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AN EXPERIMENTAL STUDY ON ENHANCING VOCABULARY THROUGH NEWSPAPER
READING – PRINT Vs DIGITAL MEDIA: WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO FIRST YEAR
COLLEGIATE STUDENTS

KINOSHA.V¹, Dr.MERCY GNANA GANDHI²

¹juliekinosha@gmail.com; ²drmerci2010@gmail.com



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ABSTRACT

Language is the means of communication. Reading is one of the best skills to enhance everyone's language skill. The aim of the study is to explore the role of newspaper in developing the vocabulary of collegiate students and to analyze the importance of print and digital media. The author compares the effect of print and digital media among the collegiate students. An experimental study has been carried out among the first year college students of Sathyabama Institute of Science and Technology. Sixty preparatory students took part in the study. The overall studies examine the impact of print and digital media in developing vocabulary among first year collegiate students, and the result is found remarkable since the students are marvelous and interesting towards the usage of technology.

Keywords: Enhancing Vocabulary, Newspaper, Reading, Print media, Digital media

Introduction

Vocabulary is the key component of language requirements and reading activity increases the vocabulary of the students. Developing vocabulary is a crucial component of learning a language. Moreover the process will be effective, if the readers are efficient in vocabulary that provides learners to understand the language easily. Newspapers are one of the most interesting English language teaching media, which play a vital role in developing vocabulary. Hence, reading newspapers as a habit definitely develops the vocabulary of readers. It entertains students and encourages the reading of English both indoor and outdoor. No doubt, the continuous reading of newspaper helps the students to gain higher level of language proficiency. The paper discusses on print media and digital media and compares their role in developing vocabulary.

Literature review

"Newspaper papers are affordable, available, and written in their final drafts, with minimal errors and which make them worthwhile language learning resource", according to Amina Gogo Tafida and Bala Muhammad Dalhat (August 2014). Bickel.J.M commented that "Electronic books may be able to provide educators and students new option, scaffolds and resource for reading material at all levels and for all purpose". Dayton,k. (2016) justifies that "Electronic media are faster, cheaper, wider reaching and appeal to more people as being current and cutting edge technology". Mercy Gnana Gandhi.S (2019), comments that the skills of the students especially the low proficient students will develop if the modern gadgets with online tools are effectively used in language classrooms. Mittal,D.R (2014) states that " Newspapers are really effective tool of

teaching; students should be given proper training of using newspaper that they can avail the best information, knowledge, wisdom and skill of English language". Xiao,L.X. (2005) comments that "Teachers ought to rely more often on informed assessment of learners' need and preferences than on unaided intuitions when making course planning decisions". Eisa Amiri and Lamerd Branch (June 2012) told that "Technological devices should always be used by students and teachers to provide an interaction between language learners and teacher since they are of the most popular and useful ways in language and literature learning". Vjosa Vela and Jeta Rushidi (April 2016) suggested that "Incorporating a vocabulary notebook into syllabus right from the start of the semester, would give students the chance to develop a useful vocabulary learning habit". Rohmatillah (2016) said that "By using newspaper, the students can be more enthusiastic, active, and creative and can be even an independent learner in learning vocabulary". Thus, it is clear from the earlier studies that reading English newspapers help learners improve their vocabulary and reading skill.

Objectives

The aim of this research is

- To identify the role of newspaper in developing vocabulary of collegiate students.
- To analyze the importance of print and digital media
- To compare the effect of print and digital media among the collegiate students
- To research on the reading skill enhancement of the first year students

Role of Newspaper in Vocabulary Development

Newspaper plays a vital role in developing the vocabulary of every human being. Economic and easily accessible newspaper is the source of concern to English language teaching. As an authentic document, it's not only possible to use newspaper as a teaching literacy skill but also developing vocabulary of English as a second language. Newspaper provides a unique appeal for the educators. It has been called living textbook, which is used to improve vocabulary. The language of the newspaper is very authentic that can be used by the students in their daily discussion. The continuous reading of newspaper helps students to gain higher level proficiency.

On the other hand, newspapers are very much useful to teachers to efficiently teach learners, the language skills of English. Newspaper has a very big impact on teaching second or foreign language learners' English language skills. English teachers should use the newspaper to develop language skills for their learners by adopting certain techniques and approaches that are more suitable for the learners of the second language. The teachers should take utmost care, when implementing the content from the newspaper and the usefulness of the selected news item and the interest of the learners should be given preference. In the initial stages, teachers must choose newspaper in an easy and simple language, to actively engage the learners with high motivation and interest in the given tasks. In fact, the teacher's workload often decreases, since the learners can easily understand the language. The English teachers of Colleges should therefore follow some useful and interesting materials to involve the learners in effective and efficient learning language skill.

