

A Critical Study of Comprehension Strategies and General Problems in Reading Skill Faced by Arab EFL Learners with Special Reference to Najran University in Saudi Arabia

By

Syed Raihan Ahmed Nezami

Lecturer, Department of English, College of Arts and Sciences,
Najran University, Najran, Saudi Arabia

Abstract

There is a general assumption in regard of reading skill; it is supposed to be one of the easiest of the four skills i.e. listening, speaking, reading and writing for a beginner and the university students as well that is proved untrue by the researcher (Lebaure 1985). The reading skill of the EFL learners (English as Foreign Language) requires a sufficient knowledge of vocabulary of English language, the adeptness in scanning and skimming ability; reading speed and power of comprehension are also equally important. In general, the EFL learners in Saudi Arabia lack in proficiency in predicting the meaning in a particular context and summarizing the gist of the passage. The reading comprehension can be done through two ways – extensive way and intensive way at junior level. In the researcher's opinion, the extensive way with some features of intensive teaching like rigorous computer assisted practice is more fruitful for students for a particular purpose. It is directly related with the classroom teaching that is the centre of attention of my research. The aim of this project is to find out the reading problems inside classroom, so it will throw some light on comprehension problems in reading skill faced by the Arab learners in general and the students of Preparatory Year (boys) and Community College (boys) of Najran University in particular. In general, the difficulty is felt in different areas such as use of vocabulary, scanning, skimming, prediction and summarizing in the process of comprehension of English language by Arab learners (boys) in Najran University.

Keywords: *Najran University students, reading skill, English comprehension problems, EFL Learners*