

CHOOSING CORRECT MATERIALS FOR READING ACTIVITIES

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ABSTRACT

The point of the current paper is to illustrate some difficulties to choose correct reading materials for language learners. Moreover, it discusses some ideas about learning styles and teaching strategies as learning styles are crucial for the process of learning.

Keywords: reading types, reading materials, authentic materials, students' age, characters, learning styles

Learning a foreign language is not an easy matter, especially for children as they are not aware of the culture, traditions, politics, way of life and many other spheres of the language. A variety of challenges can be encountered in the process of learning and teaching a language. To find a solution to such problems, it is necessary to take into account the age of the learners, their interests, their character. Actually, there are various types of learning styles which should be taken into account by the teacher to teach for reading materials as well as vocabulary. Taking learning styles into account is vitally important to make student interest for the lesson and to make the lesson process easy. The following types can be assumed as learning styles:

- Visual - Visual or spatial learners supposedly retain information best by viewing pictures or images and respond well to colours and mind maps. These logos represent the main aspect of each learning style.
- Kinaesthetic - According to the theory, kinaesthetic learners are all about doing things physically. Role playing, using things like flashcards or carrying out the action physically can help them learn things better.
- Aural - Aural or auditory-musical learners should retain the most information after hearing it. Click below to listen to this recital of the different learning styles
- Social - Social, or interpersonal learners are meant to work best when they participate in study activities with other people such as quizzing each other or having a study group.
- Solitary - Solitary, or intrapersonal learners supposedly work best alone. Making notes and reciting them back are useful activities when studying by yourself. Most of us will have to do some solitary revision at some point in our lives
- Verbal - Verbal, or linguistic learners are supposed to respond well to written or spoken words, using tools like rhymes and acronyms.

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- Logical - Logical, or mathematical learners use logic and structures in order to learn effectively. If you're good with numbers and statistics, you might find the logical style in this essay helpful

It can be mentined as fact that selecting reading materials is just one of teachers' many daily duties, most teachers do this task based on their own criteria with no further considerations. They hardly ever involve the students in this reading selection process, even though they are meant to be the final recipients of the reading materials. As a consequence, the reading materials chosen by the instructors are often inappropriate when the age is not taken into account. According to Richard R. Day, "One of the more complex tasks facing the English as a foreign language (EFL) reading teacher is the selection of appropriate reading passages" [1.20]

Selecting reading materials for any particular ESL or EFL class must be a thoughtful process rather than a random one. The students must be actively involved in this process if teachers want to adopt appropriate reading materials for the class. Due to the relevance of the process of selecting reading passages, researchers have devoted much time to analyzing the different aspects involved in the selection process. Field researchers, such as Melvin & Stout, Fox, and Gebhard, have identified certain factors that need to be considered when preparing material for ESL-EFL classes.

In fact, characteristics of learners are also different, for instance:

Personal learning style which is divided into two types as following:

- a) Interpersonal learners - work best in groups and social elements help improve their concentration. Debates, group study and interactions are the best methods. Interestingly, while they work best in groups, they also have the most empathy.
- b) Intrapersonal learners - Intrapersonal learners are also known as solitary learners. Unlike interpersonal learners they work best when studying alone. They are known to be interested in philosophy, psychology and theology because of their proficiency in self-reflection.

In summary, in order to select reading material with appropriate contents, it is necessary to take the students' interests and needs into account. This can be done by asking the students to make a list of topics that they will study in their specific fields or that they would like to read for fun.

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