# The Effectiveness of Extensive Reading on Students' Incidental Vocabulary Acquision At Tay Do University

Dang Thi Bao Dung<sup>1</sup>, Tran Thi Bach Ngoc<sup>2</sup>, Le Van Lanh<sup>3</sup>, Huynh Thi Yen Nhu<sup>4</sup>

## **ABSTRACT**

Vocabulary is one of the important factor contributing to the success of language learning. Unfortunately, English major students, especially the English major freshmen usually face some difficult in learning vocabulary. Consequently, this research entitled "the effectiveness of extensive reading on students' incidental vocabulary acquisition at Tay Do university" was conducted to figure out some benefit of reading extensive. The participants of research were 20 English -major freshmen of two English classes 17A and 17 B at Tay Do university. The main research instrument delivered to collect the data were interviews paper and observation. This is combination of quantitative and qualitative research.

**Keywords:** Extensive reading, vocabulary acquisition.

# 1. INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Rationale

English is used as a common language in countries around the world. As science and technology develop more and more, there are great changes taking place in people's lives all over the world. As a result, the whole world has become a global home. Moreover, business organizations are present in almost every country in the world. English is used as a common language. More than half of the websites on the internet are also written in English, such as newspaper, tools, and global services online. Just knowing this language can give you access to resources. This endless information. This is one of the biggest benefits that shows how important it is to learn English. In addition, most of the knowledge materials about everything in the world are written in English and there are many good and famous TV shows in the world and most of them are made in English. Learning English will give you many new things about the cultures of countries around the world. English will show a huge part of your ability and intelligence, which will make it easy for you to get a good job with a high salary. You will have a huge advantage when going for job interviews in English. Aya Matsuda (2009) stated that English plays a central role, as a common international language in connecting people with their mother tongue.

Reading is a skill that will help you to perceive language. They help you memorize a lot of sentences and words in English. When you read you will come across a lot of new vocabulary sometimes you don't need a dictionary because you can understand these words through context moreover you have quite a good memorization ability. In addition, it also helps you learn grammar well, similar to the vocabulary you will encounter some familiar grammar structures and new grammar structures, which will help you remember grammar well English. What's special about reading is that you can use it to learn about other aspects of the language. For example, you can read word definitions, descriptions of grammar structures, writing instructions, or general advice on how to improve your English. To do that successfully, you need good reading comprehension.

Throughout the English learning process, it is realized that English - majored students. Many students seem to lack vocabulary when reading, which leads to misunderstanding the meaning of the reading and the content the author wants to mention.

The researcher conducts the study"The effect of reading on student incidental vocabulary acquisition at Tay Do". It is expected that this research will provide an overview of challenges in reading, which help both teachers and students can find out suitable and effective solutions to improve students' skill.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Teacher of English, Faculty of Foreign Languages, Tay Do University, Can Tho City, Viet Nam

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Teacher of English, Faculty of Foreign Languages, Tay Do University, Can Tho City, Viet Nam

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Teacher of English, Faculty of Foreign Languages, Tay Do University, Can Tho City, Viet Nam

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Teacher of English, Faculty of Foreign Languages, Tay Do University, Can Tho City, Viet Nam

# 1.2 Significance:

This study mainly focuses on finding out the effectiveness of reading on students' incidental vocabulary acquisition and through those issues. The study helps students realize the advantages of reading a lot in learning English vocabulary.

#### 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

## 2.1 Definition of vocabulary

Vocabulary learning is one of the essential parts of language learning. It plays a big role for learners in their language acquisition. Vocabulary is called many different words that have the same meaning as vocabulary, vocabulary store. Vocabulary is understood as a collection of words and equivalent units of words in a language. In linguistic units equivalent to words are fixed phrases called idioms. The basic task and purpose of vocabulary is to answer questions such as: what is a word, its meaning, how to divide lexical classes... from different perspectives. If we examine the problems common to all vocabularies of many languages, we look at the level of general learning. On the contrary, if we are only interested in the problems of a word in a certain language, we are on the level of specific research when we study a certain contemporary vocabulary, we analyze the description in a way that looks at it. Synchronicity, and often referred to as modern vocabulary.