Above all, the English teacher's use of newspaper in the English classroom has several benefits and the newspaper have a great impact on the English learners as a second language in the growth of language skills. Therefore, English teacher should use the newspapers as their resource material as the daily newspaper helps to get touch with languages.

Role of Technology in the classroom

Technology has become a constant tool in many homes around the world over the past few decades. This presence has permeated all aspects of life, including teaching English. It has revolutionized the methodologies of learning and teaching, making them more fun and efficient. Technologies can be used to engage students and to facilitate their active learning strategies that can provide deeper learning. The use of technologies in English language teaching and learning attracts the attention of students to develop interest and increases students' motivation. It allows the teachers to be more successful, to be more innovative and to save time. It is also

important to select appropriate technologies and to take into account the backgrounds, styles and needs of students. It helps the teacher to promote the transfer of knowledge from expert to inexperienced learners and it also encourages individual learning.

It has been observed over the years, the classroom teaching has become monotonous because of teacher-centered style of learning process. The 21st century students have limited concentration span. Learners learn English in stereo type methods only to pass in examination, so the aim of the students is to get notes from the teacher, to memorize it and to write the content in examination. Later, the world has understood that technology plays a significant role in ELT. Many language experts claim that introducing the real world into the classroom, automatically prepares learners for natural use of language in different situation in life. They hoped that technology is introduced in the classroom and it might bring back enthusiasm to the students and will motive them to learn language. Using technologies in classroom offers a rich learning experience and keep the students engaged and interested in learning.

Using a variety of teaching aids has effectively changed most of the classrooms from conventional settings, where teachers do most of the talking and students are passive listeners to encourage effective learning centre. Technology play a significant role, in learning process to promote an effective learning experience for students and it also helps the teacher to explain, grow and compare learners' concept. Technology as a resource can authentically lead to the situation in the classroom, strengthening the direct relationship between language classroom and outside the world for student. Students learning styles vary, so technology provides learner with a way to address the need for visual as well as auditory lectures.

Comparison of Print and Digital Media

When comparing print and electronic media, it is suitable to believe that in today's culture, digital learning is often considered as a better option. Electronic communication is accepted to grow by 15.9 percent annually until 2018, while printing is only rising by 2.8 percent annually (Stabel, 2015). Electronic media a quicker, cheaper, broader and appeals to more people, as state-of-the art and cutting edge technology. Printed media cannot capture the sound and motion needed by an audience raised on television and internet. A rapidly changing world can obsolete the information by the time it appears on the page and reaches doorstep. While printing can sometimes be seen as a dated form of advertising, it is still a very powerful force in the term of practical interactions, which are increasingly co-existing. But technology offers us many opportunities, and for this reason, comparing digital and print media would be beneficial.

Print Vs Digital Media

Digital media provides more revenue and also provides more modern type of media, comparatively. It contains picture in motion, animation etc. that makes the students to learn easily. Unlike print media a number of choices are available. In digital media within instant learners can share their opinion ideas and suggestion, but in print media communication is one way only. It gives students' information but the students are unable to express their view. In modern media, students can quickly look for a piece of knowledge, but in print media searching for information in the archives of newspaper about a single piece of news, is a challenging process.

Paper and digital media give rise to different ways of thinking and thus yield different educational results. Educators contemplating digital media adopting in their classrooms should be concerned about how these discrepancies can interfere with their learning goals and lesson plans. Essentially, paper and digital media are not mutually exclusive, but both can give enormous results. Both can offer enormous classroom value. As such educators do not seek to decide which medium to follow, but instead how and when each medium will promote goals in the classroom. Tools and technology for learning enable students to develop successful self-directed learning skills. Traditional lectures can still exist along with new-age learning resource and technology, but as a complement to classroom practices, lecture materials should be given and transferred online for students to use outside the classroom. The traditional teaching model primarily stressed the training of students and the knowledge received is minimal because of conventional classes.

Digital media on the contrary, goes beyond time and space generates a more vibrant, visual, authentic atmosphere for learning English, stimulates the efforts of students and class time. Traditional teaching method when an instructor guides students to learn by memorization and recitation strategies without improving their problem-solving critical thinking and decision-making skills, whereas modern teaching approach requires a more engaging. In student-based teaching, the students learn by community participation. The instructor would listen to the recitation of each pupil, and the assignments were supposed to be learned and memorized. A written examination or an oral review would be carried out at the end of the module; this process was called a task research recitation examination. The way conventional approaches were taught ensured that students were praised for their achievements, effectively used class times and practiced specific rules to control the action of students. They were based on existing customs which have successfully been used in educational institutions for many years. The teachers shared the information and applied behavioral expectations. But on the other hand, education changes, learning is being learnt from an entirely different perspective instead of assuming all students, who are at the same level of comprehension. Innovative educational methods concentrate primarily on the needs of the individual students. The modern way of teaching is based more on action, using techniques of questioning, description, demonstration and collaboration.

