

EXTENSIVE READING AND MOTIVATION: DEVELOPING A LOVE FOR
LEARNING ENGLISH IN EFL STUDENTS

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Abstract: *This article examines the role of extensive reading in enhancing motivation and fostering a love for learning English as a Foreign Language (EFL). In our practice, Tuesdays with Morrie was read by students outside of class and discussed in a flipped classroom model. This method enhanced students' interest in English and improved their learning efficiency. Additionally, creating posters based on the book and applying Morrie's teachings to their personal lives encouraged creativity in the learning process.*

Keywords: *extensive reading, motivation, English language, EFL, flipped classroom*

Annotatsiya: *Ushbu maqolada kengaytirilgan o'qishning (extensive reading) ingliz tilini chet tili sifatida o'rganuvchi talabalarda motivatsiyani oshirish va ingliz tilini o'rganishga ishtiyoqni rivojlantirishdagi roli o'rganiladi. Bizning tajribamizda Tuesdays with Morrie asari talabalar tomonidan sinfdan tashqari o'qilib, flipped classroom modeli asosida sinfda muhokama qilindi. Ushbu usul talabalarning ingliz tiliga bo'lgan qiziqishini oshirib, o'zlashtirish samaradorligini kuchaytirdi. Shuningdek, talabalarning kitob asosida plakatlarni tayyorlash va Morrie ta'limotlarini shaxsiy hayotlarida qo'llashlari o'quv jarayoniga ijodiy yondashuvni ta'minladi.*

Kalit so'zlar: *kengaytirilgan o'qish, motivatsiya, ingliz tili, ingliz tilini chet tili sifatida o'rganish, teskari sinf (flipped classroom) modeli*

Аннотация: *В данной статье рассматривается роль расширенного чтения (extensive reading) в повышении мотивации и развитии любви к изучению английского языка как иностранного (EFL). В нашей практике студенты читали книгу Tuesdays with Morrie вне класса, а затем обсуждали её в формате перевёрнутого класса. Этот метод повысил интерес студентов к английскому языку и улучшил их эффективность обучения. Кроме того, создание постеров по книге и применение уроков Морри в личной жизни способствовали развитию креативности в учебном процессе.*

Ключевые слова: *расширенное чтение, мотивация, английский язык, изучение иностранных языков, перевёрнутый класс*

INTRODUCTION

Motivating students and developing their interest in English is critical for EFL learners. Extensive reading has gained recognition as an effective approach in language learning, supported by both empirical research and pedagogical practice.

This approach enables students to naturally acquire language skills by engaging in substantial independent reading of enjoyable and comprehensible materials. The aim of this article is to highlight how extensive reading can foster motivation and develop a love for learning English. By examining relevant theoretical perspectives and practical applications, we provide actionable insights for educators.

Literature Review

The concept of extensive reading

Extensive reading involves students independently reading large amounts of material that they find both interesting and comprehensible (Day & Bamford, 1998). The primary goal is not language learning itself but rather deriving enjoyment from the reading experience. This method facilitates vocabulary acquisition through context, increases reading speed, and fosters confidence in language use.

Insights from Uzbek and global research

In Uzbekistan, researchers like Karimova (2019) and Yuldashev (2021) have highlighted the importance of extensive reading in developing linguistic skills and cultural awareness. They emphasize that integrating Uzbek and English texts allows students to draw parallels between languages, enhancing their comprehension and motivation.

Globally, Renandya and Jacobs (2016) emphasize that extensive reading fosters not only linguistic competence but also empathy and global understanding, as students are exposed to diverse cultures through literature. Similarly, Prowse (2002) discusses how extensive reading builds positive attitudes towards language learning by reducing anxiety and increasing fluency. Another compelling fact from research is that extensive reading not only improves linguistic skills but also positively impacts cognitive development and empathy. According to Bell (2001), extensive reading enables students to immerse themselves in diverse perspectives and narratives, fostering a deeper understanding of global issues and cultures. Bell's study highlighted that students engaging in extensive reading exhibited heightened critical thinking abilities and a greater capacity for creative problem-solving.