Vocabulary knowledge is often seen as an important tool for second language learners. Because of the limited vocabulary, it will harder successful communication; we will not be able to use the structures and functions we may have learned to communicate intelligible. As Pan & Xu, (2011) indicated "Vocabulary is one of the most essential parts, along with phonetics/pronunciation and grammar, required to learn a foreign language". In addition, vocabulary is the basis for language skills, namely, listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Without learning the vocabulary, it is difficult to attain any language proficiency.

There is nothing more effective in learning English than reading, reading a lot. While reading, pay more attention to words you don't know. Should try to rely on the text to guess the meaning. Reading and listening to complex documents is a great way to help you learn new words. According to research, now each person who knows 1200 to 2000 English words is able to communicate well in basic English with foreigners. Putting in your pocket small books such as: 3000 most common English words or 5000 most common English words will be convenient for improving vocabulary anytime, anywhere. English vocabulary will improve if you read a lot. We increase our vocabulary mainly through reading a lot of English material. During your reading, you will come across a lot of interesting and new vocabulary. Along with that is how to use it professionally. Put new vocabulary in the context of a sentence, trying to guess its meaning according to the flow of the passage.

Hornby (1995) gives a specific lexical definition that is "the total number of words in the language; a with their meaning list of word. However, a new lexical entry may not be just a single word". Eg post office, mother-in-law are made up of two or three words but these words combined will represent only one idea. A useful convention is to include all cases such as: so by talking about "items" vocabulary rather than words.

## 2.2 The importance of vocabulary

We find that vocabulary is very important for language learning, when a person has a rich vocabulary, this actually help people to express their opinion. Vocabulary, as one of the knowledge areas in language, performs a great function for learners in acquiring a language (Cameron 2001). Therefore, this research has shown that language readers rely on heavily on vocabulary knowledge. If they are poor in vocabulary knowledge, they can face with obstacle in language learning. Moreover, having a constrained vocabulary in second language getting to know impedes successful communication to the students. Richards & Renandya (2002) confirmed that without vocabulary, the newbies will be demotivated to use the language.

The term vocabulary has a variety of meanings proposed by teachers. To some, it represents. Vocabulary is the "root" of all problems, if you want to communicate coherently and grasp the necessary information with the other party, vocabulary is what you need to master, only if you own a vocabulary. Rich and rich, your speech will be natural. In the process of communication, the reader or listener only pays attention to the that the speaker wants to express rather than the grammar because when you content firmly grasp the sentence structure. But your vocabulary is limited, you can't convey what you want to say. Abundant vocabulary will help you perfect and develop other skills more effectively. Having vocabulary, you will easily understand the content that the speaker wants to convey. The process of listening, speaking and understanding words is also fluent and fluent. According to a scientific study, vocabulary skills play an important role in reading comprehension. The famous linguist D. A. Wilkins once said that "Without grammar, very little can be conveyed; without vocabulary, nothing can be conveyed". (Without grammar, very little information can be conveyed; without vocabulary, not a single information can be conveyed). The above statement shows that vocabulary is always the most important factor when learning a language. There are many

ways to help increase vocabulary when learning English one of the method is to read a lot. Reading a lot through the context of the lesson will help you remember the words for a long time and you can completely use them fluently in any context. Indeed, vocabulary is considered the beginning of all foreign language learning and determines the success of learners. People with larger vocabulary will communicate more successfully and express themselves more effectively. Vocabulary strength can be directly linked to success in reading comprehension and language development. Gavin Brooks, Jon Clenton, Simon Fraser differences in lexical knowledge indicate that reading comprehension scores differ more than other factors examined in this study, emphasizing the importance of lexical knowledge for with reading comprehension.

## 2.3 The term extensive reading

One of the best ways to increase your ability to learn new words is to encounter them a few times in different contexts through the Extended Reading Method. Hafiz, Lan Tudor (1989) extensive reading for pleasure could affect an improvement in subject linguistic skills. Extensive Reading (ER) is an approach to second language reading. When learners read extensively, they read very easy, enjoyable books to build their reading speed and fluency. Another way to say this is students learn to read by actually reading rather than examining texts by studying the vocabulary, grammar and phrases and extensive reading method is the term used to describe the hobby of reading books in free time in which the reader will not be too concerned about the lack of vocabulary, knowledge research or skill training.

