

The Effectiveness of Reading in the National Libraries on the Development of English Language Skills

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ABSTRACT

The current study deals with The Effectiveness of Reading in the National Libraries on the Development of English Language Skills. The current study is composed of four chapters, the first chapter is the introduction, the second chapter is the literature review, the third chapter is the research methodology, while chapter four is the discussion of the data analysis. Basically, reading is viewed as an essential component to enhance language ability. This paper focuses on reading in national libraries and the role of the national libraries to enhance the linguistic knowledge of the language learners by reading widely for specifically in the English language. After the data analysis, it was found that the national libraries contribute significantly to overall language competence and proficiency; performance in all language skills, vocabulary growth and has a positive impact on grammar learning; it promotes reading fluency and speed; it is self-directed as learners choose what they read, as well as it is understood that students should read large amounts of high interest material to gain vocabulary, spelling, reading ability and overall linguistic competence.

KEYWORDS: National, Libraries, Reading, Ability, Teaching, Learning, Proficiency

1. Introduction

Reading is essential to full participation in modern society. It adds quality to life, provides access to culture and cultural heritage, empowers and emancipates citizen as well as brings people together. Reading is considered as an essential part to life. It is central to learning in school, work, and in everyday life. It is an important tool in education and individual development as it plays central roles in individuals' careers. It is seen by some scholars as a life-long activity that is conducted for specific purposes. Indeed, reading is central to learning as it sets the foundations for learners' future success. Actually, students should know how to guess the meaning of unfamiliar words, understand the sequence of events, find out the main ideas, evaluate content, discover the author's purpose, and give personal judgments. Reading is a wonderfully rich and complex human activity. It provokes reflection, introspection, and imaginative thinking and allows us to create and explore new ideas. It introduces us to different representations of the world. It fills our needs for information and communication and enables us to learn about different subjects, perform various tasks, participate in the workplace. (Kadam, 2015:191) A national library is a library established by a government as a country's preeminent repository of information. Unlike public libraries, these rarely allow citizens to borrow books. National libraries are usually notable for their size, compared to that of other libraries in the same country. (Kundu, 2010:27).

Aims The present study aims at:

1. Explaining what is reading, the national libraries as well as shedding light on the other related topics.
- 2- Investigating the effects of the national libraries on reading.
- 3- Identifying the role of the national libraries on the development of the language skills.

It is hypothesized that:

1. Most Iraqi EFL university students face difficulties in using the national libraries.
2. English language learners find difficulties in using the national libraries to develop the language skills.
3. Reading can be used to develop the language skills through the use of multiple activities.
4. Reading has ample learning benefits which leads to the development of language proficiency.

Value of the study

This study maybe valuable both theatrically and practically to the study of linguistics in general and to those who are interested in methods of Teaching in particular .It is an attempt to present an idea or a general frame about the reading , language skills and the national liberties of the English language and the effects of the national liberties upon reading and the language skills through conducting a test to measure the effects of national liberties in English language.

Limits of the Study

This study is limited to the search about the effects of the national liberties on reading in particular and the language skills in general by using a test to measure the effects of the national liberties upon their reading and applying this test on thirty students from the University of Babylon , Department of English language / Fourth Stage, during the academic study 2023-2024.

To achieve the aims of this study, and check its Hypotheses' validity , the following procedures will be adopted :

1. Presenting a theoretical study about reading, national libraries and the language skills .
2. Selecting a sample of Iraqi EFL university students; fourth year in a test designed to find out the effects of the national libraries on reading.
3. Analyzing the findings of the test to identify the effects of the national libraries as well as the study will rounded up with conclusions , recommendations , and suggestions for further studies.

2.Research Design and Methodology

The study was conducted at the Department of English at Babylon University . It addressed four EFL year students in this department . This research is conducted in the form of a test and used both qualitative and quantitative research approaches. Three main research instruments were used. The quantitative and qualitative methods are used to analyze the results of the test . The quantitative method is supported and favored by the fundamental sciences and is based on the construction of hypotheses that can be tested and confirmed by collecting, evaluating, and analyzing data in an empirical style. It is useful in finding facts and addressing the “what”, “when”, and - 13 - “where”. As for the qualitative research method, it is sustained by the human sciences and is based on enquiring, exploring, and discovering. According to Nalusiba(2006:53): “Qualitative research usually gathers observations, interviews, field data records, questionnaires, transcripts, and so on”. Indeed, it entails various research instruments which help the researcher to gather reliable data that give reason for the findings. This approach addresses the “why”. Indeed, the use of a mixed research approach has been praised and recommended by many researchers because it provides ground for searching, analyzing, and comparing subjects in a statistical way (Pressley, 2000).

