

**THE CONNECTION BETWEEN EXTENSIVE READING AND WRITING SKILL  
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**Annotation:** This paper aims to share ideas about the role of extensive reading in helping students developing their writing skills. Extensive reading is an approach to second language reading which gives students changes to read longer and more pieces of reading texts, which they choos and read at their own speed and ability level. The benefits of using extensive reading is as a supportive material to the students' reading competence such as developing reading habits and writing skills too.

**Keywords:** Extensive reading, reading skills, writing skills, attitude, writing performance

Writing is one of the most essential skills in both academic and professional contexts. It enables individuals to express thoughts, convey information, and communicate effectively across various fields. However, many students and language learners face to difficulties in writing due to a limited vocabulary, weak grammar, and poor organization of ideas. One powerful method for overcoming these challenges is extensive reading. Reading is one of the most powerful tools in language education.<sup>1</sup> Reading can be defined as recognizing the words, their spelling, and its relation to other words in a sentence. It is a progress of extracting and constructing meating through a given material in written form students need to master reading in order to communicate and receive information. The information they need is usually in a written material like books, newspapers, magazines, or even journal articles. To be able to get good understanding of the materials above, the students need to read it well and in effective way. Effective reading means reading accurately and understands as much as needed in order to achieve the purpose.

Moreover, the connection between reading and writing extends beyond academic or literary contexts. In everyday life, strong reading skills improve one's ability to write emails, reports, and creative works, while frequent writing sharpens one's ability to interpret and analyze texts. Whether in education, professional life, or personal development, these two skills work in harmony to enhance cognitive abilities, creativity, and effective communication.

Reading skills play a crucial role in shaping the quality and effectiveness of an essay introduction. The ability to read critically and actively not only enhances comprehension of the topic but also directly influences how well an essay introduction is crafted. Here's a closer look at how various reading skills influence the writing of an essay introduction:

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<sup>1</sup> "Writing Journals and Book Reviews" Teacher's Guide. Retrieved from <https://www.educasia.org>

Strong reading skills enable students to fully grasp the nuances of the topic at hand. When reading academic texts or sources related to the subject, students develop a clear understanding of the core themes and key points that should be included in the introduction. This comprehension ensures that the introduction effectively sets up the central argument and introduces the subject matter in a way that is both accurate and insightful. Impact on Introduction: A clear grasp of the topic helps students define the scope of the essay, identify the main argument or thesis, and introduce the subject with confidence and clarity. Through active reading, students learn to identify the key themes, concepts, and arguments in texts. By recognizing these core elements, they can ensure that their essay introduction focuses on the most relevant and significant aspects of the topic. Impact on Introduction: The ability to extract key ideas allows students to craft a concise, focused introduction that previews the main points of the essay. It ensures the introduction is relevant and directly connected to the core themes of the essay.

Critical reading involves not just understanding the text but also analyzing its structure, arguments, and assumptions. Students who develop critical reading skills can assess different viewpoints, identify gaps, and evaluate the strength of various arguments. Impact on Introduction: This analytical approach helps students frame their introduction in a way that highlights the complexity of the topic and hints at the critical approach they will take in the essay. A strong introduction may briefly mention the perspectives or issues that will be explored, demonstrating a clear understanding of the topic's complexities.

Extensive reading also involves recognizing how texts are organized, including how introductions, arguments, and conclusions are structured. This awareness helps students understand how to build their own essay in a logical and coherent way. Impact on Introduction: Understanding the typical structure of academic writing allows students to construct an introduction that follows conventions, such as starting with a hook to engage the reader, providing necessary background information, and clearly stating the thesis. A well-organized introduction sets the tone for the rest of the essay.

Extensive reading is an approach to second language reading.<sup>2</sup> When learners read extensively, they read very easy, enjoyable books to build their reading speed and fluency. Another way to say this is students learn to read by actually reading rather than examining texts by studying the vocabulary, grammar and phrases.

Extensive reading involves learners reading texts for enjoyment and to develop general reading skills. It can be compared with intensive reading, which means reading in details with specific learning aims and tasks.

