



## Reading Newspaper as a Pedagogical Technique for Second Language Learners

**RajaniKanth  
kuncharapu**

Research Scholar, Osmania University

### ABSTRACT

English language teaching has witnessed a great change after 1980s under the impact of globalization. The impact of globalization has changed the ways of methods of teaching in the English Class rooms. It is also a challenging task for the teachers of English that they need to undergo the different kinds of techniques to improve the students' communication skills. This is the reason why the newspaper is considered one of the perfect teaching tools and techniques in English class rooms. Reading newspaper improves LSRW Skills, general knowledge and encourage positive attitude where these qualities are demanded by Multinational Companies. The other skills required to be placed in Multinational Companies are also learnt from reading newspaper. In this paper an attempt has been made how to use the newspaper for the developing not only English communication skills, but it also provides the way to develop vocabulary, grammar, critical, innovative thinking and group dynamics. Moreover, this paper also focuses how the learner can be exposed to social, cultural, regional, national and international issues of every day.

**KEYWORDS** : Newspaper, Multinational Company, LSRW, Teachers, Students, Vocabulary, Grammar

### Introduction:

Language abilities are subject to lot of practice in the areas of skills of language. One of its resources to provide language abilities is Newspaper. They can be used as a resourceful tool in English language classroom. It creates a kind of focus on Political, Social and other areas, but it creates Emphasized focus on Educational tool also. Reading is one of the skills which focus on the vocabulary skills of the language learner. One can get the repository of knowledge in the area of vocabulary by reading newspapers regularly. They offer more information on spending less expense on them. They give the reference to different kinds of daily wise incidents and events..It is expected a good habit from the learners of English that one should have proper maintenance of knowledge in the areas of learning English language skills. In this regard, Newspapers are being used as a good tool to gain good habits; it is very important aspect of the MNCS requirement that their employees should have thorough knowledge of all round development of all areas. Those who read Newspapers regularly are more proficient and aware about the happenings local and non-local. Students are expected to learn good communications skills as a demanding requirement of MNCS, and those can be learnt by reading News papers and can have thorough knowledge on all the areas provided in the Newspapers. Cheyney (1992) rightly remarks: "Newspapers is the text book that provides up-to date information on local, State, Provincial, National and World affairs".

By reading Newspapers, The students can gather information on different subjects including Social, Political, Entertainment, Business issues, Sports, Arts, Culture, Music, Education etc.. Students are expected to have logical skills to be provided job opportunities. It is one of the areas reading newspaper, where logical skills can be enhanced and thinking skills of the students are improved. Thereby, there are provided a wonderful opportunity to express their opinion on different issues. The reasons are many to give why English Newspaper is to be read, But, mainly the focus is on learning the vocabulary. Besides being learnt the vocabulary, the present paper aims to study the learning English grammar through English Newspaper in an ESL (English as Second Language) class room.

Those are the ESL classrooms where English newspapers can be used as very effective teaching tool. Feinholt (1985) offers "numerous activities that are based upon the use of newspapers as a learning resource to enhance reading and life skills of students". It is very important that the motivation is to be generated to the students by any one of the resources. Newspapers are going to be taken the place of motivation and they influence the readers and make them learn language skills. One is to be habituated to do something; it is proved in the case of newspaper reading that the students will not leave them once they are habituated to read them.

They will be surely profited by using and reading newspapers in the classrooms and outside of the classrooms. Paul Sanderson (2002) stated the very important thing that enhances success in using newspapers in classroom is the careful design of the tasks. It is a critical comment from many scholars that newspapers provide more than predicted text especially in the matter of content and language, Lindsay Clandfield and Dun can Foord (2006) stated that newspapers are much more current than course books, they make an excellent springboard for lessons, and they feature different types of language.

### Reading Skills:

Language learning works out learning all the four skills simultaneously. Many scholars believe that reading is a passive skill in which the readers move their eyes on the printed page. When they practiced on learning really, reading holds the key to the development of the real communicative competence in English for our students.

