



COMPREHENSION STRATEGY FOR GRADE TEN STUDENTS: DIRECTED READING THINKING ACTIVITY IN FOCUS

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this research topic emanated from the observation in the past research that, levels of reading difficulties among Junior High School students are very high in the Philippines and are not an exception (Soriano, 2019). The Philippines could be having thousands of children who have severe reading problems which have not been detected. Therefore, there is a need to identify and understand these reading predicaments early in life and the challenges they bring about so that the situation could be changed for the better. This study involved teachers in grades ten in selected public schools in Davao City. This group was chosen because, the following year, they are supposed to be in the Senior High School to write their examinations which are to be read and answered in English without anybody's help. The purpose of direct reading activity (RDA) is to activate your students' thinking prior to reading a passage by scanning the title, chapter headings, illustrations, and other materials. Use open-ended questions to direct students as they make predictions about the content or perspective of the text. Every participant is an English teacher at one of Davao City's chosen public schools. With over five years of experience teaching reading, these participants are currently teaching for school year 2023–2024. This study includes nine participants in total, who, if needed, will participate in the focused group discussion and in-depth interview. Five of them will joined the in-depth interview (IDI) while the remaining four have joined focused group discussion. All data gathered during IDI and FGD was recorded and transmuted to summarize the responses of the participants in an orderly manner. Below are the inclusion criteria of the participants.

KEYWORDS: Comprehension, strategy, students, directed reading, thinking activity

INTRODUCTION

Reading is one of the English skills which are essential to be mastered by the students. Reading skills are necessary for students in acquiring knowledge and new information. Reading comprehension using direct reading activity is the most essential skill in the educational context as it can be the assessments for students' general language ability. The department of education emphasized that reading comprehension is one aspect of language skills that must be mastered by the student. To be able to interpret and absorb information from reading material, students should have good understanding ability.

In the United States of America, there are still many problems in the learning process of reading comprehension. Sometimes students are only required to read the text in the heart, and then answer questions related to the content of the text. It is a way that does not involve the process of thinking students so that students are not involved in active reading process. Indeed, each lesson will not be separated from the communicative method. But if in any learning simply used by communicative method the students will be visible only be passive and just as an object of learning do not as a subject of learning so that will be difficult to develop students' thinking process (Adams, M.J., 2020).

In the same way, in Norway, the used of suitable strategies that will be one of the determinants in teaching learning. Even in terms of learning reading comprehension. The method or strategy used should be able to improve students' reading comprehension. The lack using of method or learning strategies become one of the bottlenecks achievements of learning goals (Bond, et. al., 2019).



The selection of methods for each learning the teacher must attention to the character of the students. Methods or strategies used is not only one, but also can be varied by other methods so that students do not feel tired or bored in learning process. When students are motivated to learn well and it will facilitate in providing instruction to students so that learning becomes conducive and pleasant. Therefore, the goal of learning will be achieved (Crowder & Wagner 2019).

According to Gibson (2019) some problems above, almost a half of students get low point in reading comprehension class. It is known from the English teacher in that school if the minimum completeness criteria for English subjects specified in the junior high school that is seventy-five. While from students in the class is almost more than half have not yet reached the criteria minimum. I think so many factors again that caused it to happened, one of each is the choice of method still conventional or the communicative method.

In Washington D.C, Richardson and Morgan (2019) state that direct reading activities engages students in higher order thinking skills and that these skills include making connections between interrelated elements of the text, justifying thought processes and drawing logical conclusions. They maintain that these skills can set the pathway toward independent reading, foster learner responsibility and improve reading comprehension. The direct reading activities helps students become aware of the reading strategies, understand the reading process, and develop prediction skills. They add that this strategy stimulates students' thinking and makes them listen to the opinions of others and modify their own in light of additional information.

Research Questions

I have found that teaching reading strategies is important to developing increased student reading comprehension. At the same time, they have found many teachers lack a solid foundation for teaching these reading comprehension strategies (National Reading Panel, 2020). Therefore, teachers need to be prepared, through professional development, on how to design effective comprehension strategies and how to teach these strategies to their students. Improving reading skills is a top priority for all educators.

