

# Impact of Using Newspapers Reading in Improving English Reading Proficiency: A Study of Pakistani University Students

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The current study was planned to investigate the impact of reading newspapers on English reading proficiency of university students. It was an experimental study that used pretest posttest experimental design. The population was all the students enrolled at University of Education Faisalabad in the department of English. Forty students were selected randomly and divided in two groups on the basis of their previous achievement score. One group was taught through the traditional book reading method. The other group was taught through reading the passages from the selected newspaper. The reading proficiency test was developed and administered by the researchers. The comparison was made using the t-test on control and experimental as well as regular and irregular newspaper readers. The results revealed that the students who used newspapers to improve the reading ability performed better in reading proficiency as compared to non-readers of newspaper. The experimental group had higher performance than that of control group. The use of newspaper helped them to improve their performance in reading proficiency. The mean achievement score showed that the regular newspaper readers showed better achievement than that of irregular news readers. It is thus recommended that there should be allocated extra time in reading newspapers so that the reading ability of the students may be improved.

**Key words:** *Reading newspapers, students' performance, reading proficiency.*

## Introduction

Learning a language is a complicated phenomenon and the research in this area has always remained significant. As a result of globalization, the world has become global village with increased connectivity which has consequently increased the need of a common language to make communities across the globe understandable to each other (Canagarajah, 2007). Hence, English language has gained the status of that global or international language as it is spoken and understood in approximately all corners of the world (Phillipson, 2017). The whole world is divided in three categories on the base of the status of English in each country (Yan0, 2017). The first category where English is used as native language includes countries where English is the native language. English as second language countries are those where English is not the native language but is widely used in education or other sectors. The third category where English is not used actively, this includes countries where the status of English is that of the foreign language.

Pakistan is amongst ESL (English as second language) list which means that English is actively used in the country (Abbas, Jalil, Zaki & Irfan, 2020). English is the British legacy left behind by the colonizers who ruled over this territory for quite a long time. English language is still being eulogized despite the lapse of seventy years after independence. English remains active in education, law, bureaucracy and is considered a status symbol in the society (Abbas & Iqbal, 2018). It is taught as a subject as well as language in educational institutions and is spoken by the highly influential faction of the community (Abbas, Pervaiz & Arshad, 2018). There is close association between English language skills and the job and career prospects (Khan, Bashir & Abbas, 2020).

There is bulk of literature available on teaching of English language but there is dearth of research in the area of reading proficiency. There is lack of reading proficiency among Pakistani English learners despite receiving education in English (Ahmed, Abbas, Jalil & Ahmad, 2019). The current research aims to fill in the existing gap and enlighten the readers by conducting experimental study. The research aims at investigating the impact of using newspapers on the reading proficiency of English language learners.

## Literature Review

Newspapers are an effective source of learning language and have many educational benefits. Readers of inspiring newspapers are clever, dynamic and preferred educated among researchers. Newspapers help in improving knowledge, awareness and reading habits. Newspaper readers become the part of good study habits in a specialized area (Kumar, Singh, & Siddiqui, 2011). Newspapers help us in spreading beautiful ideas and future understanding. Reading Newspapers may help us gather great deal of vocabulary and increase our reading



aptitudes. Asokan and Dhanavandan (2013) showed that professionals used the newspapers for improving their general knowledge. Reading is an amazing activity for human interaction. Akanda, Hoq and Hasan (2013) it is an unchallenged way of mental exercise. Reading of newspaper is a habituated and it influences readers to discover and store house of knowledge (Majumder & Hasan 2013).

It is a decent source of learning and vocabulary. English is dialect which is utilized as a part of our language classrooms. Presently the inquiries emerge that how we can enhance English dialect in learning and teaching. The students who read the English newspapers daily had higher level of reading and confidence (Nagashetti & Kenchakkanavar, 2015). The fundamental answer is that through reading abilities. It is appropriately said that books and Newspapers are the best wellspring of learning. Newspaper is the social action to speak with others. It shapes our character. Reflects social esteems, physical condition and culture of a general public and makes the collaboration simple and conceivable.

Daily papers are apparatus for instructive and individual strengthening. Daily papers are the best hotspots for the data and advancement in each field. Daily papers need to wind up noticeably more free, more practical translator of data. It helps for the advancement of aptitudes for the scholarly and individual strengthening. In the 21st century daily papers have more critical on the grounds that they give worldwide data to each individual whether he/she is businessperson, government official, retailer, educator and understudy. Daily papers are one of only a handful couple of wellsprings of data that are thorough, interconnected, and offered in one configuration. Daily papers assume a basic part in battling the issue of specialization of data introduction for the instructive advancement; daily paper is the primary hotspots for the improvement of understudies and additionally educator. It is likewise useful to the educator for powerful instructing. The students should have the capacity to foresee patterns to create proper methodologies for proficient improvement, professional determination, particular work, and monetary arranging and endeavor.