In the classroom extensive reading is often overlooked, especially as a classroom activity. Teachers often feel it is not an effective use of class time or are just uncomfortable with the extended silence. Learners can be encouraged to read extensively by setting up a class library, encouraging review writing, and incorporating reading of books into the syllabus, and dedicating some class time to quiet reading but there are many benefits to extensive reading, but some of the most notable ones include: developing vocabulary, improving comprehension, developing a love for books and increasing fluency. As such, the focus of extended reading is on the text's meaning, not the language in the text. You don't need to know every word, every sentence structure in it, but still understand the main content and be able to list some ideas that interest you.

# 2.4 Benefits of extensive reading on student's vocabulary acquisition

Extended reading is one of the best ways to help learner improve their background knowledge and improve their ability to use foreign language, strengthen grammar, develop writing skills and help student get in touch with the language naturally and understand meaning of words in the context, helping to improve reading speed and reading ability. Elley, W.B., & Manghubai, F. (1983) Having children read interesting story books provides children with strong intrinsic motivation, emphasizing meaning rather than form, which helps children learn vocabulary words naturally from context.

Extensive reading is type of reading instruction providing a large number of reading material to learners independently. Student are required to read extensively for general meaning, information and pleasure. Through extensive reading, learner can develop good reading attitudes. Student can learn more vocabulary. It can extend and sustain student vocabulary. Student improve writing student who read extensively also make gains in writing, proficiency. This is probably because as students encounter language student become more motivated to read. It is highly motivating for student to discover that they can read in English and that they enjoy. For this reason, it is essential that the books are interesting to students and at a level appropriate to their reading ability.

Extended reading allows you to be exposed to natural language and understand how it works in real-life contexts beyond books help build and accumulate vocabulary. As you read many books, you'll come across words and word structures again and again, so you can better understand word function and guess what vocabulary or grammar points might come up next. Helps train reading speed and fluency. As a result, you can process language more automatically and save memory for other information and it also helps you understand how to use grammar in context, language structures are often presented in textbooks and other learning materials. Without extensive reading, you will not be able to grasp the diverse contexts in which the structure appears, leading to inability to understand the language deeply and not be able to use the language well in practice and expand your knowledge of the foreign language you've already learned and gain a better understanding of how language elements work together in communication. This allows you to process language faster as well as increase your reading comprehension and love of reading. You can also 'learn to read' by working on reading skills and reading strategies

# 2.4.1 Increasing vocabulary ability

Vocabulary is the essential instrument for communication. When we read a text, we actually read the words and they are symbols of meanings. During reading process, interpret those symbols by assigning them different meanings. Extensive reading can cause an increase in the range of vocabulary the learner possesses. Maria Pigada, Norbert Schmitt (2006) state that reading a lot helps readers access a large amount of material within their linguistic abilities while also being fun to read, motivating, and gives the reader some words in context.

Research shows that to learn vocabulary effectively, a person must go through reading words in different contexts at least 15 times. A word in context means that it must be used in a sentence of spoken or written texts. Simply learning a word from a vocabulary list is not enough to understand the full meaning and usage of a word or to apply that word to one's own language. The best way to increase your ability to learn new words is to encounter them a few times in different contexts through the Extended Reading Method. Research shows that to learn vocabulary effectively, a person must go through reading words in different contexts at least 15 times. A word in context means that it must be used in a sentence of spoken or written texts. Simply learning a word from a vocabulary list is not enough to understand the full meaning and usage of a word or to apply that word to one's own language. The best way to increase your ability to learn new words is to encounter them a few times in different contexts through the Extended Reading Method.

## 2.4.2 Improving reading speed

Reading is defined as a cognitive process that involves decoding symbols to arrive at meaning. Everyone's reading speed will depend on their practice and learning method Many students often feel that they are not reading fast enough or good enough to take the test, so the only way to improve reading skills is to practice regularly but you don't have to choose the books in the text, you just need to choose the books in English that you love and you read it in your free time this will help you get interested in reading so you feel free to learn English and Brain activity will improve through reading, allowing readers to remember information better than before, Through that reading habit, your reading speed will also increase rapidly and the ability to focus on a long reading is also better. Since ER encourages rookies to read as many convenient books as possible, it is predictable that a main impact of ER is "to enhance studying fluency rather than learning new vocabulary and structures" (Kadota, 2008).

