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Практические подходы обучения чтению

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Practical approaches of teaching reading

Статья содержит информацию о разных методах обучения английского языка

This article is devoted to the usage of various approaches and techniques while teaching reading and they are explained with different activities and examples

Ключевые слова: методы, техника

Key words: approach, method and technique

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Nowadays, learning foreign languages is one of the most important points of our life. Because: "Each intelligent person should know at least two foreign languages" [I.A. Karimov]. According to the President I.A. Karimov's decree №1875 English is being taught at schools from 1st grade in Uzbekistan. As we know, there is a special curriculum for teaching this language: It is CEFR (Common European Framework of Reference). And, according to this curriculum learner must be taught on 4 skills. They are:

1. Listening skill
2. Reading skill
3. Speaking skill
4. Writing skill

While learning any foreign language all of these four skills are important for learners. Because all of them are connected with each other. Some people consider that if they learn to read in a language it means that they learn this language. But, it is a wrong opinion. Reading means "reading and understanding". Being able to read words but not to recognize their meaning is not considered "reading". Increasing reading strategies can be one of the major focuses of learning foreign languages. Becoming an effective and fluent reader of another language has a number of important benefits for the learner.

"Here are given some assumptions of reading:

1. Learners need to perceive and decode letters in order to read words.
2. They need to understand all the words in order to understand the meaning of a text.
3. The more symbols (letters or words) there are in a text, the longer it will take to read it.
4. Learners gather meaning from what they read.
5. Their understanding of a text comes from understanding the words of which it is composed" [A Course in Language Teaching -2000:138].

Following assumptions are discussed one by one:

1. Learners need to perceive and decode letters in order to read words. [1]

Of course at first learners should know how to pronounce letters which the word includes. Because, in English language there are lots of words which are written in the same way. Such kinds of words are called "Homonyms". And the meanings of these words are derived from their pronunciations.

2. They need to understand all the words in order to understand the meaning of a text [1]. Each word must be understandable to the learner. Because it can help them to understand full meaning of the text. In order to understand all words, a learner should have a good vocabulary.

3. The more symbols (letters or words) there are in a text, the longer it will take to read it [1]. Long texts may take long time to read and understand. That's reason each learner should try not to waste time to find the meaning of the words if there are some words which are unknown.

4. Learners gather meaning from what they read [1]. It is natural that not all words are familiar to the learner. In this case they should guess the meaning of the unknown words from the context.

5. Their understanding of a text comes from understanding the words of which it is composed [1]. As we mentioned, in order to get the meaning of the text most words which it is composed should be familiar to the learner. It can help them to realize the text quickly.

We should say that the most important point while learning reading is learning the pronunciation of the terms. Because even we can read fluently it is worthless if we are not able to pronounce the words or letters in a right way. There are some letters which are pronounced differently in English phonetics. It is up to their position. For example:

– Uu

{ju:} – tube, tune, useful

{u:} – blue, true, June

{və},{jvə} – pure, during, sure

{ə} – upon, success, difficult

{ɜ:} – turn, burn, curly, hurt [6]

– Yy

{ai} – my, try, type, cycle

{i} – symbol, system

{j} – year, you, young, yet

{aiə} – tyre [6]

So, if a learner can pronounce the words in a correct way it doesn't take them long period of time to understand the meaning of any topic. That's reason a good pronunciation is considered the first rule of learning reading.

In order to teach or learn something we should use learning materials such as activities, reading passages and others. Working with texts can help us to increase our learners' reading skill quickly. There are several types of reading activities. One of them is "Matching Paragraph Headings". While doing this activity a learner needs to follow several strategies.

Here are some strategies to answer the questions [5]:

1. Quickly read through the paragraph headings so you can see what they say.
2. Then look at the first paragraph.
3. Often only the topic sentence needs to be read carefully because the main idea and answer are there – you may be able to just skim the rest.
4. Sometimes, however, the answer is not in the topic sentence and the whole paragraph needs to be read more carefully.
5. If a match is not immediately obvious, move on the next one.
6. If you are unsure between two answers at first, put them both in. You may be able to eliminate one answer later if it fits another paragraph better.
7. If at the end you are still stuck between two answers for a question, pick which fits best.

If a learner follows all above mentioned strategies, it can help them to find the headings of the paragraphs fast and simply.

Here is an example for practice:

E.g.: Yoruba Towns

The Yoruba people of Nigeria classify their towns in two ways. Permanent towns with their own governments are called "ilu", whereas temporary settlements, set up to support work in the country are "aba". Although ilu tend to be larger than aba, the distinction is not one of size, some aba are large, while declining ilu can be small, but of purpose. There is no "typical" Yoruba town, but some features are common to most towns.

1. Match the correct heading to the paragraph.
 - A. Town facilities
 - B. Oyo's palace
 - C. Urban divisions
 - D. Architectural features
 - E. Types of settlements [5]

While reading a topic it is important to find the easiest and fastest way of realizing that text. In this position several ways of reading can help us to make our work easier.

The main ways of reading are follows:

- **Skimming**: quickly running one's eyes over a text to get the gist of it.
- **Scanning**: quickly going through a text to find a particular piece of information.
- **Extensive reading**: reading longer texts, usually for one's own pleasure. This is a fluency activity, mainly involving global understanding.

– **Intensive reading**: reading shorter texts, to extract specific information. This is more an accuracy activity involving reading for detail [2].

In conclusion we can say that reading is one of the most important sides while learning any foreign language. Using different kinds of reading activities can help the learners to increase their reading skill as quickly as possible. And also the ways of reading like skimming and scanning are the most suitable way of making easy reading.

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5. URL: <http://nsfla.uz>
6. URL: <http://www.thefreedictionary.com>

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