For many teachers, there is only one way to teach reading which involves the teacher walking the whole class through a reading passage. The passage is usually short and the instruction is focused on carefully checking comprehension, studying the grammar and/or vocabulary, or developing a reading skills.

In the classrooms extensive reading is often overlook, especially as a classroom activity. Teachers often feel it is not an effective use of class time or are just uncomfortable with the extended silence.

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<sup>2</sup> M. Zaini Miftah.(2020) "Positive Connection of Extensive Reading and Writing Fluency in EFL Learning". Retrieved from <https://www.researchgate.net>

Learners can be encouraged to read extensively by setting up a class library, encouraging review writing, and incorporating reading of books into the syllabus, and dedicating some class time to quiet reading.

Extensive reading gives students changes to read longer pieces of reading. Which they choos, which they can read at their own speed and at their own ability level. This can be done with Graded readers. Intensive reading and extensive reading are complementary and teachers should use both. A balanced reading program uses intensive reading to introduce new language, and complements this with extensive Reading which consolidates and raises awareness of this language leading to read fluency.

There are many reasons why extensive reading is good for language development. Extensive reading builds vocabulary. When learners read a lot, they meet thousands of words and lexical word patterns that are not taught in textbooks. Extensive reading allows the learner to develop an awareness of collocations and thousands of lexical phrases.

Extensive reading helps learners understand grammar. In textbooks learners meet hundreds of grammar patterns. However, textbooks do not provide enough meetings with grammar for real acquisition to occur. Extensive reading provides opprtnities to see grammar in context so learners can deepen their understanding of how grammar is really used.

Extensive reading helps learners to build reading speed and reading fluency. In particular, developing reading speed is important because it helps learners to understand language faster and better.

One objective of Extensive reading is reading for pleasure. Thie builds confidence and motivation which makes the learner a more effective user of language. Extensive reading encourages a natural absorbtion of language, much like how native speakers acquire language through everyday exposure.

Whar are extensive and intensive reading?

Extensive reading is reading a large amount with the aim of getting an overall understanding of the material.<sup>3</sup> Learners do not need to understand the exact meaning of every word or sentence. It is more important that they get the main points of the text. Extensive reading should not involve detailed exercises. Extensive reading works best if the texts are enjoyable and interesting to the learner, and easy to understand.

Intensive reading is reading to get detailed information. Most classroom reading exercises are intensive reading. If learners have to ansver comprehension questions, summarise a paragraph, or do vocabulary or grammar exercises with a text, they must read it carefully and accurately. Most intensive reading texts are short: a paragraph, article or short story.

Advantages of extensive reading:

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<sup>3</sup> Sha Sha Naqia.(2019) “The Role of Extensive Reading in Developing Students’ Reading Skills”

1. Learners can do it by themselves, outside the classroom. It may be the only way learners can access English after the class is finished, or after they graduate from school.
2. Learners get exposure to language being used naturally.
3. Learners get exposure to new information and ideas.
4. It can be fun.
5. It involves little or no extra work for the teacher!

How can I encourage learners to read extensively?

Extensive reading is supposed to be enjoyable. Therefore, there must be reading materials that are interesting, and easy enough for learners to understand. At lower levels-elementary and pre-intermediate -the main options are graded readers. If you have a library, try to ensure it keeps level-appropriate readers, and make sure learners know where they can find them!

Writing and reading are two fundamental skills that shape human communication, learning, and intellectual growth.<sup>4</sup> These skills are deeply interconnected, reinforcing each other in various ways. Reading exposes individuals to diverse vocabulary, sentence structures, and ideas, serving as a foundation for strong writing abilities. Likewise, writing enhances comprehension, critical thinking, and the ability to engage with texts on a deeper level. Throughout history, great writers have been avid readers, drawing inspiration from literature, philosophy, and various forms of written expression.

Writing is not just putting words on paper, it requires coherence, organization, appropriate vocabulary, and familiarity with different genres. Reading and writing share a deep and symbiotic relationship.<sup>5</sup> At its core, writing represents the output of one's thoughts, while reading acts as the input, facilitating comprehension. Together, they form the cornerstone of educational development. We engage in reading to absorb knowledge, and we solidify and express that knowledge through writing.