Reading with a purpose helps the reader to direct information towards a goal and focuses their attention. Although the reasons for reading may vary, the primary purpose of reading is to understand the text. In other word, extended reading is one of the methods to increase reading speed quickly. When you take the test you don't have much time to read in detail, extended reading will help you practice your speed reading skills while still understanding the essential content of the passage. Besides, reading a lot when doing extended reading method also helps you increase your exposure time to English, making the process of acquiring and absorbing foreign languages faster and more effective.

## 2.5 Related studies

Vocabulary plays an important role in language learning, one of the ways to increase vocabulary effectively is the extended reading method. Previous, many researchers had related the effectiveness of extensive reading on students in incidental vocabulary acquisition. However, the topics are completely the same and the participants may be from a different level. The related studies below may give a supporting shred of evidence for this research.

The research "Extensive reading and language learning: A diary study of a beginning learner of Japanese" by Leung (2002) investigation was conducted on the impact of extensive reading on an adult's self-study of Japanese over a 20-week period. In this research, both qualitative and quantitative method was adopted to analyze the data obtained. The present study was a case study. Only one student chosen as a sample of the study. The instrument use were questionnaires, observations. The result showed that Wendy's vocabulary knowledge, as measured by the modified Paribakht & Wesche's scale, improved by 23.5% in one month.

Similarly, the research of Yilmaz, Melda Atay, Derin Er, Mustafa -2020 the effects of extensive reading on Turkish learner's L2 reading. Both qualitative and quantitative methods were adopted to analyze the data obtained. Participants are randomly selected from a group of students. The project also improved students' motivation and self-confidence as well as various aspects of L2 language ability and fostered their positive self-images as EFL learners.

Likewise, he research "Learning L2 vocabulary through extensive reading: a measurement study" by Horst,M (2005) was investigation of word learning through reading in true ER contexts. The research design of this

study was descriptive quantity. The research use measure study. The participant were 21 ESL learners freely chose books that interested them.

Another research by Bell, T. (2001) with the topic Extensive reading: Speed and comprehension. This study aimed at exploring the extensive reading could lead to significant improvements in learner's reading speeds. The participant were young adult students working in various government ministries

In conclusion, learning vocabulary is not an easy process, students still have not encountered obstacles when learning vocabulary. Despite the growing amount of research supporting the exploration of extensive reading on students in incidental vocabulary acquisition. Despite the growing amount of research supporting the exploration of extensive reading on students in incidental vocabulary acquisition. Thank to this, Students can realize the benefits of extensive reading and apply it to effective vocabulary learning.

## 3. SEARCH METHODOLOGY

## 3.1 Research aims

This study aimed to find out the effectiveness of extensive reading on students' vocabulary acquisition. As a result, it could be implemented widely as an effective approach helping students enhancing their vocabulary.

## 3.2 Research questions

The research was required to answer the following questions:

- Do students have extensive reading habits?
- What are the positive effects of extensive reading on student's vocabulary acquisition?

## 3.3 Research design

The research was carried out to answer the research question and to test the hypothesis. Qualitative instruments were used to find out the effects of extensive reading on students in incidental vocabulary acquisition. The study was conducted on 20 English major freshmen students in two classes English 17A and 17B at Tay Do University. Particularly, students were invited to answer the interview questions. Besides, observation was also applied in the research. Finally, the data from interview paper and observation will be analyzed and concluded.

#### 3.4 Research participants

The research was undertaken with participation of 20 student English major freshmen from two classes English 17A, and 17B at Tay Do university. Generally, the participants were between the ages of 18 and 20 years old. Most of them come from the countryside and they learned English the most for 7 years. However, each person has a different vocabulary because each person's ability to absorb vocabulary and how to learn vocabulary is different. For this reason, when entering Tay Do university, their reading comprehension levels were different.

#### 3.5 Research instruments

In this research, interview paper and observation are the main instruments. The interview paper was designed to get detailed information about the effectiveness of extensive reading on students in incidental vocabulary acquisition. To make the study more credible, the researchers also used observation to confirm the hypothesis faithfully.

## 3.5.1 Interview

In order to make the study more specific and objective, Paper interviews distributed to 8 first-year English students randomly selected from classes at Tay Do University included 3 questions about the influence of extended reading on vocabulary acquisition

#### 3.5.2 Observation

Observation was used to make the study more realistic. the researcher attended three reading comprehension sessions of the participant. While observing the participants' performance, the study observed how students learn vocabulary in the process of reading comprehension. Then, the researcher took notes and this helped the research to be highly accurate.

