

**ONLINE READING: DEVELOPING CRITICAL THINKING AND VOCABULARY IN
THE DIGITAL AGE FOR INTERMEDIATE LEARNERS****Risnazarova Dinara Rustembaevna****Karakalpak State University****English language**

Annotation: The article covers the important information about online reading: developing critical thinking and vocabulary in the digital age for intermediate learners. On the other hand, role of online reading process in the development of creativity were discussed.

Key words: *mental, cognitive process, Mesopotamians, information revolution, critical thinking, blended tools, careful consideration, critical interaction.*

It is obvious that language as means for communication takes an important role in our daily activities. In this modern era, people are demanded to acquire more than one language. One of the important languages that should be mastered is English. But, students usually difficult to express their ideas in English. So, the teachers have to find out the appropriate method for teaching English skills. As we know gain full English knowledge coves four main parts: Reading, writing, speaking and listening. Now we will talk about one of the important skill of English language: Reading skill. Reading English is an important part of language learning because it helps you develop other related skills like grammar, vocabulary, and writing. Reading is for many people, an enjoyable, intense and private activity, from which much pleasure can be derived, and in which one can become totally absorbed. Reading is private. It is a mental, or cognitive, process which involves a reader in trying to follow and respond to a message from a writer who is distant in space and time. Because of this privacy, the process of reading, the first think that we must know is reading habits. This ability is very important for being good reader. Reading is usually the third language skill that we learn, reading is the way of looking at order the sign of written and become meaningful from them. Reading allows language learners to explore topics that they love and stories that engage them. Reading, even at a slow pace exposes students to more sentences, grammar, and new vocabulary per minute than the average, short class, TV show, or song[1]. This is why students who read foreign books are able to speak more fluently than students who don't, despite having done the same amount of classes.

If we go back to the more than 5,000 years ago, the first librarians, the Mesopotamians, began collecting clay tablets. In 300 B.C.E., the Ptolemies in Egypt created the Great Library of

Alexandria by amassing copies of all known books in the world—500,000 scrolls. When the moveable type printing press was invented, by Bi Sheng in China in 1041 C.E. and by Johan Gutenberg in Germany in 1440 C.E., millions of books became available to the public, not just to scholars who could afford to travel to the public libraries. With the advent of the digital age in the last century, we are now experiencing another information revolution—this one global. The Internet has brought us an embarrassment of riches. We now have more information, more kinds of information, and more access to information than ever before in history. In spite of these dramatic changes, the goal of collecting information and making it available to the public remains the same from ancient times to the present: to provide people with the quality sources they need to understand the world and to reflect carefully on existing beliefs and opinions. In other words, the goal of information repositories, digital or otherwise, is to support research, by providing access to the information necessary to foster the development of critical thinking. As our ability to gather and store information evolves, however, our skills in finding and analyzing information must also evolve[2]. Today we need new critical thinking skills to help us be wise consumers of the data available to us.

Reading is an ability that has great importance in learning, and this is due to the fact that reading is definitely part of our daily activity, but, most importantly for this study, reading is one of the skills that students have to learn both in English as a foreign language and in their native language. Especially nowadays, a lot of information is conveyed through English, which is now extensively used in social networks such as Instagram, Facebook, and the like. However, reading comprehension both in a native and a foreign language can be challenging for students, especially for young learners. In fact, they must learn to master a series of key skills, like decoding, to fully understand the content of a text. So, reading is a complex process that is based on a number of different skills that lead to the ultimate aim of reading in itself. Teaching reading comprehension through online and blended tools has become a major issue in the teaching of daily practice since mobile devices are now an established part of the students' lives[3].

Critical thinking is more than a buzz phrase; it's the ultimate goal of all education. In how we think, John Dewey defines critical thinking as "reflective thought" rather than routine thought; it's the process of "active, persistent, and careful consideration" of the credibility and conclusions of supposed knowledge or information. That's basically what we mean by research,

which is defined as “careful or diligent search, studious inquiry or examination, especially investigation or experimentation aimed at the discovery and interpretation of facts and revision of accepted theories”. As teachers, we don’t simply pour facts into empty vessels; we nurture minds to become adept at this kind of critical interaction with information[4]. Today, when we are almost drowning in information, we face serious global crises, and we need discerning citizens, it is even more urgent that we train students in these habits of critical thinking. Such habits can give them the life skills they need to thrive in our world. In the teaching practice, then, reading is used to get a comprehensive understanding and ideas from a text. Furthermore, a reading activity can also help students become lifelong learners since they keep refreshing and adding knowledge every time they read. In this particular modern age, students cannot be easily separated from their smartphones, and for this reason, the use of digital media needs to be maximised for teaching and learning. Inevitably, being constantly online implies that students are now interested in something digital, online, and unique. Therefore, the teacher plays an important role in choosing the right teaching strategy, especially when teaching reading, an activity that might be perceived as boring and less engaging if compared to the multimodal world available through computers, tablets, and smartphones. The teacher’s creativity and strategy become fundamental skills in order to engage students and help them improve their performance in reading.

Reading comprehension requires the coordination of multiple linguistic and cognitive processes, including word reading ability, working memory, inference generation, comprehension monitoring, vocabulary, and prior knowledge activation[5]. In the process of reading, readers need to use reading strategies to understand the meaning of the text and its constituents, both overtly and covertly.

In a summary it should be noted that Reading in a foreign language is useful for other purposes too; any exposure to English (provided students understand it more or less) is a good thing for language students, and reading is an act of composition since, when we read, we compare meaning in our minds, both in the foreign and in the native language, giving reading a fundamental role in the overall development of language acquisition. Through reading, students can improve their vocabulary mastery, their pronunciation when reading aloud, their spelling, and their writing skills. In fact, through reading activities, students can improve their own language, their overall reading skills, and their

minds too, but even their way of approaching problems and finding solutions. Moreover, they will get information and ideas from what they read and what they need to know for future use. Reading strategies are the key elements in developing students' reading comprehension. In fact, reading strategies influence readers to adjust their reading behaviours to work on text difficulty, task demands, and other contextual variables. Reading is a highly strategic process during which readers are constantly constructing meaning using a variety of strategies.

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