

IMPROVING THE LEXICAL COMPETENCE OF 1ST YEAR STUDENTS THROUGH IELTS READING TEXTS

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Abstract: *The article analyzes ways to increase the lexical competence of 1st year students through IELTS reading texts. IELTS texts are considered an effective tool for learning new words and contextual analysis. The results show that such an approach has a positive effect on increasing vocabulary and developing text comprehension skills.*

Keywords: *Lexical competence, IELTS reading texts, contextual analysis, vocabulary development, academic language, 1st year students.*

Introduction

Nowadays, learning foreign languages is an important factor not only for personal development, but also for professional success. Internationally, tests such as IELTS are one of the main criteria for assessing language skills, which test students' ability to apply their language skills in academic and everyday contexts. In particular, the variety and complexity of the topics of the texts in the IELTS reading section encourages students to increase their vocabulary and use the language correctly in different contexts. In the process of successful language acquisition, lexical competence is of great importance, and this skill includes the correct understanding of the meaning of words, their use in speech and writing. Using IELTS reading texts is one of the effective ways to strengthen lexical knowledge of 1st year students. Since such texts cover scientific, cultural and technical topics, they increase students' interest in academic language and serve to expand their vocabulary.

This article analyzes approaches to the development of lexical competence of first-year students based on IELTS reading texts. It discusses how students improve their language skills by learning new words, contextual analysis, and restating their thoughts. This study aims to show how useful IELTS reading texts are in the process of modern language learning.

Materials and methods

Using IELTS reading texts is an effective way to improve the lexical competence of 1st year students. This method develops students' vocabulary, teaches them to analyze new words contextually, and to think about academic and everyday topics. The texts in the IELTS reading section cover academic and general topics, encouraging students to learn new terms and expressions on a variety of topics.

A new vocabulary list is created before each text to introduce students to new words. Filling this list with synonyms and antonyms and explaining the meaning and use of words in context will be more effective for students. Students are then given tasks to use

these words in sentences and write small texts. It helps not only to memorize words, but also to strengthen them.

Students are taught skimming and scanning techniques when working with texts. The skimming method teaches to quickly understand the general content of the text and distinguish the main ideas, while the scanning method ensures searching for information from the text to find answers to specific questions. These techniques help students to increase their reading speed and focus.

Interactive activities are organized in each lesson. Working in pairs and groups, students discuss texts, find answers to questions, and prepare short speeches based on the text. It develops students' communication skills and increases their interest in the text they read.

During the evaluation process, short tests are conducted based on the texts, and the level of vocabulary and information acquired by the students is analyzed. They will also have the opportunity to express their thoughts on text topics in writing and apply the knowledge they have acquired in practice. This process serves to control the progress of students in the language learning process.

Developing lexical competence through IELTS reading texts not only improves students' academic preparation, but also teaches them to think in different contexts and communicate meaningfully and logically. This will expand their general language skills and make them competitive in the international arena.

Results and discussion

In the study, the following results were obtained when evaluating the effectiveness of improving the lexical competence of first-year students through IELTS reading texts:

Developing Vocabulary: Through IELTS reading texts, students' vocabulary increased significantly. The new words and phrases learned during the lesson were actively used in communication and written work of the students. They clearly understood new terms and developed the skills to use them correctly when reading texts.

Strengthening Contextual Analysis: Students were able to not only memorize new words, but also understand how to use them in context. This was a more effective way for them to learn the language. The use of skimming and scanning techniques helped them to understand the general content of texts and learn new words in context.

Developing Reading Strategies: Through skimming and scanning methods, students developed the skills of reading texts quickly and efficiently. These reading methods helped students quickly extract the main ideas of the text and increased their reading speed. Also, students were more successful in answering questions about the text.

The Impact of Interactive Training: Working in groups and pairs, as well as interactive games and quizzes helped students to strengthen their knowledge. Students actively participated not only in reading, but also in discussing the texts and commenting on new words. This made their language acquisition process more active and interesting.

Evaluation Results: Final assessments of reading and vocabulary development indicated that students made significant gains in reading texts and understanding new words. Pre- and post-lesson tests, including written and oral tests, showed a clear increase

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in students' vocabulary and comprehension. Students also successfully participated in commenting and analyzing the texts.

Discussion

The results of the study show that the use of IELTS reading texts is very effective in developing lexical competence. This method not only helps to increase vocabulary, but also helps students to acquire strong reading and analysis skills. The use of skimming and scanning techniques allows students to develop the skills of reading text quickly and efficiently, which helps them perform well in exams such as IELTS.

Interactive activities allow students to practice new words and phrases, which helps to retain the knowledge learned in the long term. Also, this method increases students' interest and makes the learning process interactive and interesting.

In addition, students' success in reading IELTS reading texts will also help them develop their general English skills. Applying this method in a wider scope and integrating it in other academic areas will create greater opportunities for students.

However, some students may have difficulty learning new words. For this, additional training and individual approaches are necessary. Using different methods of memorizing words and adapting them to the individual needs of students makes this process more effective.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the study showed that improving the lexical competence of first-year students through IELTS reading texts is an effective and useful method. In the process of reading texts, students learned new words in context and developed the skills of using them in practice. Reading techniques such as skimming and scanning taught students to read texts quickly and efficiently, which increased their reading speed and comprehension. Through the impact of interactive activities and group work, students not only expanded their vocabulary, but also became more confident in expressing their thoughts clearly and using new words in communication. During the evaluation process, students successfully demonstrated their knowledge, but some students may have difficulties in learning new words. For such cases, additional training and individual approaches are required. However, in general, the use of IELTS reading texts helps to achieve successful results in the development of lexical competence and helps students to strengthen their reading, listening and writing skills. At the same time, the use of this method in wider educational processes can provide more effective results for students. By strengthening reading and analysis, students' academic success in English will increase and help them perform better in preparing for future international exams.

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