

THE IMPORTANCE OF CRITICAL READING COMPETENCE ON ACADEMIC SUCCESS

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Annotation: This article will explain that critical reading has always been one of the main factors for academic success. The purpose of critical reading is to form judgments about the accuracy, validity of reading materials and how it works based on correct criteria or standards. It is a skill that analyzes, interprets and evaluates the reading materials which helps to develop student's critical thinking skills. Improved critical reading skills are important for success in Academic field. Wang (2009) found that a student must possess competent reading skills to generate implicit main ideas in order to understand the gist of a text. [Wang, Royce. (2009). *Developing Reading Versatility*.P: 34-38]

Key words: critical reading, accuracy, validity of reading materials, critical thinking skill, feedback, skim, scan, active reading, reading proficiency, reading comprehension

For the time being, critical reading has several benefits, including a deeper understanding of content, the lengthening of contents maintenance term in the memory and learning how to submit feedback critical of the reasonable ideas. Critical reader reads in order to understand. Critical reader analyzes whether he or she gets experience, assumptions and knowledge from the text. Critical reader examines the text and context, he or she will skim the text in order to know what is the topic and what are the main ideas of the text. This current article focuses on how critical reading impacts on achieving educational success.

Molden (2007) defined the term as active reading which used to analyze and evaluate different patterns of textual components. It is used in different contexts by instructors. For instance, it refers to reading something for general or specific academic purposes. It is very important to read critically and it requires you to analyze and evaluate the arguments in the text honestly. On the other hand, Manarin et al.(2015) found that critical reading refers to reading for social engagement in other classes. Kurland (2000) also claimed that it is not only careful reading.

[Molden (2007). "Critical literacy, the right answer for the reading classroom: Strategies. Reading improvement".p: 109-112]

Özdemir (2002) characterized that Critical readers are the people who analyze not only what they read, but also evaluate how the text portrays the subject and it becomes habit to use them to make their own judgements while they are reading. Carvetti, Pardales and Domico suggested that it is an evaluation process of the text while reading. On the other hand, Bond and Wagner (1966) defined it as the process of analyzing and evaluating reading materials' trueness, validity and formulating an opinion about it. Duncan (2014) defined this process as a more active way of reading.

Pretorius (2010) found a very crucial connection between students' reading proficiency and its impact to academic success, explaining that more reading leads to higher grades. He proved that improving critical reading not only helps to develop the ability to comprehend, but also helps to increase writing skills, which also proves that schools should pay more attention to critical reading. Quijano (2007) found that that reading problems are the main reason for the poor performance of some students in EFL classrooms.

[Quijano 2007 The EFL students' Critical Reading Skills across Cognitive Styles.p: 56-65]

Garcia-Navarrete, et al (2015) advocated that students with high critical reading skills have achieved high academic success in their learning process. Bartholomae and Petrosky (1986) stressed the importance of reading skills with numerous evidences including high academic grades from reading courses. They found that poor reading skills lead to failure in learning process. Critical reading requires three areas comprehension, vocabulary and speed of reading. Students can provide strong and accurate supporting reasons in their academic writing tasks by using their critical reading skills. Students can evaluate the claims of the writer logically by being critical reader.

Del Principe and Ihara (2016) clarified that students alike frequently read at a surface level rather than analyzing texts in more details. EFL learners can distinguish easily what is relevant and important in the text by reading it critically. Similarly, Lei et al. (2010) found that students without preparation loses confidence in their ability to comprehend while they are reading. According to Cullinan (2000), students with higher reading comprehension skills had increased fluency, showed higher levels of general knowledge and better grades in their academic performance. Jubani, Lama, Gjokutaj (2012) also concluded that critical reading skills should be developed in schools. Because it helps to improve students comprehending skills. It is clear that all research shows that critical reading has considerable impact in various aspects of learning in EFL classrooms.

[Jubani, Lama, Gjokutaj 2012 Critical Reading in Language Education. p: 100-105]

Duke and Pearson (2002) stated that using effective critical reading strategies during academic process develops students' reading comprehension. Additionally, Khabiri and Pakzadhav (2011) also found that applying of critical reading strategies during reading process help students to improve their academic vocabulary and make the process of remembering easier. Furthermore, Kadir et al. (2014) proved that learning critical reading skills allow EFL learners to become critical thinkers which may lead to success in their learning process. Yu (2015) also found that applying effective critical reading strategies in EFL classrooms may lead to better comprehension in English reading. It can be seen, applying Critical reading strategies is the best way to develop our EFL learners reading skills and several scholars have proven that the effect of critical reading strategies which makes ease on reading comprehension

[Khabiri and Pakzadhav 2011 The impact of Pleasure Reading on Academic Success. p: 66-75]

Conclusion.

In summary, students need broader understanding of what critical reading involves. they should improve our students reading skills. Critical reading plays a significant role in our academic success as can be seen from the research projects. Critical reading has a significant impact on the development of our comprehension skill as well as critical thinking and writing. Critical reading is one of the main factor in schools which should be considered. Unfortunately, today critical reading skill is not given enough attention. A lot of research projects have been done in this area and these projects

showed its positive impact in the classroom . However, it has one drawback as it takes a lot of time to develop it among students. As a result, many teachers are reluctant to use critical reading during the lesson. In higher education institutions, it is given enough attention , but the concept of critical reading is not given in school periods. As a result, school graduates face a problem with critical reading in the higher education system.

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