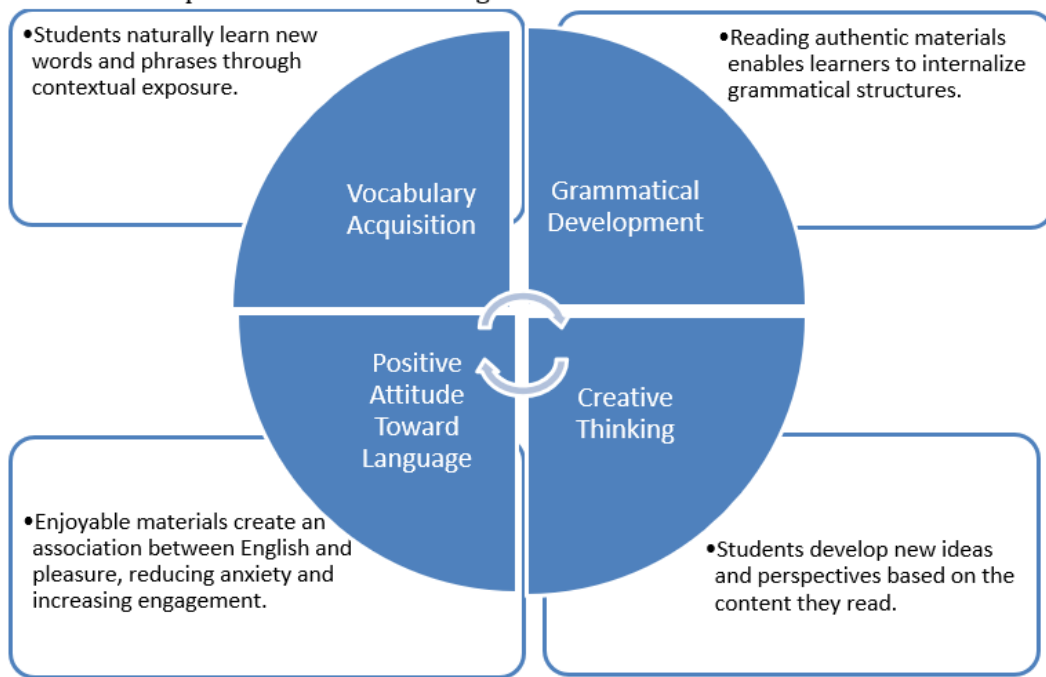
Motivation can be categorized into intrinsic and extrinsic types (Deci & Ryan, 1985). Intrinsic motivation arises from personal interest and enjoyment, while extrinsic motivation is driven by academic, professional, or personal goals. Extensive reading supports both forms of motivation by providing engaging materials and aligning with students' individual aspirations.

Methodology

This study synthesizes findings from existing research and incorporates practical classroom experiences. The data is drawn from foundational works, including Krashen's Input Hypothesis and studies on the effectiveness of extensive reading. Additionally, qualitative observations of EFL learners engaged in extensive reading were analyzed to understand its motivational impact.

Results and Discussion

General impact of extensive reading on EFL students



Implementation in our classes

In our EFL classes, extensive reading was integrated using Tuesdays with Morrie by Mitch Albom as part of a flipped classroom model. Students were assigned chapters to read independently outside of class. In class, discussions revolved around key themes and Morrie's life lessons, such as "The most important thing in life is to learn how to give out love and to let it come in" and "Once you learn how to die, you learn how to live." These discussions helped students relate the book's messages to their own lives, increasing their engagement and critical thinking skills.

Each student created a poster summarizing their interpretation of the book and its impact on their personal and academic lives. They were encouraged to include their favorite quotes from Morrie and reflect on how these lessons inspired them to improve their English skills and personal development. For example, one student noted that "Accept what you are able to do and what you are not able to do" motivated them to overcome their fear of speaking English in class.

Impact of extensive reading on us as EFL students

Vocabulary Acquisition: Students reported an improvement in their ability to understand and use idiomatic expressions and colloquial language from the book.

Grammatical Development: Exposure to authentic conversational English in Tuesdays with Morrie helped students internalize grammatical structures more effectively.

Enhanced Motivation: Engaging with a meaningful and relatable narrative increased students' intrinsic motivation to learn English.

Positive Attitude Toward English: Students associated English with personal growth and enjoyment, as the book's themes resonated deeply with them.

Krashen (2004) emphasizes the necessity of comprehensible input for language acquisition, stating that extensive reading provides the required input in an enjoyable manner. Renandya and Jacobs (2016) found that students exposed to extensive reading showed improved fluency and reading speed. Empirical studies by Yuldashev (2021) in Uzbekistan demonstrated that integrating culturally relevant materials in extensive reading programs boosts students' motivation and comprehension skills.

Practical recommendations

To successfully implement extensive reading in EFL classrooms, consider the following:

1. Provide age-appropriate and interesting materials: Select books, articles, and stories that align with students' interests and language proficiency levels.
2. Encourage student autonomy: Allow students to choose their reading materials to foster intrinsic motivation.
3. Create a reading-friendly environment: Designate a space in the classroom for English books and encourage discussions about reading experiences.
4. Organize follow-up activities: Use reading-based discussions or written reflections to reinforce comprehension and encourage interaction.
5. Incorporate local contexts: Include materials that reflect students' cultural backgrounds to make reading more relatable and engaging.

Conclusion

Extensive reading is a powerful tool for fostering a love of English in EFL students. By increasing motivation, enhancing linguistic competence, and making learning enjoyable, it significantly enriches students' language acquisition experiences. In our classes, integrating Tuesdays with Morrie as a flipped classroom model demonstrated how meaningful literature can inspire students and improve their English skills. Furthermore, this approach supports both personal and academic success, making it a valuable addition to any EFL curriculum.

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