Daily papers in the classroom advance basic considering. Basic intuition capacities must be produced if students are presented to fortifying data about which testing inquiries. Reading daily newspapers help students to create vocabulary and access to verbatim transcripts. Daily papers give utilization of the data reading, basic considering, logical abilities, and amalgamation aptitudes required for understanding. Daily papers assist students with making associations among various fields, subjects, points, issues, and occasions, and henceforth enable them to ask the correct inquiries. Daily papers must empower understudies, proclamations, practices, and hands-on issues of competitors, and give literal transcripts. It likewise empowers to students for reading the writings of essential addresses, official statements, articulations, and reports so they can reach their own inferences (Denish, 2009).

An ability is learnt and fortified in a way acknowledged for each situation naturally (Blaha & Bennett, 1993). The abilities are continued till the proficiency level was acquired (Aksaçlıoğlu, 2005). When reading, which is the fundamental way of intellect is changed into reading propensity. The propensity for reading is the demonstration of reading being done all through life in a steady, general and basic way because it is a personal need and source of joy (Yılmaz, 1993).

The propensity for reading is the premise of long lasting learning. It is vital for the demonstration of reading to be led consistently all through life (Odabaş, Odabaş & Polat, 2008). The college which is the most extreme phase of formal training, is a period when youngsters complete the demonstration of reading the most regularly and essentially. This period is a beneficial period for the securing of getting a charge out of, mindfulness and cognizance in reading (Yılmaz, Köse & Korkut, 2009). College youth are the young individuals matured between 17-25, who are accepting an extraordinary youth culture, and will be pioneers of society. The way that they are proficient, head and chief applicants without boundaries, is the most essential emblem that makes college youth particular from others (Yazıcı, 2003). The nature of the enthusiasm for reading and propensity for reading of instructor competitors among college students is a basic criticalness (Saracalolu et al., 2003). The teachers regularly train the youngsters with the propensity for reading. In every aspect of instruction, around there it is the teachers who are role model, establishing frameworks, and formalizing the students. Students went familiar for pastas well as future through reading the newspapers that investigate, interpret, question and can think fundamentally. The reading abilities end up noticeably critical in students obtaining and building up these abilities. In the realm of today, where information is quickly expanding and science and innovation have made changes in human life be important, it can be watched that it has turned out to be mandatory for people to ceaselessly enhance themselves in both their expert and social lives. In our age, where training and "long lasting learning" have turned into an unquestionable requirement for expert and profession improvement after formal instruction and particularly adjusting to transform, it is normal that college understudies have the propensity for reading, which is among the criteria of social and individual advancement, at an abnormal state. In this manner, the assurance of reading propensities for instructor competitors and people getting training in the field of history, among college students, in zones they require and enhancing themselves for the duration of their lives has been thought to be vital.

The idea "proficiency" has been characterized in different courses until today. The assortment in needs and the variety in conditions have prompted these distinctive definitions (Gunes, 1994, p.499). Regular proficiency approach concentrates on fundamental reading and composing aptitudes, for example, the information of letter set (single letters) and phonetic

mindfulness (Flewitt, 2008). This prompts the discernment that in expansive terms education is tied in with composing and reading the composed writings (Reinking, 1994).

Reading implies breaking down a content made out of letters and try to translate it. It is a procedure through which one costumes what he reads and makes its use in life situation. Reading is the best learning motivation through which an individual can enhance basic understanding about the world. Reading is characterized as a procedure of seeing printed and composed words through intellect structures, interpreting and grasping them, in an informative way with printed and composed images, collection, clarification, and response process comprising of some perceptual and subjective exercises (Yagcıoglu & Deger, 2002). Daily Newspapers are storage facility of learning. General learning is most important piece of instruction. Reading of daily Newspaper is valuable forever support to create reading behavior, procuring information, refreshing current news and familiarity with social interaction. They have an imperative part in students' life and education. Reading of daily paper familiarized the readers' storage facility of learning on consistently premise (Majumder & Hasan 2013). A propensity for reading daily paper is most basic fundamental ability. It isn't just builds our insight, but also changes our life styles and communication.

Asokan and Dhanavandan (2013) argue that reading is an amazing action for person on the globe. Akanda, Hoq, and Hasan (2013) illustrate that reading is considered as vital for changing general attitude of a person. The greater part of respondents routinely read daily papers. Majumder and Hasan (2013) discover in their investigation a large portion of respondents from the males supported reading newspapers. Respondents are most favored best medium of printed material is games and amusement news. The most vital motivation behind daily paper reading is to enhance general information of respondents. Owusu-Acheaw and Larson (2014) clarified reading propensities among students and its impact on academic performance and reading ability. At long last the examination suggests that guardians should help their youngsters' to enhance the reading abilities when they are youthful, in light of the fact that it serves to life.

