



## READING IN SECOND LANGUAGE SITUATION-AN INDIAN PERSPECTIVE

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### Abstract

*Language is the essence of life and essential to communicate with others. In any language performing language functions, four major skills are identified as necessary. They are listening, speaking, reading and writing also known as LSRW. Teaching effectively is possible with the integration of these four skills. While acquiring the mother tongue, a person listens first before he/she attempts to speak. Gradually then begins to speak, later reads and finally writes. Speaking, writing and reading are the three major language skills play more important to design one's career. The present focuses on the reading an imperative pre-requisite to the major productive skill of writing.*

**Keywords:** *Language, reading, writing, motivation and different types of reading.*

### Introduction:

Reading is an important skill and one has to inculcate and imbibe reading to expand the horizon of thinking. There are umpteen reasons behind the importance of reading. First and foremost, reading is fundamental to function in today's world. And also it develops one's cognitive ability and the mind grows its ability to comprehend the needed information, furtherly helps to communicate in a better manner. Moreover reading helps one's imagination which helps his/her to travel at incredible distance. Reading also helps one's self-image; as reading books gives them knowledge with knowledge they can conquer the world. Finally reading enables to build the blocks of life.

### Why Reading is Important:

Michael West, an ELT expert decisively argues that "a second language learners should concentrate more on reading." (Michael West: 1960,79) The essential need of the average bilingual child of a minor language is mainly that of reading ability is one of the major languages to supply informational and scientific deficiency of his national literature. The bilingual child does not so much need to speak his second language as to read it. Steven Roger Fisher establishes the importance of Reading and Writing. He places reading above writing. "Writing is an expression. Writing is public, Reading is personal. Writing is limited, Reading is open-ended. Writing freezes the moment and Reading is forever." (Steven Roger Fisher, 2003:8)

### Motivation:

Though reading has got higher impression than writing, it demands dual motivation. It is the driving factor that contributes to the acquisition and exercise the proficiency in reading. The motivation is of two types: external and internal. A student who is internally motivated



engages in reading and enjoys it full-fledged. External motivation to the students rendered by parents, teachers and well-wishers. But when the students are not motivated, the teacher has to devise different techniques to engage the students in reading in classroom situations. Teacher plays a pivotal role in motivating the students to read to different types of reading.

### **Types of Reading:**

As reading is the important skills for second language learner of English in India, the knowledge of reading in the mother tongue (L1) can be usefully put to use to transfer abilities of L1 to learn English (L2) with considerable ease.

### **Narrative Reading:**

Narration is an act or process of telling a story or an incident. It is a primary factor of Harrison. Harrison traces the growth of the child reader into an adult, which happens due to the growing child, being a curious gatherer of important information. As per his words, "I want to argue that narrative and story are important in distinctive ways in human development, but I also want to assert that information books are important; written texts were not stories or poetry, but information texts – facts about ownership, law, the permanent recording of important details and events."

### **Descriptive Reading:**

Descriptive reading generally consists of material or graphic accounts of people, circumstances or incidents. The advantage of this reading is it increases one's imaginative power and exposes the reader to a new panorama of the world. The folk artists make use of "best descriptive styles in their performances to captivate the attention of the audience."

### **Interpretative Reading:**

Interpretative or dramatic reading is performed by one or more people, the focus is on the vocal expressions. Consequently the physical movement is limited and the piece is not memorized. With an emphasis on vocal variety, which enables to develop a different set of speaking skills to communicate the ideas and emotions of someone else.

Main Objectives of Interpretative Reading are:

### **Read a Story**

- To understand the elements of interpretative reading
- To learn how to analyze a narrative and plan for effective interpretation
- To learn and apply vocal techniques that will aid in the effectiveness of the reading

### **Interpreting Poetry**

- To make the differentiation between poetry and prose
- To recognize how poets use imagery, rhythm, meter and rhyme to convey the meanings and emotions of their poetry
- To apply vocal techniques that will aid in the effectiveness of the reading



### **The Monodrama**

- To understand the concept and nature of the monodrama
- To assume the identity of a character and to portray the physical and emotional aspects of the character to the audience

### **The Play**

- To adapt a play for interpretative reading
- To portray several character in one reading, identifying them to the audience through voice changes and movement

### **The Oratorical Speech**

- To understand the structure of an effective speech
- To interpret and present a famous speech

### **Argumentative Reading:**

Argumentative reading provides with purposeful and valuable language practice. The students could develop their speaking skills in their arguments. This reading skill can be developed in the classroom through debates, group discussions and puzzles. "This encourages the reader to continue reading outside the classroom which facilitates the reference skill."

### **Conclusions:**

With the help of these skills the readers could come out in flying colors in their academics that help them in all the professional walks of life. Reading through different types aids the students to practice and take it up as a passion to illuminate their journey of acquiring knowledge and spread it to others; succeed in motivating people around. The different types of reading enable them to choose and make a choice based on that they focus more on a particular reading to carry out an investigation in future projects. With the culmination of all these different types of reading a student excels in life and opens a new vista in future endeavors. "A reader lives thousand lives before he dies.....The man who never reads lives only one." - George R R Martin.

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