

USING AUTHENTIC TEXTS FOR DEVELOPING B1 LEVEL LEARNERS' READING SKILL

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Abstract. Reading is an important skill since it helps learners to broaden their knowledge and comprehend texts. The use of authentic texts is addressed for teaching reading comprehension as well as for creating materials to improve the teaching-learning process of this skill. That's why, the article aims to investigate the use of authentic texts to enhance reading skill of B1 level learners. The result of the research depicted that it is of high importance to use authentic texts to improve reading skill of B1 level learners.

Keywords: reading skill, authentic texts, B1 level learners, language competence

Introduction. Reading is considered as a fundamental skill that is entwined with other abilities such as listening, speaking and writing. Pupils are expected to comprehend reading material to achieve the best results possible in teaching and learning.

According to Bano, Jabeen and Quitoshi, reading is a skill that how to extract ideas from text and create an understanding of that idea. This implies that reading serves as a process for pupils to acquire knowledge and information throughout the learning process.[2. 42-59].

Furthermore, Alexander stated that certain pupils construct meaning from the reading text with their experience and prior knowledge. They connect the text's ideas to what they already know in order to gain comprehension. The majority of pupils can understand the contents after they read each and every word and spend an inordinate amount of time repeating the text's difficult terms. [1].

As it can be seen from the views of scholars, reading is considered as an important skill. Authentic materials are considered as the best way to improve reading skill of B1 level learners. Moreover, it is the students' need for communication in English inside and outside the classroom. In addition to English grammar and the fixed teaching points given in textbooks, there should be other authentic texts in reading classes to develop B1 level learners' communicative competence, help students express their ideas fluently and accurately, help students form critical responses to a reading text. Thus, authentic texts in reading, if used properly, will encourage learners to communicate in the target language though they are not purposefully designed to be used in a foreign language class.

Furthermore, there are wide ranges of authentic texts produced in and by professional community e.g. literary and art publications, marketing brochures, business proposals, formal letters and et cetera that can benefit them.

The first authentic texts for reading should meet certain requirements, such as:

- Be preferably short than long
- Have a simple plot and set of characters,
- Should not be overwhelmed by complicated vocabulary,
- Be easily interpreted,
- Should be relevant to the students' needs,
- Do not contain any irregular linguistic forms (e.g., dialects, slang etc.) - Should be interesting for students. At the same time, careful preparation is extremely important if the teacher chooses an authentic text.

According to Ferit Kilickaya, there are five main of using authentic materials, as follows:

1. The materials contain the positive impact on students' motivation, and the materials will naturally boost students' motivation because normally people will be excited when exposed to something connected to their preference and interest.
2. The materials serve the authentic cultural information, it is beneficial for students, especially for EFL students to get to know the culture of the target language. However, it could not be denied that language is strongly connected the culture, because language is a part of it.
3. The materials expose the students of real language, it is very important to students to be exposed to real language. Real language will provide tudents the language that is used by the native speaker. In the end, it will meet a demand of good communication to the target language.
4. The materials connect to more likely to students' needs. In the era of globalization, English is not only used for pedagogical purposes but also for bussiness, medical, and other aims in particular. Therefore, because of authentic materials exposed to the real language, it is close ly related to everyday life activity. Hence, the students will find the materials useful since it can be applied in their social life and importantly improve their communication skills to the target language.
5. The materials help to approach of teaching meth od creatively, the teacher will have much more variety of materials in teaching and automatically pushes the teacher to be more creative in deciding wisely how to present the authentic materials for her/his students. [5.79-82].

According to Gilmore, careful planning, selection and sequencing of materials and tasks are recommended when using authentic materials[4]. He also summarizes challenges associated with using authentic materials:

- The cultural content may seem too unfamiliar.
- The content may become obsolete too quickly.
- The language may be too difficult.
- The vocabulary may be too specialized.
- The grammar structures may be too complex.
- The preparation may require too much time[6].

Besides, there are some other advantages of using authentic materials:

- The exposure of "Real" language is reflected along with the language change/ variation, the students will reflect themselves of what they have in their community and put as an evidence that language is not only studied in the classroom but beyond what students have learned so far. They will compare and understand more between their society and the native country bluntly.
- The materials provide the actual information of current event around the world, mostly authentic materials provide the students with update issue of what event happen in the present day. The complex and improper English are often being found in the authentic texts and turn into something outdate rapidly, it is because the textbooks are used continuously over some periods so that the students will study the same issue of certain text.
- The materials which is exactly the same piece can be reused in using, the authentic materials are very flexible. The materials can be used not only in one skill but also other skills in using one particular material.
- The materials are compatible in developing skimming/scanning reading skill, authentic materials usually provide much particular information in single text. They provides a lot of kinds of texts type; in term of reading, authentic materials provide a lot of type of text. For example, newspaper article, brochure, greeting card, song lyrics and many more. The language styles are not easy to acquire in traditional/conventional teaching materials, it is very "authentic" so that the language is very pure and unchange . it is very different compare to the nonauthentic one which is modified and using very familiar and formal word choice.
- The materials are believed to be encouraging since the serve the intere sting topics; the authentic materials often make the reader feel comfortable and happy because it contain the very new event and hobby connected to

reader's interest such as football review, nature documenter, photohgraphy, greenish movement, etc.[3.60-69].

Conclusion. As it can be seen that applying authentic texts in the classroom has many purposes. The students can be always up to date with the current issue in the world. And it will increase B1 students' motivation in learning reading skill. Besides, authentic texts also bring students in real situation although classroom is not the real situation but authentic text can represent the absence of the real world, moreover authentic texts will help students in producing the achievement in classroom.

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