Understanding the connections between reading and writing is crucial, as these complementary skills enhance each other in important ways. For instance, as students read, they are not only acquiring content knowledge, they are also exposed to elements of genre and structure that they can replicate. This exposure to elements fuels their writing, enriching their own compositions by providing them with examples that serve to strengthen their organization, build their vocabulary, and find their voice as writers. Additionally, when students engage in the act of writing they refine their reading abilities. As they attend to elements of organization, vocabulary, and voice in their own writing process, they

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<sup>4</sup> N.Sakurai.(2017) "The relationship between the amount of extensive reading and the writing performance" The Reading Matrix: International Online Journal.

<sup>5</sup> S. Ahmed.(2016) "Reading Habits and Attitudes of UMSKAL Undergraduates" International Journal of Applied Linguistics and English Literature.

cultivate skills that translate into more adept reading comprehension.<sup>6</sup> This is because they understand the intentional choices the writer of the text made, allowing them to think more deeply and analytically about the meaning the author intended.

Often, writing prompts and assignments are just handed out as if students will instinctively know how to write. The assumption is that students naturally develop writing skills through exposure to reading materials. But, this falls short of reality. Writing is a challenge for students, even those proficient in reading and oral communication. Just as reading requires systematic and explicit instruction, writing also demands a structured approach. The What Works Clearinghouse recommends 1 hour of writing per day with 30 minutes of this time dedicated to the explicit teaching of writing techniques and skills.

One way to cultivate proficient writers is for teachers to begin with the foundational unit of writing: The sentence. Assigning complex essays to students incapable of constructing coherent sentences only breeds frustration and undermines their confidence. By beginning at the sentence level, teachers provide learners with a manageable starting point, alleviating the anxiety of composing lengthier pieces. This approach allows students to focus their efforts on refining specific elements of their writing, such as syntax, vocabulary, and punctuation. Eventually, students will be able to place more of their cognitive load on the content of their writing.

Focusing on the sentence level also enables teachers to teach explicit writing skills systematically.<sup>7</sup> The Writing Revolution (a highly effective method for writing instruction) advocates for a structured approach to writing instruction. For example, they recommend beginning with teaching students to recognize and correct fragments and run-on sentences. Equipping students with the foundation of sentence structure, including subjects, predicates, and conjunctions, empowers them to engage in writing activities that enhance their skills. Activities such as correcting lists of sentence fragments and practicing avenues for skill development.

There are great benefits to integrating writing instruction with reading activities, but many teachers do not feel prepared to undertake this task. This is because fewer than 30% of teachers receive training in writing during their teacher preparation programs, and this lack of preparation impacts the classroom. So, what else can teachers do?

When reading in school, students are often asked to read for content. Whether finding the main idea or tracking the plot, this traditional approach, known as “reading like a reader”, focuses on absorbing information to enhance learning. On the other hand, “reading like a reader” is a way to teach and strengthen writing and build comprehension. It invites students to dig deeper into the text, scrutinizing not just what is being written, but how it is being written. By examining authors’ choices and techniques, students gain insight into the construction of the text. They must consider stylistic elements and choices, such as language use, narrative structure, and rhetorical devices.

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<sup>6</sup> R. Ahmadi.(2021) “An investigation of the effects of extensive reading on the writing ability of EFL students: The effect of group work”. Retrieved from <https://www.questia.com/.../an-investigation-of-the-effects-of-extensive>.

<sup>7</sup> Vo Thi Thuy Duong; Nguyen Huynh Trang.(2021) “Effects of Extensive reading on EFL Learners’ Writing Performance”. European Journal of English Language Teaching. Available on-line at: [www.oapub.org/edu](http://www.oapub.org/edu)

Writing and reading are two interdependent skills that play a crucial role in education, communication, and intellectual development.<sup>8</sup> The ability to write effectively is not simply a product of formal instruction; rather, it is deeply influenced by one's reading habits. Reading exposes individuals to different writing styles, expands vocabulary, improves grammar, and enhances overall comprehension, all of which contribute to stronger writing abilities. Whether a person is writing academic papers, creative stories, or professional reports, a solid foundation in reading significantly enhances the quality and clarity of their written work.