## 3.7 Data analysis

After collecting data from paper interviews and observation are mainly explained by using the qualitative analysis method.

## 4. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Vocabulary plays a very important role for English learners, if you want to listen, speak, read, and write well, you need a certain amount of vocabulary. Because of this, this study will find out the benefits of open reading for students' vocabulary acquisition and the positive effects on vocabulary acquisition

## 4.1 Benefits of extensive reading on students' vocabulary acquisition.

Lack of vocabulary when learning a language is a frequent problem for students when learning English, vocabulary limits make it impossible for students to express what they want to say and the content and content. That others want to convey, so extended reading helps students naturally acquire vocabulary and remember the correct use of words through the context of the text. Through reading, student can know the word structure of sentences and understand the meaning of words deeply and make it more enjoyable to read. It is expected that this study will help students see the benefits of extended reading for vocabulary learning.

# 4.2 Increasing vocabulary ability

Vocabulary is one of the essential components of language learning, Extended reading is one of the methods to increase vocabulary with this method you read word through context when the more you read, the more your vocabulary grows in a natural and lasting way. When using extended reading method, your ability and vocabulary judgment skills will also be increased.

## 5.2 Improving reading speed

Everyone's reading speed is always different because each learner's practice time and practice is different. One of the ways to increase reading speed is extensive reading with the extended reading method, you don't need to choose the books you are studying, but choose the books and stories in English that you love. This will help you get excited about learning English, through reading everyday your reading speed will increase. Addition you do not need to spend a lot of time to read the details and still understand the content of the passage as the more you read.

#### REFERENCES

#### **References from books**

- [1]. Afzal, N. (2019). A Study on Vocabulary-Learning Problems Encountered by BA English Majors at the University Level of Education. Arab World English Journal, 10 (3)81-98. https://dx.doi.org/10.24093
- [2]. Bell, T. (2001). Extensive reading: Speed and comprehension. The Reading Matrix, 1(1), 1-13.
- [3]. Cameron, L (2001) Teaching languages to young learners. Cambridge University Press.
- [4]. Elley, W.B., & Manghubai, F. (1983). *The effect of reading on second language learning*. Reading Research Quarterly, 19(1), (pp 53-67).
- [5]. Grabe, W. (2004). Research on teaching reading. Annual Review of Applied Linguistics, 24, 44-69.
- [6]. Hafiz, F., & Tudor, I. (1989). Extensive reading and the development of language skills. English Language Teaching Journal, 43, 4–11
- [7]. Hornby, A. S., (1995). Oxford advanced learners' dictionary of current English. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- [8]. Horst, M. (2005). Learning L2 vocabulary through extensive reading: a measurement study. Canadian Modern Language Review, 61, 355–382.
- [9]. Kadota, S. (2008). *Tadoku to tacho no rinkuhen: Autoputo eno chikamichi wa "shadouingu" to "ondoku"* (Making a Link between Extensive Reading and Extensive Listening: A Shortcut to Output via "Shadowing" and "Reading *Listening*) 7, 28–132.
- [10]. Leung, C. Y. (2002). Extensive reading and language learning: A diary study of a beginning learner of Japanese. Reading in a Foreign Language, 14(1), 66-81.
- [11]. Matsuda, A. (2006) *Negotiating ELT assumptions in EIL classrooms*. In J. Edge (ed.) (*Locating TESOL in an Age of Empire* (pp. 158-170). Basingstoke: Palgrave MacMillan
- [12]. Pan, Q., & Xu, R. (2011). *Vocabulary teaching in English language teaching*. Theory & Practice in Language Studies, 1(11), 1586-1589.
- [13]. Pigada, Maria; Schmitt, Norbert, Reading in a Foreign Language, v18 n1 p1-28 April 2006.
- [14]. Richards, J. C., & Renandya, W. A. (Eds.). (2002). *Methodology in Language Teaching: An Anthology of Current Practice*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press.

- [15]. Taguchi, E., Takayasu–Maass, M., & Gorsuch, G. J. (2004). Developing reading fluency in EFL: How assisted repeated reading and extensive reading affect fluency development. Reading in a Foreign Language, 16, 70–96.
- [16]. Yamashita, J. (2013). Effects of ER on reading attitudes in a foreign language. Reading in a Foreign Language, 25(2), 268-263

