

Effectiveness of the Reading of Newspaper with Bottle-Polythene-Circle Reading Strategies on the Performance in the Professional Writing

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Abstract

The adequate application of reading of newspapers based on bottle-polythene-circle reading strategies shows a main part in the performance of the students and the research was led to recognize the connection between the reading of 'Sunday Observer' newspaper with bottle-polythene-circle reading strategies and the performance in the professional writing in Higher National Diploma in English – HNDE course of Advanced Technological Institute – ATI Sammanthurai of Sri Lanka Institute of Advanced Technological Education – (SLIATE) as there is a need to do a research in relation to this section in the academic field in SLIATE. Ninety students from HNDE – class – first year - A were randomly taken for experimental group and ninety students from class - the first year – B were taken for the controlled group. A pre-test was conducted for both the groups and the mean differences were found to be negligible for both the groups from the pre-test. Later, the experimental group was educated to read 'Sunday Observer' based on bottle-polythene-circle reading strategies for three months with thirty hours reading while the controlled group was generally taught without the use of 'Sunday Observer'. After three months a post-test was conducted for both the groups in the same syllabus with different content. When the post-test was conducted, the mean was slightly improved for the group - B from the post-test and the mean was considerably enhanced for the group - A from the post-test. It finds that there is a positive relationship between the reading of 'Sunday Observer' newspaper based on bottle-polythene-circle reading strategies and the performance in the professional writing. Therefore, if the students have to show improved performance in the professional writing they need to read 'Sunday Observer' newspaper too with bottle-polythene-circle reading strategies consecutively.

Keywords: Bottle method, Circle method, Polythene method, Professional writing, Reading strategies.

INTRODUCTION

The students' performance in the professional writing through reading of newspapers with Bottle-Polythene-Circle reading strategies is a topic in contemporary higher education. Lack of reading of newspapers with reading strategies is seen as one of the reasons for failure in the performance in the professional writing in academic courses (Torgesen, 2000). Moreover, the presence of the new study methods based on technological learning requires a further analysis and discussion on the reading of newspapers. During the last decade, a number of studies have investigated the relationship between reading of newspaper and the performance in the professional writing reaching to the conclusion that there exists a positive correlation between these two variables (Oleg, 1999; Azizolah, 2014), but there are lack of researches in relation to the higher education at SLIATE. As per the gap, along with the direct investigation, this study aims at looking into the effect of the reading of "Sunday Observer" newspaper with reading strategies on the performance in the professional writing using data collected from Higher National Diploma in English course at ATI - Advanced Technological Institute – Sammanthurai in SLIATE under the Ministry of Education in Sri Lanka..

Literature Review

María (2011) examines the relationship between the newspaper reading of students and their professional language skills with what is taking place in people by means of 19 news items with images beforehand testing and verbal performance beforehand giving the news items and afterward giving the news stuffs by approaching the pictorial illustration of minor settlers in a model of a native newspaper and the study finds that familiarizing pictorial grammar in an English language courses with the usage of newspapers, with multimodal writings in the teaching-learning procedure from writings of newspapers and enquiring students to assess this kind of writings, links the activities completed in the classroom to mature their language skills with what is taking place in people as per the day today vocabularies in the newspapers as per the method.

Diana (2005) assesses the relationship between the authentic news of professional business simulations and the performance of the students of the English language classes with text authenticity, task authenticity, pedagogical authenticity and learner authenticity among the students in the particular classes with the usage of appraisal system with comparison. This study finds that there is a positive relationship between the authentic news of professional business simulations and the performance of the students of the English language classes with text authenticity, task authenticity, pedagogical authenticity and learner authenticity among the students in the particular classes.

Oleg (1999) assesses the relationship between the reading-based integrated skills and the success of the performance of the class conditions with the availability of the framework of reading habit – knowledge acquisition for the second year students in a university in Russia with pre-stage reading, reading stage and post-stage reading testing. This study finds that the suggested method seems not only realistic but undoubtedly one of the best for reaching wanted outcomes in teaching English where class time is restricted and where the aim is in cooperation to improve students skills for reading professional literature and to cultivate the skills of listening speaking and writing in practiced circumstances. This method has certainly recognized its productivity in the real-world involvement of using it at methodical academia.

David (2000) empirically examines the relationship between the newspaper and online version reading habit of the students and knowledge acquisition of the students using the framework of reading habit. This study finds that there is a connection between these two variables as an actual consequence of changes in understanding experience, online news readers were less possible to remember having read national and political news topics that seemed in the *Times* newspaper and more likely to remember business and other news topics.

Safana (2015) examines the relationship between loud reading of newspapers and spoken skill of the students of Higher National Diploma in English – Part Time at Sri Lanka Institute of Advanced Technological Education – Sammanthurai. This study provides direct evidence regarding the pure relationship between loud reading of newspapers and spoken skill. It appears that when students used newspapers for loud reading in the classes over the semester, their spoken skill with effective communication skill significantly increased.

Anderson (1985) finds that learners' attitudes and approaches regarding the purposes for reading also influence their capability to read. If students need to obtain the most of the materials they are allocated, they have to absorb to read critically and methodically, the idea here is that when people read something, the purpose is to try to understand what the author's target is. When dealing with reading, people meet two layers of reality: one that they can see and one that they cannot see. The purpose of reading is to make the invisible layer visible and clear.