### 1. Reading as a Source of Vocabulary Expansion

One of the most significant ways reading contributes to writing development is by expanding vocabulary. The more a person reads, the more words they encounter, leading to a richer and more diverse lexicon. This is particularly important in writing, where the ability to express ideas clearly and effectively depends on the choice of words.

For example, someone who reads literature, academic journals, or even well-written articles is exposed to various terms, idiomatic expressions, and nuanced language that they may not encounter in everyday conversations. Through repeated exposure, these words become part of the reader's active vocabulary, allowing them to use them naturally in their writing. Additionally, reading different genres—such as fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and journalism—introduces writers to different tones, styles, and specialized vocabulary, making their writing more adaptable and expressive.

### 2. Exposure to Sentence Structures and Writing Styles

Reading also plays a crucial role in developing a writer's understanding of sentence structure, syntax, and organization. Different authors and genres use varying sentence constructions, and by reading widely, individuals absorb these structures unconsciously. This exposure helps them develop a natural sense of how sentences should flow, how ideas should be connected, and how arguments should be structured.

For instance, classic literature may expose readers to complex and sophisticated sentence structures, while modern journalism may highlight concise and impactful writing. Academic papers emphasize clarity and logical progression, whereas novels demonstrate storytelling techniques, such as dialogue and description. By analyzing and mimicking these different styles, writers can refine their own approach to writing and develop their unique voice.

### 3. Improving Grammar and Syntax Through Reading

Grammar and syntax are fundamental aspects of writing that determine the clarity and effectiveness of communication. Reading well-written texts allows individuals to internalize correct grammar usage naturally. Instead of memorizing abstract grammar rules from textbooks, readers learn proper sentence construction, punctuation, and word usage by seeing them in context.

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<sup>8</sup> Wilairat Kirin (2010) "Effects of Extensive Reading on Stedents' Writing Ability in an English Foreign Language Class". THE JOURNAL OF ASIA TEFL.

For example, frequent exposure to grammatically sound writing helps readers recognize patterns in subject-verb agreement, tenses, punctuation marks, and sentence cohesion. Over time, this leads to an intuitive understanding of grammar, making it easier for writers to construct well-formed sentences without constantly referring to grammar guides.

Moreover, reading literature in a second language can significantly enhance writing skills in that language. Many language learners struggle with grammar when writing, but by consistently reading texts in their target language, they absorb grammatical structures naturally and become more proficient writers.

#### 4. Enhancing Creativity and Idea Generation

Reading is not just about learning technical writing skills; it also fuels creativity and idea generation. When writers immerse themselves in diverse literary works, they gain exposure to different perspectives, storytelling techniques, and unique ways of presenting information. This, in turn, inspires their own writing. For instance, reading science fiction can help a writer develop creative plots and world-building techniques, while historical novels can provide insights into rich character development. Reading thought-provoking essays or philosophical texts can stimulate deep thinking and help writers develop their analytical writing skills. Even non-fiction books about psychology, business, or science can provide fresh ideas and perspectives that can be incorporated into writing.

Furthermore, reading helps writers understand how to engage an audience. A well-crafted novel hooks readers with compelling narratives, while a persuasive article convinces its audience with strong arguments and clear reasoning. By analyzing how successful writers captivate their readers, aspiring writers can learn techniques to make their own writing more engaging and impactful.

#### 5. Strengthening Critical Thinking and Analytical Skills

Effective writing often requires the ability to analyze information, construct logical arguments, and present evidence in a coherent manner. Reading, particularly academic texts, opinion pieces, and investigative journalism, challenges readers to think critically about the material presented. This process of engaging with complex ideas trains writers to organize their thoughts logically and develop well-reasoned arguments in their own writing.

For example, when reading an argumentative essay, readers learn how writers structure their points, use evidence, and address counterarguments. This, in turn, helps them apply similar strategies when writing persuasive essays, research papers, or opinion pieces.

