

Identification of Reading Difficulties in the Subject of English at Secondary Level: A Case Study of Federal Govt. Schools

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Abstract

Language is considered a strong weapon to develop and strengthen the relationship between human beings. The purpose of language learning is to enable a man to communicate in that particular language. In daily life communication people need and use a variety of language skills-listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Reading is one of the four macro skills to be developed as a means of effective communication in both first and second language learning context. It is a common observation that most of our students cannot read a text with suitable speed and proper understanding. The study was conducted in order to identify the Reading difficulties of students in the subject of English and a survey type research methodology was adopted to collect the data. A Questionnaire was designed for 280 students from 07 Federal Government Schools of Punjab, Pakistan. 20 students from grade 9 and 20 students from grade 10 were randomly selected from each school by giving equal representation to all the schools. The collected data was analyzed through SPSS and a comparison was made among the results of different respondent's observations. At the end of the study, the findings indicate that a significant majority of the respondents were of the opinion that they encountered the reading difficulties in pronunciation, vocabulary, accent, silent words, abbreviations, grammatical structure and in narrative writings. Majority of the respondents suggested that their reading skill can be improved by daily newspapers reading and story books, by frequent reading drills, visiting the different libraries and by providing extra reading sessions in formal class rooms.

Keywords: Language learning, communication skill, reading skill, reading difficulties, pronunciation, vocabulary, accent etc, newspapers and story books, reading drills, libraries.