The goal of this library is to make students free to read at any time in their daily life. It will be have a variety of real stories books and other books that might be encourage them to read. Next Step with Anticipated Research The next step from topic expected is to let the principal and supervisor attend my classroom to see the students changes in English specially in reading skill after the time that I work on which is during the academic year. And then take their notes and observes to work on it. After that ask the district administrator to visit me in classroom to support hime to apply goals to whole the district schools. Next step with Unanticipated Research If these goals do not achieved after a short time. He will discuss the success ways with the principle and language supervisor to avoid the mistakes through the statistic that he made with students. He will meet with principle and supervisor to find how this tool can improved. This researcher will proceed more studies for achieving the goals.

Conclusion

Learning English as a second language comes with some struggles. One of these struggles that this proposal focuses on is reading. Reading is the most important skill in any language, especially in English. Lack of English reading skills means lack of language. The issue here is the lack of reading in Saudi schools. The students don't have the opportunities to practice English reading skills in and outside the classroom. The curriculum in Saudi Arabia doesn't support the reading skill and there are few sections in the English books dedicated to reading. Alongside that, a sense of confidence is a key factor in improving reading abilities. In Saudi Arabia, there are excellent students who motivate teachers to give them the chance to discover their abilities and to obtain English in and outside their classrooms. Many studies show that reading has a positive impact on ESL. So, most of them focus on extensive reading because it is the way that increases reading skills and provide the students with a lot of knowledge. In my school Abi Alqassim Alrafee in Riyadh I will provide English books and students have an ability to borrow books. In addition, I will provide a graphic organizer to help student to know what they read. Intensive reading is the second goal that I am planning to achieve when I back to home school. In this goal I will provide a plan that increases students comprehension through reading short stories. Finally, influence in reading is one of the things that all people aspire to gain fluency in the language. It has missions for those who look to succeed in language. There are many factors that let students become influence in reading. For example, Motivation, prior linguistic knowledge, and learning environment. In this proposal I am going to focus on these steps that increase students to enhance their language especially in reading.

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