Research Methodology

The basic idea behind the task is to explore the response after the reading practice had been done in the form of both printed and digitalized form. As a part of classroom assessment, sixty first year collegiate students of Sathyabama Institute of Science and Technology were selected for this study to develop vocabulary by reading newspaper. During the course of this experiment, the students were given articles from Hindu newspaper in printed form and then in digitalized form to the same students.

Reading test- Print media

During the study, students were tested in the classroom by using printed Hindu newspaper articles. For this, sixty first year students were selected and they were provided with a passage from the newspaper. To test their vocabulary, multiple choice questions were given. The students were asked to read the passage and to answer the questions. Later, their performances were recorded. The passages were selected carefully and special care was taken to see the interest among the students' community.

Table 1: Students' scores using Print media

Participants	Average mark(out of 50)	Marks in Percentage%
Sixty first year students	24.46	48.92

Reading test- Digital media:

During the study, the students were given computer with internet. They were asked to read a passage from Hindu online newspaper or to listen to the news using headphones. To check their vocabulary level, multiple choice questions were given. They answered the questions online using internet.

Table 2: Students score using Digital media

Participants	Average mark(out of 50)	Marks in Percentage%
Sixty first year students	28.22	56.45

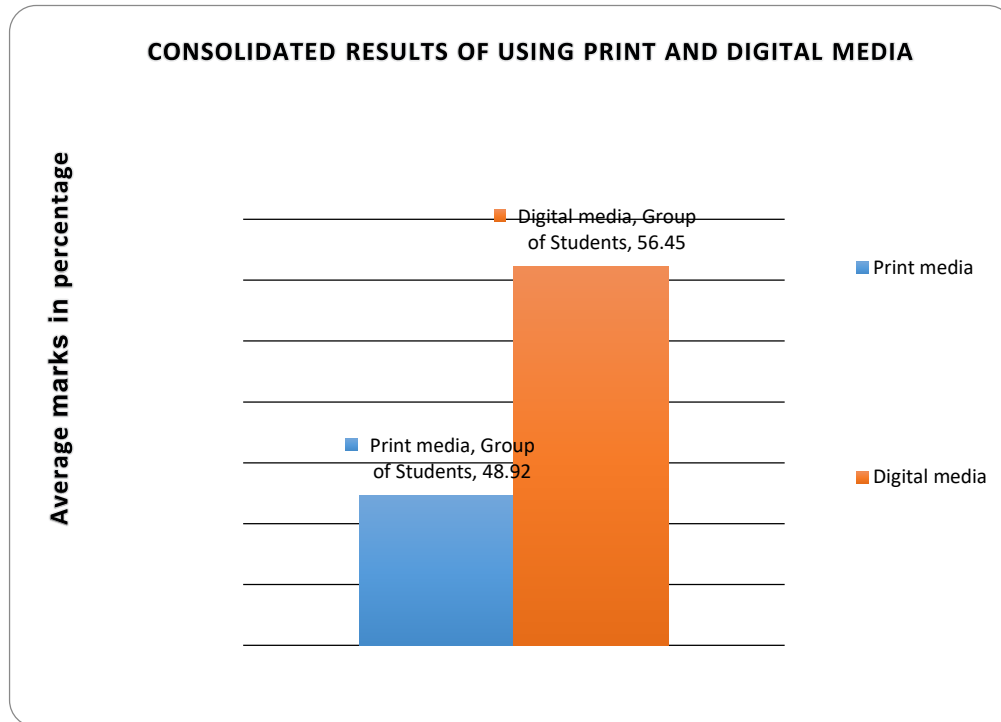


Fig:1 Overall Performance by students using Print and Digital media

The bar diagram shows the marks obtained by students using Print and Digital media. The result shows that, the students had more interest on Digital media than the print media.