To achieve the main aim of this study, the following research questions are set to generate reliable and authentic data from the Junior High School teachers who served as the participants of this study, to wit:

1. What is the reading predicament encountered by the teachers in teaching grade ten students using direct reading activity?
2. How do they cope with those reading predicament to achieve reading proficiency using direct reading approach in teaching grade ten students?
3. What are the teaching and learning insights can be drawn to enhance the reading comprehension the grade ten learners using direct reading activities?

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

In order to enable future researchers to extrapolate the findings of this study to different contexts, the specifics of the research methodologies will be detailed. Transferability, the qualitative equivalent of external validity in postpositivist research, will be developed through detailed and meticulous discussions of the study's time, place, environment, and culture (Mertens, 2018). This part will address the interview technique, clarify the researcher's function, and then go into the sample strategy and ethical issues.

Research Participants

TEvery participant is an English teacher at one of Davao City's chosen public schools. With over five years of experience teaching reading, these participants are currently teaching for school year 2023–2024. This study includes nine participants in total, who, if needed, will participate in the focused group discussion and in-depth interview.

Five of them will joined the in-depth interview (IDI) while the remaining four have joined focused group discussion. All data gathered during IDI and FGD was recorded and transmuted to summarize the responses of the participants in an orderly manner. Below are the inclusion criteria of the participants.



Research Instruments

Researchers should interview subjects to find out information they are unable to directly observe, according to Patton (2005), referenced in Soriano (2019). The goal of qualitative interviewing is to comprehend participant experiences and the meaning they ascribe to them rather than to find answers to specific questions. Semi-structured interviews are frequently used when a researcher wants to gather more focused and specific information, but unstructured, open-ended interviews are typically used in qualitative studies because they allow for the greatest flexibility and responsiveness to emerging issues for both the interviewer and the participants.

Semi-structured interviews combine the flexibility of unstructured, open-ended interviews with directionality and an agenda to produce focused, qualitative, textual data (Schensul, et. al., 2019). This study collected data using semi-structured interviews to explore how the Junior High School teachers improve the quality of teaching reading to Grade 10 learners and to describe their experiences, strategies, and outcomes when attending classes in promoting reading comprehension skills using directed reading thinking activities.

Data Analysis

The qualitative method was used to analyze the data. I conducted an analysis of the interviews to respond to the first and second research questions. As a result, I found the themes by doing a content analysis of every interview. In order to address the second and final study objectives, the interviews were utilized to examine the benefits and drawbacks of these interactive slides.

Qualitative data analysis begins with the process of organizing, reducing, and describing the collected data. Unlike quantitative analysis, there are no prescribed formulas for qualitative analysis. Marshall and Rossman (2006) remind researchers that qualitative analysis does not proceed linearly and is not neat. However, good practice and procedures enhance the credibility of qualitative research. In this last section, the data analysis procedures will be explained and the steps taken to ensure the results from this study are credible, transferable, dependable, and authentic will be thoroughly described.

To guide the data analysis, I used the seven phases of data analysis described by Colaizzi (2006) as cited in Evans and Green (2019). Data analysis first begins with organizing the data. The organization of the data involved keeping information provided by each participant separate and in sequence with the order of the interviews. The process of organizing the data allowed it to remain manageable, easily accessible, and readily available. The digital audio files from the interviews were carefully transcribed into written form.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

It can be concluded that directed reading thinking activities (DRTA) has good benefits to support the reading comprehension learning process. Students can understand the contents of the reading text easily. Besides, it can increase students' reading interest, especially reading stories or fairy tales. Text prediction has an important role in directed reading thinking activities strategy because at this stage students are required to think critically. This strategy can help teachers in improving students' reading comprehension skills in teaching the English language. Based on the data of the research, the directed reading thinking activities strategy has several benefits, including: can improve students' reading comprehension ability; can increase students' interest in reading; make the class more exciting, and less boring.

Implications

The traditional bottom-up approach to reading influenced by behaviorist psychologist E.J. Gibson in the 1950s, which claimed learning was based upon "habit formation, brought about by the repeated association of a stimulus with a response" and language learning was characterized as a "response system that humans acquire through automatic conditioning processes," where "some patterns of language are reinforced (rewarded) and others are not," and "only those patterns reinforced by the community of language users will persist" (Omaggio, 2019). Behaviorism became the basis of the audio-lingual method, which sought to form second language "habits" through drilling, repetition, and error correction.

