



## IMPACTS OF READING BOOKS IN IMPROVING WRITING PROFICIENCY

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### ABSTRACT

This article highlights the importance of reading not only in education but also in a person's whole life, how it helps to improve writing skills, and how to solve the difficulties encountered in writing a task by reading a book. This article also presents the results of questionnaire, which determine how much reading has helped to improve writing proficiency.

**Keywords:** memory management, vocabulary, grammar, new ideas

### INTRODUCTION

The book is an inexhaustible source of knowledge in people's life. The role of books in our life can hardly be overestimated. By reading extensively, students develop good reading habits, build up knowledge of the target language, and gain encouragement and pleasure from reading [1]. The importance of reading is due to the fact that it develops thinking, enriches people with knowledge, and helps to keep the mind active. Reading is an interactive or socio-cognitive process that results in creating meaning from the printed text [2]. From books, you can glean a variety of information that cannot be found anywhere else. For many centuries, reading for many people remained the main form of leisure time, and even after the advent of radio, television and the internet, books continue to be the most important source of information, and reading is one of the most common ways of spending time meaningfully. As a person reads books, they memorize their contents, which stimulates the area of the brain responsible for memory management. So reading can increase memory and attention.

There are also many other benefits of reading. For instance, reading has a great role in improving writing skills. We do not learn to write by writing, but rather by reading [3]. Good reading, like effective writing, involves generative processes that create meaning by building relations between the text and what we know, believe, and experience [4]. Reading can improve people's writing skills because it adds new words to vocabulary. The more people read, the more new words they will get to use in their writing. When they start writing something on topics, they can use the new words that they have learned. Whenever pupils read new books, they understand their meaning, but beyond that, they also see a way of writing that helps them write correctly. Reading helps expand vocabulary, gains understanding of other writing styles and techniques, and helps develop creativity.



Many students also find the writing task difficult. Because they face different difficulties in performing the writing task. Vocabulary is the main reason that puts students in a situation that is extremely unpleasant. Because they will not be able to find words to express their thoughts perfectly while completing the writing task. Or they cannot use words in their own sense. Another aspect that makes it difficult for students to complete a writing task is the grammar. If a student does not have enough knowledge of the necessary rules of grammar, it is impossible to make a sentence, even if the vocabulary is sufficient. It is also possible to express meaningful and relevant ideas during writing. But sometimes no suitable ideas can be found for the topic of writing. And a reading can be a solution to these problems encountered in completing the writing task.

## **Vocabulary**

Vocabulary is very important in all aspects of language, such as reading, writing, speaking and listening. Mainly in the writing task strong vocabulary is required to express ideas skillfully. Vocabulary is important in intelligibly conveying ideas to the reader.

Ways that having a strong vocabulary helps when writing include:

- being able to choose more descriptive words to help your reader envision what you are describing.
- being able to adapt your writing for your audience (e.g., simpler words for children and more complex words for college students).
- creating more variety in paragraphs and sentences with vocabulary words which keep your reader interested in what you have to say [5].

Reading builds vocabulary skills and background knowledge that strengthens reading skills and increases the enjoyment of reading [6]. Reading is the simplest and most effective way to improve vocabulary and apply them in performing a writing task without difficulty. Students can memorize words naturally through reading. During reading, students encounter a number of new words. And by seeing the translation of these words through the dictionary, by re-encountering these words in the text, these new words can be stored in memory for a long time. Students also do not have to spend time translating them from dictionary, it is also possible to learn the translation of unfamiliar words simply through the context when they encounter new words during reading.

## **Grammar**

Grammar is necessary and important part of writing. It represents one of the key aspects of language learning. It is on the basis of existing grammatical dogmas that words are built into phrases, and then whole sentences are formed. Only thanks to grammar, writing becomes meaningful and understandable to the majority. Without knowledge of grammar, people simply will not be able to master the language skills qualitatively, to make writing coherent and understandable.

Grammar can also be improved through reading. During the continuous practice of reading, the reader encounters different grammatical structures. So the ones that cause grammatical difficulty in expressing ideas are articles, tenses, and proportions. While reading, these structures, tenses, articles, and prepositions become sealed in the pupil's brain if special attention is paid to them. For each learned



grammatical rule, it is also possible to reinforce them by composing sentences independently. And during writing they can be used without difficulty.

## **New ideas/points**

The most common problem encountered in performing a writing task is a lack of meaningful and relevant ideas. Sometimes there is no idea to write an answer to a given writing question. The solution to this problem can also be reading. Reading is one of the most important sources of information [7]. Reading opens up new ideas for people. There are so many ideas that we have never even heard or considered. However, as we read a small book, we may come across ideas that can change the world around us. The books contain a wealth of experience and knowledge of other people, a lot of ideas, techniques, and strategies. Through reading, people will discover stories, facts, and arguments for their work, discover new ideas, and find connections that will improve their writing.

## **Questionnaire**

### **Aim of the Questionnaire:**

The purpose of this questionnaire is to provide English language learners with books and to determine how much it helped them improving writing proficiency by reading these books over time.

Which part of the writing task did reading help the most?

| Options          | Number | Percentage |
|------------------|--------|------------|
| Vocabulary       | 7      | 28%        |
| Grammar          | 3      | 12%        |
| New ideas/points | 5      | 20%        |
| All of them      | 8      | 32%        |
| Did not help     | 2      | 8%         |
| Overall          | 25     | 100%       |

As can be seen from the table above, a large percentage of foreign language learners have noted that the problems they face in completing a writing task can be solved through reading. For example, 28% of people reported that they improved their vocabulary by reading. "All of them" has showed the highest score in this table. It means that, reading was very helpful in all aspects of writing, which makes it difficult for foreign language learners to complete a writing task.

In conclusion, the book plays a huge and most important role in a our life. Reading books contributes to the mental development of children and adults, improves imagination, makes a person more educated. And sometimes, through books, you can even get a useful life experience that almost does not differ from the real one. Books are read to gain knowledge, to find ideas, but we can also say that books form a worldview, values, beliefs, personal philosophy, and all this undoubtedly affects the standard of living in general. Reading opens up new worlds. Reading allows you to travel and get to know different cultures, religions, places and people, all through the pages of a wonderful book.



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