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RESEARCH ARTICLE

READING HABIT OF UNIVERSITY STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO ENGLISH LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT

¹Dr. Akilandeewari, K. M.A., M. Phil., Ph.D. and ²Dr. Shanmugasundram, A. Ph. D.

¹Assistant Professor in Department of English, King Khalid University, Saudi Arabia

² Govt. Arts and Science College, Coimbatore, Tamilnadu, India

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ABSTRACT

Reading skill is essential tool for the student's community to enhance their ability and comprehend the content. The researcher planned to assess the reading habit of English department graduate students to find the level of assigned reading habit during their course and leisure reading habits. The developed questionnaire was administered to the students and data were analyzed. The result reveals that most of students had adopted the assigned reading habits during their course of study effectively and leisure reading had supported for them to improve their knowledge, vocabulary, pronunciation. So the researcher conclude that to acquire various type of reading habits will enrich their knowledge and help the students to bring their potential and exposed more in English language throughout their carrier.

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INTRODUCTION

Reading is a kind of learning process in English Language skill. It is a part of integrated skill which has been given the meaning while the students are reading the books, newspapers magazines, email recourses, novels, short stories etc.,. Reading involves in-depth concentration to get the minimum meaning for each term in sentences, and the students can able to relate their concepts while they are reading the text. The present study deal with how the reading habit will help and enhance their Language skill to comprehend the meaning for Saudi student's community. The researcher believe that reading habit will enrich the students knowledge to write themselves, and get to know the more terms to interpret the visual information of any given codes or systems. Williams (1984) defines reading as a process in which a reader looks at a text and understands when has been written. He further states that reading does not mean a person needs to understand everything he reads because people read for different purposes. Reading practice refers to the behavior, which expresses the willingness of reading and mode of choosing the text or messages. So, the researcher discovered that university students can able to developed their skills and perform their academic sessions, according to the gender, age, educational background.

University students are groups that are expected to have a high level of reading habit which is among the individual students and also for academic success and social development. Thus, the determination of reading habit of university students is concern; students need to show their skill throughout the carrier and life.

Review of Literature: Reading is generally accepted as a way of acquiring new communication and new knowledge. It is not only to enrich the knowledge, but also to build the maturity and widen awareness of compemporary issues (Kim and Anderson 2011). A good reading habit is very essential for the development of personalities and mental capacities. Reading habit helps the students to grow the healthy intellectual growth and plays a very crucial role in enabling a person to achieve language proficiency. Thanuskodi (2011) explains that one should read books and other materials to acquire knowledge. It is difficult to be acquainted with the surroundings without reading or get in touch with the mass media. Vera & Sonar (2013) ascertain the impact of digital media and Internet on reading habits. Traditional reading habits of library users have now changed with the changing environment and working culture. People are now looking for an opportunity to read content in electronic mode via Internet, E-mail, etc. and read content while travelling around the world. The authors state that traditional libraries and digital libraries supplement each other to meet the needs of various kinds of readers.

*Corresponding author: Dr. Akilandeewari, K. M.A., M. Phil., Ph.D., Assistant Professor in Department of English, King Khalid University, Saudi Arabia.

Hence libraries are under the influence of modern technologies which have converted the functional activities in all walks of life.

Objective of Research

- To measure the average of leisure reading habits of the university students
- To identify the level of assigned reading habits during their course
- To find the reasons whether the average leisure reading habits or assigned reading habits will help the students to improve their skill during their course.

METHODOLOGY

The present study is conducted for the university female graduate students in which the sample was elicited from the English department graduate students by means of random sampling. The data analysis is descriptive in nature. A total of Seventy five students took part in this study. All the students were belongs to King Khalid University from the Tehama region, Saudi Arabia. All the respondents are graduate students especially from the English Language Department. The Developed Questionnaire (Alan McMillan and Philip Shaw92009) Department of English, Stockholm University) were administrated to the students and analyzed the data. All the students were asked to respond on the types of reading materials they like to read and how long they read in a day.