Thus, the importance of vocabulary development and comprehension techniques was found relevance to the theory of E.J. Gibson because a robust vocabulary improves all areas of communication such as; listening, speaking, reading



and writing. Vocabulary is critical to a child's success for these reasons: vocabulary growth is directly related to school achievement, the size of a child's vocabulary in kindergarten predicts the ability to learn to read, vocabulary helps children to think and learn about the world and expanding a child's knowledge of words provides unlimited access to new information.

In the 1960s Richard Gregory drew a paradigm shift that occurred in the cognitive sciences. Behaviorism became somewhat discredited as the new cognitive theory represented the mind's innate capacity for learning, which gave new explanatory power to how humans acquired their first language; this also had a tremendous impact on the field of ESL/EFL as psycholinguists explained: "how such internal representations of the foreign language development within the learner's mind" (Omaggio, 2019).

John Flavell (1979) emphasized "thinking about thinking" and was introduced as a concept, who is typically seen as a founding scholar of the field. Flavell said that metacognition is the knowledge you have of your cognitive processes (your thinking). You can control your thinking processes through various strategies, such as organizing, monitoring, and adapting. Additionally, you can reflect upon the tasks or processes you undertake and select and utilize the appropriate strategies necessary in your intercultural interactions.

Lastly, the directed reading teaching activity learning strategy lays the foundation for John Dewey's educational philosophy, which states that students will experience meaningful learning if they are able to demonstrate the steps of scientific inquiry (Kara & Doi, 2021). The advantage of directed reading teaching activity the learning model is based on intrinsic motivation in accordance with constructivism about learning, where students should experience learning while teachers are only mediators and facilitators.

Thus, students will automatically be more motivated to learn. With high motivation, students will be more interested in solving problems contained in the worksheets and textbooks so that the information obtained will be more organized in the cognitive structure of students. The Directed Reading Thinking Activity (DRTA) model emphasizes the process of full student involvement to be able to find the material being studied and relate it to real-life situations so as to encourage students to be able to apply it in their lives (Wijaya & Zulaeha, 2021). From this concept, there are several things that can be observed. First, the Directed Reading Thinking Activity (DRTA) model emphasizes the direct experience process.

The learning process in Directed Reading Thinking Activity (DRTA) does not expect students to only receive lessons, but the process of finding and understanding the subject matter themselves. Second, the Directed Reading Thinking Activity (DRTA) model encourages students to be able to apply it in life, meaning that the Directed Reading Thinking Activity (DRTA) model not only expects students to understand the material they are learning but how the subject matter can color their behavior in everyday life. The subject matter in the Directed Reading Thinking Activity (DRTA) model is not to be piled up in the brain and then forgotten, but as a provision for them to influence real life (Safitri et al., 2022).

Future Directions

This research study shares the lived experiences of junior high school teachers in teaching reading using directed reading thinking activities (DRTA) among Grade 10 learner's value reading comprehension, modification of reading strategies and imposition of powerful motivation. Just as it informs of the many challenges teachers faced, it exposes numerous areas for further study. The overarching topic of educational disruption could be explored in relation to student achievement, teacher mental health, or teachers leaving the profession.

Within in the context of the difficulty in reading among learners and its impact on education, possible directions for research include student attendance, engagement, mental health, and coping strategies. To hone it on student academic progress, the study of the inequities which seemed to be exacerbated during teaching reading and learning using DRTA, and the impact of those on the achievement gap in education across the nation could be explored.

Also, worthy of study is how the reading format was beneficial to students as they did not have to manage the complexities of attending school with their peers every day, were allowed to work at their own pace, and possibly received one-to-one interaction and assistance from their teachers. Additionally, I would recommend studies to examine the impact of reading on parents' perceptions of teachers' roles and responsibilities. Other possibilities might



involve the notion of reading student cues while video conferencing, and how adaptations teachers made during reading sessions and learning directly impacted their future practice in either a face-to-face or a distance environment.

The extreme disruption of poverty among learners opened the floodgates with regards to educational topics worthy of pursuit. My study situates itself in the literature with regards to teachers' experiences in teaching JHS learners. Its findings led to several recommendations and possibilities for additional research.

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