METHODOLOGY

The aims of the research were to identify the relationship between the reading of 'Sunday Observer' newspaper with Bottle-Polythene-Circle reading strategies and the performance in the professional writing and to identify the most significant value relevant variable between the reading of 'Sunday Observer' newspaper with Bottle-Polythene-Circle reading strategies and the performance in the professional writing. Two groups of students were randomly taken from HNDE course with the targeted subject of professional writing from Advanced Technological Institute - Sammanthurai under SLIATE. Ninety sample students from Higher National Diploma in English – class – first year - A were taken for experimental group and ninety sample students from Higher National Diploma in English – class – first year - B were taken for controlled group.

A pre-test was conducted for both the groups with same reading comprehension question in professional writing. Later, the experimental group was instructed to read 'Sunday Observer' based on reading strategies such as 'Bottle Method', 'Polythene Method' and 'Circle Method' for three months with thirty hours reading practices and the classes for the controlled group was conducted with usual reading practices such as skimming and scanning without 'Sunday Observer' and its reading strategies. After three months a post-test was conducted for both the groups with the same reading comprehension questions in professional writing. The question paper was of same structure like pre-test paper but the content was different.

Hypothesis

In order to accomplish the aim of this research the following hypotheses were developed.

H₁: There is a positive relationship between the reading of 'Sunday Observer' newspaper based on reading strategies and the performance in the professional writing.

H₀: There is no positive relationship between the reading of 'Sunday Observer' newspaper based on reading strategies and the performance in the professional writing.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The data analysis and findings bring out the representation of data which were collected through pre-test for experimental group, pre-test for controlled group, post-test for experimental group, and post-test for controlled group. In this analysis, significant p value and mean difference were mainly considered with the support of Statistic Package for Social Science – version 23. At this point, from the pre-test, the table 1 shows that group A took the mean of the marks as 10.3587 with the standard deviation of 2.05720 and group B took the mean of the marks as 11.2132 with the standard deviation of 3.12932. The mean difference between Group A and B is -0.844 in the independent sample test. The t statistics is -1.138 and associated p value was as 0.064. It means that it is more than 0.05 and, therefore the null hypotheses is not rejected and it shows that the mean differences (- 0.75544) were found as to be negligible between both the groups.

Table 1: Group Statistics

	Group	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean				
Pre-test	A	90	10.3587	2.05720	.21503				
	B	90	11.2132	3.12932	.32794				
Independent Samples Test (Pre-Test)									
	Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of Means						
	F	Sig.	T	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
								Lower	Upper
Equal variances assumed	13.28	.000	-1.138	178	.064	-.7554	.3649	-1.6238	-.0650
Equal variances not assumed			-1.138	154	.064	-.7554	.3649	-1.6246	-.0642

The table 2 shows paired sample t test of group – B (pre and post). The mean of the marks as 11.3222 with the standard deviation of 3.10961 is in the post-test. The mean of the marks as 11.2233 with the standard deviation of 3.10032 is in the Pre-test. The mean difference between pre and post-test of groups B is - 0.07478 and standard deviation is 3.6132 in the paired sample t test. The t statistics is -0.201 and associated p value was as 0.830. It means that it is more than 0.05 and, therefore the null hypotheses is not rejected and it shows that the mean differences were found as to be negligible between both the test and expound as there is no considerable improvement in the performance.

Table 2: Paired Samples Statistics

		Mean	N	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean			
group – B	PreTest	11.2233	90	3.10032	.32996			
	PostTest	11.3222	90	3.10961	.33094			
Paired Samples Test								
	Paired Differences					T	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference				
				Lower	Upper			
PreTest - PostTest	-.074	3.613	.3835	-.8399	.6843	-.201	89	.830

The table 3 shows paired sample t test of group – A (pre and post). The mean of the marks as 11.2889 with the standard deviation of 2.0492 is in the pre-test. The mean of the marks as 14.1667 with the standard deviation of 1.9085 is in the post-test. The mean difference between pre and post-test of groups A is -2.787 and standard deviation is 1.7713 in the paired sample t test. The t statistics is -14.489 and associated p value was as 0.000. It means that it is less than critical alpha value 0.05 at 95% confidential level. Therefore, the null hypothesis (H_0) is rejected and the alternative hypothesis (H_1) is not rejected. It means that there is an impact of reading of ‘Sunday Observer’ newspaper with reading strategies on the performance in the professional as Thajoon (2017) empirically examined the relationship between the newspaper monthly version reading habit of the students and knowledge acquisition of the students using the framework of reading habit – knowledge acquisition consisting of 36 students for newspapers and 36 students for monthly versions in Sri Lanka with the analytical methods of Exposure Control Check and Final Exposure Patterns including the methodology of Pre-test and post-test for readers and found that there is a connection between these two variables as an actual consequence of changes in understanding experience, monthly news readers were less possible to remember having read national and political news topics that seemed in the *Times* newspaper and more likely to remember professional and other news topics.

Table 3: Paired Samples Statistics

		Mean	N	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean			
group – A	PreTest	11.2889	90	2.04920	.21706			
	PostTest	14.1667	90	1.90857	.20223			
Paired Samples Test								
	Paired Differences					T	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference				
				Lower	Upper			
-PreTest - PostTest	-2.787	1.771	.1972	-3.269	-2.4858	-14.489	89	.000

CONCLUSION

The students who read ‘Sunday Observer’ newspaper with Bottle-Polythene-Circle reading strategies, described in methodology section for three months with thirty hours of reading practices show an impact on the performance in the professional when the students who read with usual reading practices such as skimming and scanning, described in methodology section do not show an impact on the performance in the professional writing.

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