Instrument of Research

Test As a means to measure the students' performance in the reading , how could they login ,read ,get benefit from them to enhance their reading skills in English language, a test was designed to assess the learners' performance in relation to reading at the recognition level and at the production level. The test aims at investigating the Effects of national libraries on Students of the Iraqi EFL learners whether they are able read , to recognize and produce the correct good at reading . A test is used to examine someone's knowledge of something to determine what that person knows or has learned or has difficulty in using something. It measures the level of skill or knowledge that has been reached. An evaluative device or procedure in which a sample of an examinee's behavior in a specified domain is obtained and subsequently evaluated and scored using a standardized process (Ontario,2003).

Test Analysis and Results

The test was implemented and the correction was according to a correction strategy in which the correct answer is given one mark and the incorrect answer is given zero . The following is table number one which shows the correct and incorrect answers for each item which their percentages Analysis of the first Question Most it the items in the

first question which test the performance of the students at the recognition level are answered correctly with a high percentage for each. For example Item number one has achieved high percentage of success because students have experience in such item ,in which that they can recognize that the auxiliary “Was ” "is related to the past tense is the correct answer as it is shown that the students have good grammatical feedback. As well as ,item number seven also achieved a high percentage of success to choose the word intelligent as giving the same meaning to the word smart , and ignore stupid and lazy options, twenty three out of thirty students answering it correctly to choose “intelligent ” from the given multiple choices. - 19 - Item number six, fifteen students answered it correctly and fifteen answered incorrectly. In all the given items ,the students who answered correctly seem they have a good l lexical feedback at the level of words . Item number nine has achieved the high percentage of success because students don’t have the ability to recognize the correct answer to choose “himself are” from the given multiple choices , seemingly the correct answer is himself as the reflective pronoun of the pronoun he . The overall correct answers are 192 out of 300 answers, while the incorrect answers are 108 out of 300. The students who answered incorrectly seems they lack for the accuracy in grammar and semantics and they have poor grammatical and Lexical knowledge in the English grammar.

Analysis of the first Question

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Analysis of the second Question

Most items in the second question are being answered incorrectly, the overall correct answers are 105 out of 300, while the incorrect answers are 195 out of 300. Apparently ,most students find difficulty in the production level , to produce correct items ,they seem that they lack for the appropriate grammatical and Lexical knowledge in English language because they produced sentences with grammatical and Lexical mistakes. Item number one and ten have achieved high percentage of success because students have experience in such items to produce accurate sentences ,in which that they can produce correct sentences . Item number seven has achieved the lower percentage of success because students don't have the ability to use correct grammatical sentence, they have poor grammatical knowledge. Only five students answered correctly . There is a significant difference between question one which is related to recognition level , and question two which is related to production level which proves the hypotheses of the study .

Conclusions

1. Theoretically , Reading helps to gain information about different things, new perspectives, stimulate imagination and helps to improve vocabulary. The national libraries enhance student learning outcomes by providing a range of programs, services and resources which support teaching and learning. It also supports and encourages students' reading experiences . Most of the national libraries do have authentic materials to encourage interest in reading. They encourage students to read extensively to improve their learning of English language through exposure to various language input. English subject teachers will consequently integrate the use of the national library to teach extensive reading skills.
2. Practically, from the findings of results of the study , it proved that the hypothesis of the research paper which states that Most Iraqi EFL university students face difficulties in using the national libraries because they have do not have good linguistic knowledge at the level of production more than at the level of the recognition . Accordingly, all the aims and hypotheses of the study have been verified. It seems that students have difficulty in producing a good writing by using their grammatical and Lexical knowledge , because the test proves that , most students answered the questions at the recognition level better than the questions at the production level.
3. Thus ,it seems that the students need to receive more information about how to use the national libraries to enhance the linguistic knowledge in English language. Because if the students have good feedback they will answer the given test professionally and correctly.

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