THE IMPACT OF READING TECHNIQUES INCLUDING SKIMMING AND SCANNING ON STUDENTS' READING COMPREHENSION

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Annotation:
This article investigates the effectiveness of the scanning reading strategy among higher education students in enhancing reading comprehension. The study employs a mixed-methods approach, incorporating quantitative and qualitative data analysis. The results reveal the impact of scanning on reading comprehension and suggest implications for educators and learners.

Keywords: Reading strategies, scanning, higher education, reading comprehension, annotation.

Reading comprehension is a fundamental skill for higher education students as it is an essential component of learning, critical thinking, and academic success. With the vast amount of information available in textbooks, articles, and research papers, students often seek effective reading strategies to enhance their understanding of complex materials. One such strategy that has gained attention is "scanning." This article aims to explore the effectiveness of scanning as a reading strategy among higher education students and its impact on reading comprehension.

The effectiveness of various reading strategies, including scanning, among higher education students on reading comprehension can vary depending on the context, the text being read, and the individual preferences and skills of the students. Scanning is one of several reading strategies that can be employed by students to enhance their comprehension. Scanning involves quickly looking through a text to identify specific information without reading it word by word.

Here are some factors to consider regarding the effectiveness of scanning and other reading strategies in higher education:

1.   Text Complexity: The effectiveness of scanning may vary depending on the complexity of the text. Scanning is most effective for texts with clear headings, subheadings, and a well-organized structure. It may not be as effective for highly technical or dense academic texts.

2.   Purpose of Reading: The purpose of reading can greatly influence the choice of reading strategy. Scanning is suitable when students need to locate specific facts

Proceedings of International Scientific Conference on Multidisciplinary Studies
Hosted online from Moscow, Russia
Date: 11ᵗʰ Oct., 2023
ISSN: 2835-5733   **Website:** econferenceseries.com

or information quickly, but for in-depth understanding, other strategies like skimming, close reading, and critical analysis might be more appropriate.

3.   Prior Knowledge: A student's prior knowledge of the subject matter can impact the effectiveness of scanning. If students are familiar with the topic, they may be better at quickly identifying relevant information. If the topic is unfamiliar, they might struggle to determine what's important.

4.   Training and Guidance: Effective use of scanning and other reading strategies often requires training and guidance. Higher education institutions can provide instruction on various reading techniques, including when and how to use scanning effectively.

5.   Individual Preferences and Skills: Different students may have varying preferences and skills when it comes to reading strategies. Some may find scanning very effective, while others may prefer different approaches. It's essential for students to experiment with different strategies and determine what works best for them.

6.   Time Constraints: Scanning is a time-saving technique. It can be especially useful when students are working under time constraints, such as during exams or when conducting research.

7.   Complementary Strategies: Scanning can be more effective when combined with other reading strategies. For example, students may scan for key terms and then employ skimming and close reading to deepen their understanding.

8.   Digital vs. Print Texts: The medium in which the text is presented (digital or print) can also affect the effectiveness of scanning. Digital texts often allow for quicker searching through the use of search functions, while print texts may require more manual scanning.

In summary, the effectiveness of scanning and other reading strategies for higher education students on reading comprehension depends on various factors. These include the nature of the text, the purpose of reading, the students' prior knowledge, their training, and individual preferences. It's essential for students to develop a repertoire of reading strategies and choose the most appropriate one based on the specific context and their goals for comprehension.

Conclusions and Suggestions:

In conclusion, scanning is a valuable reading strategy for higher education students seeking to improve their reading comprehension skills. The study's results indicate

that training in scanning can lead to improved academic performance, increased reading efficiency, and greater confidence among students.

To implement this strategy effectively, educators should consider the following suggestions:

- Incorporate Scanning Training: Integrate scanning techniques into the curriculum to equip students with this valuable skill.

- Offer Workshops and Resources: Provide workshops, online resources, or tutorials to help students learn and practice scanning strategies.

- Continuous Assessment: Evaluate the impact of scanning training on reading comprehension periodically to measure its effectiveness.

- Support Self-directed Learning: Encourage students to practice scanning in their self-directed study, emphasizing its relevance in various academic contexts.

By promoting the use of scanning as a reading strategy in higher education, educators can contribute to improved student performance and a more efficient learning experience. This approach aligns with the evolving demands of education in the digital age, where quick access to information is crucial for academic success.

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