Additionally, literature that explores multiple perspectives teaches writers how to present balanced viewpoints in their work. A well-rounded writer understands how to support their claims with strong evidence while acknowledging opposing views, a skill that is particularly valuable in academic and professional writing.

#### 6. The Role of Reading in Editing and Revision

A good writer is not just someone who can write well but also someone who can edit and refine their work. Reading helps writers develop an eye for detail, enabling them to recognize inconsistencies, redundancies, and unclear phrasing in their writing. By reading well-edited books and articles, writers develop an awareness of what makes a piece of writing polished and professional. They learn the importance of sentence variety, transitions, coherence, and clarity. This skill is especially beneficial during the revision process, where writers critically assess their own work and make necessary improvements.

Additionally, reading the works of successful authors can teach writers about stylistic choices, such as pacing, word economy, and rhetorical devices. By identifying what makes certain texts effective, writers can incorporate similar techniques into their own work.

## 7. Developing a Writing Habit Through Reading

Reading regularly helps establish a writing habit. Many successful writers emphasize the importance of reading as a daily practice that nurtures their own writing. Reading before writing can serve as a warm-up exercise, helping writers get into the right mindset.

For instance, reading a well-crafted paragraph can provide inspiration for sentence structures, transitions, or even word choice. It can also help overcome writer's block by sparking new ideas and reminding writers of the flow and rhythm of good writing. Furthermore, reading about writing itself—such as books on writing techniques, style guides, or memoirs by accomplished authors—can offer direct insights into the writing process. Books like *On Writing* by Stephen King or *Bird by Bird* by Anne Lamott provide invaluable advice on how to approach writing with discipline and creativity.

The reading skills that students develop play a significant role in the conclusion of an essay, influencing how effectively they wrap up their argument, summarize key points, and provide a final perspective on the topic.<sup>9</sup> The conclusion serves as the final opportunity for students to reinforce their argument and leave a lasting impression on the reader. Here are several ways reading skills impact the conclusion of essay writing: Good reading skills allow students to identify and understand the most important ideas from their sources. This synthesis of information helps students effectively summarize the main points of their argument in the conclusion. Instead of simply restating the introduction or body paragraphs, students can weave together the key insights from their research, offering a cohesive summary that highlights the most essential aspects of the discussion. Impact on Conclusion: The ability to synthesize ensures that the conclusion is a thoughtful recap of the essay's main points, rather than a mere repetition. It allows students to pull together the most critical ideas discussed in the body paragraphs, leaving the reader with a clear understanding of the topic's overall significance.

Reading widely and critically exposes students to various ways in which arguments are structured and concluded. This exposure allows students to revisit and restate their thesis in a fresh manner, connecting it to the insights they have gained throughout their research and analysis. Impact on Conclusion: A well-crafted conclusion restates the thesis in light of the evidence presented, helping to reinforce the main argument while offering a sense of closure. Strong reading skills enable students to

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<sup>9</sup>Paran A. (2003). Issues in Teaching Extensiva Reading. Reading in a Foreign Language

revisit their thesis with nuance and clarity, making the conclusion feel like a natural progression of the essay.

When students read a variety of perspectives, they become better equipped to address the complexity of their topic in the conclusion. Rather than oversimplifying or rushing to a conclusion, students can acknowledge the broader implications of their argument, considering different viewpoints or the limitations of their research. Impact on Conclusion: Reading skills allow students to present a more nuanced and sophisticated conclusion, which might include acknowledging the limitations of their argument or suggesting areas for further research. This shows depth and critical thinking, reinforcing the student's command of the subject. Effective reading helps students recognize relationships between different concepts, ideas, and arguments. This ability is crucial when drawing connections in the conclusion, as students can link the main points back to the broader topic or societal implications, demonstrating a deeper understanding of the material. In brief, reading sources critically and comprehensively enables students to recall key pieces of evidence that can reinforce their final thoughts. In the conclusion, students can refer to significant findings or quotes from their sources that strengthen their argument and solidify the essay's impact.

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