Table 1. Distribution of level of Age groups of the students

Sino	Gender	Age groups	No of Students	Percentage of the students
1	Female University graduate students	Under 21	8	10.66
2		21-30	60	80
3		31+	7	9.33

Table 2. Distribution of level of formal education completed of the parents

Sino.	Level of formal education completed	Father	mother	Total no of parents	Percentage %
1	Age 14	13	5	18	24
2	Age 15-16	5	5	10	13.33
3	Completed Secondary education	18	3	21	28
4	Some post school education	8	4	12	16
5	Completed university degree	10	4	14	18.66
				75	

Table 3. Level of reading habits of the Arabic and English Language

Sino	Reading habit of Languages	Above Average	Average	Below Average	Total No of students	%
1	Arabic	14	6	5	25	33.3
2	English	28	20	2	50	66.66

Data Analysis and interpretation

Demographic data: All the respondents in this present study were selected from the graduate females from the English Language Department, King Khalid University.

Table 4. Type of Leisure time Reading habits of the materials

Sino	Type of Reading Materials	No of hours			Number of students and %	
		3.5 hrs	3.5-7 hrs	8-14 hrs	Total No of students	%
1	Novels	7	4	1	12	16
2	Newspapers, magazines	12	5	4	21	28
3	Non-Fiction books	10	2	3	15	20
4	Internet fiction	6	1	1	8	10.66
5	Internet non fiction	3	1	0	4	5.33
6	Internet news	14	0	1	15	20
					75	

With regard to the age group of the students 80 % of the students belongs to 21- 30 years and under 21 10.66% and 31+ only 9.33%. The table shows that most of them are having capacity to read and mature enough to comprehend to learn and read the English language. Considering the Parent education 28% of them completed Secondary education only few of them 18.66 % of the parents completed University degree, and 24% of them completed some school education under 14 years. The result shows that most of the parents completed secondary school and some are completed their university degree ,because the parents are started thinking about the importance of education and get awareness of education through different media. They are expecting now days high standard of language proficiency from their children must be help for their future academic success.

With regard to reading habits of the students most of them are 50% of the students read the content in English very well then their mother tongue is above average and average level . This shows that the students have improved a lot during their course of their study. This table shows that 28% of the students used to read newspapers and magazines, 20% of them read Nonfiction books and Internet news, 16% of them used to read Novels and 10.66% of them read only internet fiction through computer, 5.33% of them have the habit of reading nonfiction through the internet. The result shows that most of them are having the habit of reading newspapers, magazines and internet news, because during their course of study the acquired a lot and learned to read different sources through internet that reinforces the students to achieve their academic success and improve their knowledge.

Conclusions and Recommendation

The result reveals that reading habit helps to enrich the communication skills ,and focused to be a creative faculties in future and also got different information by reading the Newspapers, magazines, and Nonfiction books in English language , though their mother tongue is Arabic language. So reading habit in English language reinforces the graduate students to achieve and developed their knowledge during their course and also future academic research. The present study also indicate that most of them are having interest to read worldwide information through internet during their leisure time under the age group of above 21-30, though their most of their parents are completed only secondary education. Comparing with average leisure time reading habits and type of assigned reading habit of English language according to the age group shows that assigned reading habit helped a lot for their academic improvement to enhance their skills for future development. The researcher found that Arabic language mother tongue female students can able to read well in

English language because of their reading habits and their ability, allotted more time for assigned reading habits during their course. This happened because of their academic professionals in the English language Department. The faculties in English language department encouraged, motivated to the Saudi student's community. So the researcher conclude that to acquire various type of reading habits will enrich their knowledge and help the students to bring their potential and exposed more in English language throughout their carrier.

Recommendation

- This study can be done with different type of mother tongue students at university level.
- This study can be done with male graduate students at University level.
- The research can be done with different professional student's community with various specializations.

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