### ***Objectives of the Study***

The main objectives of the study were to;

1. Investigate difference between reading habits of students in control and experimental groups.
2. Differentiate performance between regular NEWS readers and irregular NEWS readers.

## Research Methodology

The current study was experimental in nature. Quantitative research method was used to conduct the study. Control and experimental research design was used. The population of the study comprised of all the university students studying in Education University Faisalabad campus in English Department. Two groups were selected randomly on the basis of their achievement scores in the class test. They were arranged in control and experimental group. Forty university students were selected on the basis of results. The control group was taught through traditional book reading method. The experimental group was trained through reading Newspapers daily. They spent one and half hour daily in reading Newspaper. After the one and half hour practice of reading the Newspaper, the participants were assessed in reading skills developed by the researchers on the basis of reading activities. The results were recorded. The experiment continued for six weeks. After completing six weeks' experiment, the comprehensive test was taken to students in both groups. The self-developed questionnaire, Reading Proficiency Test (RPT) was used by the researchers. In addition, the students' current knowledge test sheet was used.

## Results and Findings

The data were analyzed with the help of using SPSS version 24. The mean distribution was calculated using frequency table and standard deviation. The first objective of the study was to investigate difference between reading habits of students in control and experimental groups. Table 1 shows results regarding this objective.

**Table 1:** Comparison of Newspaper Reading Habits between Control and Experimental Group

Indicator	Group	N	Mean	SD	T	Sig.
Reading Habits	Control	20	3.12	.70	3.709	.002**
	Experimental	20	3.80	1.06		

\*\*P<0.01

According to table 1, t-test was applied to investigate the difference between control and experimental university students reading habits of the Newspapers. There exists a significant difference between control and experimental group of students in reading the Newspapers. The university students in experimental group performed better in the test as compared with the students who participated in control group. The mean score of experimental group students (M=3.80, sd 1.06) and control group students (M=3.12, sd=.70),  $t=38(3.709)$ . The significant value is  $p<0.01$ . The mean achievement score showed that the experimental group students have higher performance than that of control group students. They read the Newspaper to improve their performance.

The second objective of the study aimed at differentiating performance between regular NEWS readers and irregular NEWS readers. The results for this objective are given in table 2:

**Table 2:** Comparison of Achievement between Regular and Irregular Newspaper Readers

Readers	N	Mean	SD	T	Sig.
Regular	20	3.80	.50	1.390	.004**
Irregular	20	3.50	2.19		

\*\*P<0.01

According to table 2, t-test was applied to investigate the difference between regular and irregular university students' achievement while reading the Newspapers. There exists a significant difference between regular and irregular users of Newspapers. The university students who used to read the Newspapers regularly performed better in the test as compared with the students who read the Newspapers irregularly. The mean score of regular students (M=3.80, sd .50) and irregular students (M=3.50, sd=2.19), t=38(1.390). The significant value is  $p < 0.01$ . The mean achievement score showed that the regular students have higher performance than that of irregular students. They read the Newspaper to improve their performance.

## Conclusion

The study concludes that the experimental group students showed interest in reading Newspapers better than that of control group students. Regular newspaper readers performed better than that of irregular newspaper readers. Regular students learnt their lessons quickly as they have trained in reading the subject matter. Most of the students told that Newspapers unique and interesting way of learning. They participated without any hesitation in classroom discussion and communication process. They themselves took part in the study. As they have learnt how to select the content for reading and make assignments. The majority of students read daily papers in English language. The dominant part of time spent perusing daily papers is one to two hours' a day by day. Most of the students read daily papers to get data and enhance their general information. The students like to read article segments, trailed by games and legislative issues. The current study supported the results of (Nagashetti & Kenchakkanavar, 2015).

## Suggestions and Recommendations

Time may be increased for Reading Newspaper. The students should encourage participation in reading activities. Medium of instructions should be in English so that they may practice





the reading skills in their everyday life situations. Parents' and teachers' role towards the use of reading Newspapers. They should encourage their kids and students to read the Newspapers regularly. Reading training courses may be arranged for improving reading habits of students. Daily papers are in charge of making and producing reading abilities among college students. Daily papers are basic for college students because of the marvelous use of data distributed as daily papers in various languages specifically at the national and worldwide levels. There ought to be sufficient daily papers to quicken reading tendencies. This research empowers administrators to comprehend the significance of reading daily Newspapers and enhances the students' communication abilities.



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