Questionnaires

Based on the experimental study and the usage of Digital media, a survey was conducted to the participants after the trial learning. This questionnaire comprises eight statements and five options as strongly agree, agree, neither agree nor disagree, disagree and strongly disagree they are given below in detail;

1. Digital media is extremely a motivating tool.
2. It helps me to learn English independently.
3. It affects the position of teachers and improves the students' centric learning.
4. It provides me many opportunities to have clarity in communication in target language.
5. It helps me to access all kind of information.
6. Articles written in newspaper helps me to learn grammar and vocabulary
7. It helps me to read news on my phone or laptop whenever I want.
8. I can play pause and rewind carefully by watching news online

Data collection

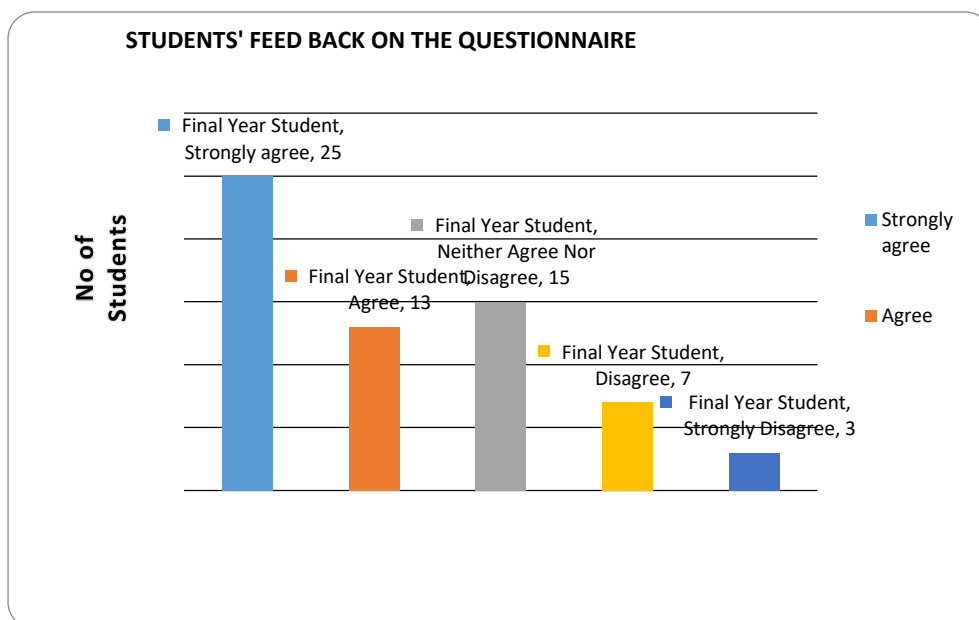
The data given above are collected from the students, who took part in the experimental study. Students were encouraged to read the articles assigned to the classroom assignment. According to their understanding they were asked to revert with response. This is done to recognize experience of the students in using digital media.

Data Analysis

Various actions were adopted to organize the information. The author gathered news from newspaper and website, which attracts the learners. And examination was done to test the learners' reading skill and vocabulary development, by using print and digital media. According to the participant's responses inside and out, concentrating on their feedback data was categorized.

Table 4: Questionnaire Result from Students Feedback (in percentage)

Participant	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
First year Students	25	13	15	7	3



Analysis on the questionnaires

Examination and investigation is done to find out which is best to improve reading skill and the result proves that students shows more interest on digital media. Because it is an extremely motivating tool and helps to access all kind of information. It affects the position of learners and improves students' centric learning. The result of the study provides significant evidence that digital media increases reading achievement over print media.

Discussion on the benefits of Using Digital Media in ELT

The learning world is more complex than ever and as a result, today's learners are very different from those built for our educational system. The teacher determines the number of advantages of using digital media in the classroom. When technology progress, classroom are being reshaped and redefined in a variety of ways to meet the changing needs of young digital learners. With the emergence of distant learning many institution of higher education are replacing print media with educational technology in an effort to keep up with their digital learning population. It is important to note that our environment is rapidly becoming digital and that digital literacy can help students achieve success in higher education. The proper exposure to technology would also give the students an advantage when joining the modern workforce. Awareness and experience with virtual learning channels and other digital technologies are rising advantages in our ever-changing world.

Conclusion

Technology enables teacher to remove classroom physical obstacles, giving students, a way to relate the curriculum to the real world. By incorporating these innovations into the daily curriculum, organizations ensure to train their students for the new workplace. Technology makes it easier for students to quickly and accurately find the detail. Search engines and e-books replace the print media. Students can receive one-on-one support can educational videos instead of personal tutors- anytime and anywhere. Students use technology outside of classroom in all areas. Technology should make learning more enjoyable and exciting within the classroom. Digital technology is involving students on so many different ways. We know that many students, no matter their age, will easily lack the incentive to pay attention. Students would be motivated to learn more by providing learning tools and services over various platforms. With busy was students and teacher alike can access online tools by pressing a button to help their learning, wherever and whenever they choose and all in format that suits them best.

Therefore, Digital media are the one main resource that the teacher has to capture the attention of the student's today. Digital media not only excites students but also inspire them to learn and help to meet students need. Digital media provides new options and tools for reading and developing vocabulary. The study adds to the growing body of evidence that examines how powerful digital media are in encouraging ability to read and develop vocabulary which needs to be incorporated in college curriculum.

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