

THE USE OF SKIMMING AND SCANNING TECHNIQUES FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS IN READING CLASS

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ABSTRACT

Reading class refers to the readers' ability to understand the information of reading text. Skimming and Scanning are reading techniques that use rapid eye movement and keywords to move quickly through text for slightly different purposes. Skimming is reading rapidly in order to get a general overview of the material (general topic and main ideas). Scanning is reading rapidly in order to find specific facts. By applying skimming and scanning techniques in teaching reading, the college students will be easier to understand about reading text and quickly to get information in a few minutes.

Keywords: the importance of reading, skimming and scanning techniques, skimming and scanning for understanding, the benefits of skimming and scanning.

INTRODUCTION

English is learned intensively by many people in Indonesia because it is a foreign language which is important in globalization era. Besides that, English is learned in some universities. In studying English, the college students have to master four basic language skills of the target language. They are speaking, writing, listening, and reading. Reading is one of four skills in mastery a language which must be comprehended in details. By reading, the reader can gain a lot of knowledge and improve their language skill. According to Nuttal (2000:2), reading means a result of interaction between the writer's mind and the reader's mind. It is the way how the reader tries to get the message or the intended by the writer, the reader can get the point of reading text.

Reading skill also plays important role in language. By reading, encoders or authors can give or send the message to the receivers in order to get information. Someone who has skill in reading, will find it easily to get information directly and quickly (Nuttal, 1982:10). Otherwise, learners whose lack of knowledge of reading will face difficulty in understanding the reading.

Skimming and Scanning are reading techniques for the readers to be easier to understand about reading text and quickly to get information in a few minutes. They are each used for different purposes. Skimming refers to looking only for the general or main ideas, and works best with non fiction or factual material. Skimming takes place while reading and allows the reader to look for details in addition to the main idea. Scanning is another useful tool for speeding up for reading. Unlike skimming, scanning only for specific fact or piece of information without reading everything.

The Importance Of Reading

Reading takes an important role in learning English. By reading, the reader can gain a lot of knowledge and improve their language skill. According to Burnes (1991:45), state that reading is comprehending written discourse. It is an interactive process in which the reader engages in an exchange of idea with a author via the text. It is the process of transferring meaning or message from the writer to the readers. The process will run if the reader can catch the writer's message. Message itself expresses the idea of writing, opinion, knowledge, fact, etc.

According to Burnes and Page (1991), the ability to comprehend written language involves many factors such as interest, motivation, vocabulary, sentence structure, and many others. Nuttal (1996:10) said that one reason for reading is that we want to understand others people's ideas, if we all identical, there would be no point in most communication. It means that the background of someone is important in understanding a reading text. If the writer and the readers are closely similar in background, training, attitude and so on, the reader is likely to interpret the text without conscious effort.

In Burnes and Page (1991:47) also state that point out in order and remember what is read, students must be able to relate the new information to previous knowledge and this is obviously a complicated process entailing a number of transformation in the written material to match it with previous knowledge. Additionally, Mikulecky and Jeffries (2007: 75-216) state that some components of reading: 1). Previewing. It is a rapid kind of reading that allow reader to get general sense of what a passage is about and how it organized. 2). Making Inference. Use imagination and knowledge about the word to fill in fact and idea that are not stated in the text. This sometime call "reading between line". 3). Identifying the Topic/General Idea. The topic is word or phrases that best describe what all of the sentence in the paragraph are about. Word relating to the topic are usually repeated several time in a paragraph. 4). Pattern organization. Use pattern to present their idea in a way make sense, recognize the pattern, understand and follow idea more effectively by listing, sequence, comparison and contrast, cause effect, problem and solution, and extended definition. 5). Remember what you read. And the last, 6). Summaries (review what you have read).

Skimming And Scanning Techniques

According to Djuwarsih (2006:14), state that skimming is a skill of getting general idea of reading text. It means that the reader need only short time to read the text. It is because general idea of the text usually is located at certain lines or certain sentences of the text. In other word, the reader only need to read certain parts or lines of the text quickly. Then, Djuharie (2008:12) who claimed that skimming refers to look at the text quickly for getting the main idea from the text. It may be true that by using skimming, readers dont need to read the whole text. The readers only need to look at the text quickly and find the main idea of the text. So, the readers would not waste their time when they are reading the text.

