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## READING SKILL: A TEACHING PERSPECTIVE

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**Abstract:-**The present article exposes the phenomena of Teaching of Reading Skill for the new language learners of English. It proposes certain steps that can be followed while teaching of Reading Skill, especially English language. It expresses that, no method is fallible in itself, but its success depends upon the learners. It reveals the steps, which a beginner or a new learner should adopt to have a good speed and comprehension of the text.

In India, English is taught as a foreign language. As a result teaching of reading skill for English has got a peculiar importance. Many authors describe reading as passive skill i.e. when we read we sit back and the words flow into us. The matter of fact is that reading is an active process. Even silent reading is not totally inactive. Reading is the total understanding of a message or messages in a text. This means the meaning is not merely lying in the text waiting to be passively absorbed. On the contrary, the reader will have to actively involve and will have to get the meaning out. The reader must understand message involved by his own efforts as well as those of the writer. The present paper is confined to the teaching of reading skills for English language learners in India only.

**Keywords:** Teaching, method, skill, reading, types, language.

### INTRODUCTION

Reading is the amalgamation of visual and non visual experience or behaviour. It is the decoding print or deciphering print. Reading is understanding interpretation or making sense of a given text. It is an active skill and a receptive skill. We receive information when we read. Reading may mean many things and it takes on a different meaning in different contexts. Reading a time table means referring to a table, reading the palm means interpreting the lines in the palm, reading a dictionary also means referring to a particular lexical item or a structural item.

### READING OVERVIEWED

An interpretation of a message is a reading. It is correct interpretation of value of an utterance. The understanding of the text is dependent on the interpretation of an utterance. For example, if a reader interprets hypothesis as a conclusion and vice versa, it is clear that he may not understand the point of view of the writer. A reader seeks to extract the information from the text through reading. But this discussion seems incomplete as we can get information through directions as well without reading.

Indian students may face some specific difficulties while learning reading or writing English. They tend to learn English through the translation method. Students start learning through the reading and writing of their mother tongue with different sound system and then moves towards English. We may get different opinions about what should be taught first, reading or writing. However, we must keep in mind that these are the sides of the same coin and hence, cannot be detached from each other.

We can begin teaching of reading skill through certain methods. They are as follows.

### Methods of Reading

- 1) The Alphabetic method
- 2) The Phonetic method
- 3) The Syllabic method
- 4) The Word method
- 5) The Phrase method
- 6) The Sentence method

#### The Alphabetic Method

In this method, names of letters of alphabet are given first, syllables combining those letters come next and lastly comes the word, with its pronunciation. This method is good for learning spellings, but the sounds of letters remain obscure. This is traditional method of first learning the alphabet, then stringing letters together to make words, and finally fitting them into sentences, words are taught by splitting them into letters. E.g. 'r' 'u' 'n' 'run'. Fluency and speed also are not gained in this method.

#### The Phonetic Method

It is contrary to Alphabetic Method. It emphasizes on the phonetic sounds of letters. This method is more logical and interesting to learners. It also helps teachers to give effective speech training. But some critics are of the view that, English spelling is highly unphonetic, so its of no use of expecting pupils to read word with correct pronunciation.

#### The Syllabic Method

In this method emphasis is laid on syllables in place of letters. Thus syllable, which form a compact sound, is the unit of teaching. But teaching of syllables alone will lead the pupil nowhere.

#### The Word Method

The teacher first writes words on the blackboard. Then he reads those words. The students learn the sounds of the words and then they repeat the words with ease after the teacher. Students follow the teacher and teacher makes them repeat in his presence. Any unit of language like a word is most economical and convenient. It has a meaning and sounds of letters having a pronunciation. Word and sound are easy units for a learner and teachers should be careful in the while using this method.

#### The Phrase Method

Instead of word the teacher presents a group of words on the blackboard, the procedure of teaching remaining the same. Again the expphasis is on meaning. Phrases are learned more easily than the isolated words.

#### The Sentence Method

One reads and picks up a language, neither by words, nor by phrase. The most comfortable and easy to learn method of reading English is a Sentence Method. Conversation and practice are very important in this sentence reading method. He also suggests games for picking up sentences. When a learner speaks or listens to the sentences thus prescribed and later on practice them, they get imprinted in his memory. Fluency is gained later on by the learners. There are some types of understanding accoring to this method. They are 1) Imaginative understanding essential for reading fiction, novel etc. 2) Precise understanding to understand what is conveyed in science journal text and 3) Practical understanding To follow instruction correctly where some action is to be follow done after reading.

### TYPES OF READINGS

**There are two types of reading.**

- 1) Loud reading
- 2) Silent reading

#### Loud reading

Loud reading removes the defects in speaking; it is also a good test to the learner. It is an art, so it develops a sense of

appreciation and prepares pupils to do effective silent reading. Loud reading is effective for pronunciation and sound training, pitch stress, emphasis, questioning etc.

### **Silent reading**

Silent reading enables the students to acquire complete mastery of language and helps them to consolidate different skills. Most of the readings which people or student does in their day to day working are only silent type of readings. Silent reading is fulfills the comprehension purpose. It is good for fluency and speech. It is expected that lot of practice by the teachers of English should be given to the students in regular classes.

We can say that, though the learners face difficulties such as recognizing words, narrow span of attention, mispronunciation, lack of quick comprehension etc. which gives rise to serious problem such as retardation in reading. It can be overcome through proper training such as

- 1) For elderly students number of books should be provided to cultivate good reading habit, which will open the wide vistas of reading to the individual
- 2) For kids good story books should be provided which contain pictures. This will help to have good comprehension of what they are reading.
- 3) At a later stage sub skills such as skimming and increase of eye span should be taught so that they can read more in less time.

Thus through some innovative methods and experiments we can successfully remove the problem of retardation in reading of learners. Then reading can really become the skill to be used effectively.

### **CONCLUSION**

Thus, teaching of reading skill has a very significant place in curriculum. It gives and insight into the text and makes a reader enable to read and trace out the meaning between and beyond the lines.

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