The majority of the students use the English as a library language and naturally "reading" (or) the ability to understand the written language will be the most useful skill for them. In the present time the skill of reading as explosion of knowledge plays very vital role in the life of an individual. It does so many functions and its role cannot be denied, In spite of several other resources like computers, internet facility etc. the students have to refer to the reading materials produced in English. It provides opportunities for academic/personal and professional growth. Especially "reading" is within the reach of all levels of students. We refer to dictionaries, railway time tables, read newspapers, letters, reports, novels, books etc. Basically reading can be done for two purposes; one is for pleasure and another is to get information. So the readers have to be actively involved in the process of reading.

### Usage of English Newspaper in ESL classrooms:

One has to improve the habit of inculcating deep reading skills for the development of communication skills. The use of News papers in ESL classrooms will develop the student's habit of deep reading. There are many English news papers in India, but the famous news papers are: The Hindu, Deccan chronicle, The Times of India, Indian Express, few standard English news papers are providing special column to the learners of English. As it is less expensive, everyone can buy them. These days the news papers are available in small towns also. Everyone wants to read news paper from first page to last page. But, they cannot read the whole paper, select the important news and read it. Here, it is the teacher, he/she has to care of it, select the some important news items for the students and ask for the feedback on it.

The following are the some advantages of using English Newspapers for language learners:

- It is catchy, innovative interested and short to attract
- They help to motivate for reading and discussion in English.
- It creates interest towards the use of English language.
- They develop good reading habits which help in better understanding
- They provide a wide variety of knowledge and information
- They are very economical in imparting learning
- They contain practical vocabulary and best models of writing in nutshell
- They develop majority of the reading skills of the students
- It is useful for learning grammatical usages, properly crafted sentence structures and idioms and phrases besides new words

The English newspapers are used for all levels of learners, it is very clear that the newspapers follow the time strictly and their contents are creative and eye catching. As the mentioned points are very important, they always motivate the students towards reading of news papers. If one who reads newspaper every day, it is sure that he or she will improve a lot of skills mainly reading and vocabulary skills. The rehearsal of using newspapers does not help the students in ESL classroom. But, the students who keep reading them inside and outside will get benefited. It is a general fact that many teachers and students read newspapers every day, but few of them are good at English. Then how one can improve the skills and how to develop habit of reading newspapers.

1. Especially, students are expected to know the importance of reading newspapers.
2. Teachers should motivate the students to read some of the standard newspapers like The Hindu or Deccan Chronicle and The Hans India.
3. The teacher should make their students to discuss on local news, arrange the group discussions on them, and it fills the curiosity among the learners
4. It is better to ask the students to select headlines from the newspapers to discuss the content which will improve their communication skills
5. The teachers should motivate their students to read newspaper outside also.
6. It is also the other responsibility of the teacher that they should motivate the students to use the standard dictionary.

Many teachers use English newspaper as a part of their teaching material. When they are accepted to the classrooms, newspapers are effective classroom tools because they are an adult medium that students can be proud to be seen reading. The news papers are flexible and adaptable to all curriculum areas of all classes. Newspapers bridge the gap between the classroom and the real world. Students cannot cut the textbooks and pasted whereas the newspapers can be cut, marked, clipped and pasted or filed. Newspapers give practical and spoken vocabulary which students can them in their everyday life activities. The teachers should ask their students to identify the repeated jargon from the newspapers and answers the doubts raised by their students regarding the doubts from the area of jargon. As the days are rolling and continuously reading the newspapers, students understand the whole paper. Teachers can ask the learners to read aloud any particular news in classroom one after one or one by one.

The teachers can ask their students to write some paragraphs based on their reading skills changing tense form or changing the tense structure. He can select any of the news items and conduct group discussion on it. This paper highlights how the news are excellent resources for language learners. It also discussed how news papers can be used by teachers to develop and enhance the language skills.

#### Conclusion:

This paper has highlighted and mainly focused issues relating to communicative and interactive teaching of language. It has also

dealt on how newspapers can be used by teachers to develop the Speaking skills, Reading skills, and Writing skills of the different levels of the second language learners. Newspapers are affordable, available at all the places and written in their final drafts, and have almost no errors. This quality makes the newspapers worth full learning resource of the language learners. As it is the related content regarding reading skills through newspaper as one of the important techniques, it is hoped that this paper will have a positive impact on the teaching and learning of English as a second language.

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