Brown (2004: 308) state that scanning means quickly searching for some particular pieces of information in a text. By using scanning, the reader only needs to extract specific information without reading through out the whole text. Scanning is usually used to look for names or dates, or to list a certain number of supporting details. Then Djuwarsih (2006: 14) who stated scanning is a reading skill in getting specific information from a reading text. When the readers want to know some specific information from the text, the reader should not read the whole passage carefully. The readers need only to locate the information they want from the passage. So that, it can help the readers get certain information from the text easily. It is because the readers usually tend to read the whole text carefully.

Skimming And Scanning For Understanding

Skimming refers to looking for general topic or main idea of reading text, and works best with non-fiction or factual material. Skimming takes place while reading and allows the reader to look for details in addition to the main ideas. Skimming involves reading the title, subtitle, headings, the introductory paragraph, the first sentence of subsequent paragraphs, key words, graphic elements, and the last paragraph.

How to skim?

In skimming, the readers should be know the purpose of reading text, parts of articles, and selection the most important information. The basic of skimming is to identify those parts of reading materials that contain the main ideas. As a general guide, the steps in skimming, read the following items: The title. The title provides clues about the writer's announces about

subject. The subtitle. The subtitle explains the title of written to the readers become interest to read. The introductory paragraph. The introductory paragraph provides background information about the text and introduces the reading text. The heading. A heading is introduces the topic of reading text. Heading can be covered about materials of reading text. The first sentence of each paragraph. Also called topic sentences, the author gives the main idea of the paragraph. If the readers read a first sentence is not the topic sentence, the readers might jump to the end of the paragraph and read the last sentence for looking important pieces of information, such as names, places, dates, events, etc. Key words. Key words can we find with quickly glance through the remainder of the paragraph. The readers try to pick out key words that answer what, when, where, who, and how about the main idea of the paragraph. Try to get information to notice names, numbers, dates, places, capitalized or italicized words and phrases. Quickly glance will help the readers to overall impression of the paragraph and confirm that the readers have identified the main idea of the paragraph. Finally, skimming refers to looking for the general ideas of the reading text. If the readers pick and choose carefully what they skim, they will get information reading text through in a short period of time.

Scanning is a tool for reading quickly. When scanning, the readers look only for a specific fact or piece of information without reading everything. Scanning involves checking the organization, forming specific questions, anticipating clue words, identifying likely answer locations, using systematic pattern, and confirming the answer. For scanning to be successful, the readers need to understand how the materials is structured as well as comprehend what they can locate the specific information their need from reading text.

How to scan?

The key to effective scanning is to approach the material in systematic manner. The following steps are: Check the organization. Before scanning, check too see how the material is organized. It is similar to prereading, so that you will be able to predict where in material you can expect to find information you are looking for. Form specific questions. Scanning is effective way if you have purpose in reading. So, you must know what you are looking for by forming specific questions about the topic. Anticipate word clues. Anticipate word clues help you locate the answer more rapidly. Try to finding various types of information, then try to fix of your clue words or phrases in your mind before begin to scan. Identify likely answer locations. It is for checking how the material is organized, try to identify likely where the information you are looking for might appear, eliminate certain section, predict the information, so will be appear in certain portion of the reading text. Use a systematic pattern. Scanning should be organized and systematic. Do not randomly skip around, searching for clues. If u read, you might move your eyes straight down the middle, catching phrases on each half of the line. Using a zigzag pattern might be more effective. This pattern moves your eyes back and forth, catching several lines in each movement. Confirm your answer. If you think that you have located the information you have been looking for, please check to be sure you are correct. Read the sentence or two that contain the answer, confirming that it is the information you need in reading text.

Scanning is a process reading quickly locating specific information without reading everything. There are some steps for effective scanning: checking the information, forming specific questions, anticipating clue words, identifying likely answer location, using a systematic pattern, and confirming your answer. In scanning technique also adapted to suit the nature of the materials.

The Benefit Of Skimming And Scanning

Skimming will help the readers locate the information quickly while making sure the time wisely. In other words, if the readers pick and choose carefully what they skim, they will be pleasantly suprised at the large amount of information reading text through in a short period

of time. The benefit for scanning is its ability to help the readers become a more flexible reader. Because the reader may be used to reading word by word and may be uncomfortable leaving some words out, the readers need to give themselves permission to overlook some words by skimming, scanning, and skipping materials according to the readers' reading purpose.

CONCLUSION

Skimming is a reading technique in which readers read the text rapidly to find the general topics or main ideas of reading text. Scanning is a fast reading technique to get information, locate specific information without needing to read the whole reading text. It means that, skimming and scanning are reading techniques to make the reader will be easier to understand about reading text and quickly to get information in a few minutes.

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