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The Use of Extensive Reading in Promoting Communication in JHS Class: A Case of St. Joseph Practice JHS 1 Students

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Abstract:

Extensive reading is a careful cognitive effort that allows individuals to decode the words on paper to extract meaning. The study was carried out to investigate the impact of Extensive Reading in Promoting Communication in JHS classes using St. Joseph Practice JHS in Tano South District of the Bono Ahafo of Ghana for the study. To achieve this aim, the following objectives were laid out to ascertain the teacher's awareness of the benefits of extensive reading and determine the techniques/strategies teachers employ to promote extensive reading for communication in St. Joseph Practice JHS 1. The research design used in this report is descriptive design, utilizing a questionnaire method to obtain information from the respondents for this project. Primary data were collected from the primary source, which questionnaire was used as an instrument of data collection, while secondary data were sources from textbooks, journals, newspapers and the internet. The data were presented in qualitative. Extensive reading is a useful strategy for students to improve their communication. The study provides other researchers with some reliable instruments, action procedures, and experimental findings for use in future research. To the researcher's knowledge, there are no studies about the effect of extensive reading on communication in St. Joseph Practice JHS in Tano South District of the Bono Ahafo. Based on the findings of the study, it was recommended that there is the need to enact a policy that encourages the construction of ultra-modern libraries in the District, especially Bechem, where St. Joseph Practice JHS is located to improve communication of the students, provision of relevant information resources and, qualified librarians to run such libraries and parents should encourage their children and wards to read at home and watch children educational television programmes.

Keywords: *Extensive reading, vocabulary, indispensable, communication, comprehension, promoting, over-emphasized, contextual, knowledge, pragmatic, psychomotor*

1. Introduction

Extensive reading is a careful cognitive effort that allows individuals to decode the words on paper to extract meaning. Therefore, reading involves a contextual comprehension of available dictions of a paragraph that explains the expected meaning. Extensive reading can promote good reading habits among students, and students who do less reading can be inculcated into the habit of reading through extensive reading. Students may find that they can successfully read after completing the books given to them for reading. Extensive reading also promotes the development of listening and speaking skills. When students read extensively, they are exposed to diverse topics and ideas, broadening their knowledge and understanding of the world around them. This knowledge, in turn, can be applied to engage in meaningful conversations and discussions both inside and outside the classroom. Through extensive reading, students gain confidence in expressing their ideas and develop their oral communication skills, enabling them to participate actively in various communicative tasks. Fluency in reading is really essential in developing reading comprehension skills in the target language since increased fluency assists comprehension and improves language learning attitude. Extensive reading fosters students' intrinsic motivation to learn and engage with the language. As a prelude to other parts of this study, this chapter will discuss the background upon which this study was initiated, the statement of problems that led to this study, and the aim and objectives of the study. Other factors are the significance of the study, research hypothesis and questions, methods of gathering data, recommendations, literature review, and discussion.

1.1. Background to the Study

Language acquisition without reading is difficult. Reading is a good way of comprehension. A good reader is able to understand the sentences and structures of a written text. One important way to develop communication competence is through extensive reading. By reading extensively, students will be exposed to different new scopes of vocabulary, which is necessary for reading comprehension. People learn to read by reading, and the ability to read proficiently is best

achieved through extensive reading. Likewise, there is widespread consensus that there is a correlation between communication competency and extensive reading, for which communication competency and reading comprehension can be regarded as a mutually beneficial process. This mutual benefit means that vocabulary facilitates learners' ability to decode meaning from the context. Communicative competence is manifested within the national standard through the interpretive, interpersonal, and presentational modes of communication. The interpretive mode of communication is characterized by the ability to interpret and understand spoken and written language, whereas the interpersonal mode of communication describes the ability to maintain conversation between two or more individuals. The presentational mode of communication is highlighted by information presented through spoken or written language. When combined, these three modes of communication represent authentic, real-world communicative settings. Reading is an indispensable tool in learning that forms an integral part of any learning situation and the bedrock of education. Therefore, access to information is crucial to individual advancement and corporate educational development. Reading is the act of translating symbols or letters into words or sentences that have meaning to an individual. It is also the understanding of what is seen in a text, which is the ability of the reader to take incoming visual information, process that information, and obtain meaning from it. Information is indispensable. It bridges the gap between knowledge and ignorance. One of the major avenues for acquiring information is reading. Reading is the foundation upon which other academic skills are built. It offers a productive approach to improving vocabulary, word power, and language skills. Extensive reading has always been the goal of every language classroom, wherein instructions are geared toward the components of organizational, pragmatic, systematic and psychomotor. From the communication competence perspective, it is important to address academic reading as a meaning-based activity that is purpose and comprehension-driven. Reading is motivated by the reader's particular purpose and propelled by increasing comprehension of the texts. Further, given that language is embedded in contexts and tasks, academic reading assessment should focus on contexts and purposes and address narrow language abilities as they emerge from the local context. Whether it involves primary school children or university students, it seems clear that most comprehension is linked to a purpose, and it is thus important to examine reading within the context of that purpose. Therefore, in St. Joseph Practice JHS 1, where the research was carried out, the activities were conducted to investigate the Use of Extensive Reading in Promoting Communication.

1.2. Statement of Problem

Investigation revealed that the importance of reading cannot be over-emphasized because no learning activity or situation can take place without reading. However, one of the major problems facing St. Joseph Practice JHS students is their inability to communicate effectively. Effective communication problems can be conceived to be linked to the absence of reading habits among students or nonchalant attitudes to reading and the use of the Internet. Although there are many reasons why people read, observations and research have shown that there is a low reading habit among students in recent times, especially students in Tano South, because reading is not considered a relevant leisure activity as it does not form part of children's social interaction and watching on television.

Lack of Interest: Many students in JHS 1 may not be interested in reading extensively, especially if they perceive it as time-consuming or not directly related to their academic performance. This lack of interest can hinder their motivation to engage in extensive reading activities and consequently limit their communication skills development.

Insufficient Time for Extensive Reading: The JHS curriculum often places a heavy emphasis on academic subjects and exam preparation, leaving limited time for non-academic activities such as extensive reading. The time constraints can prevent students from allocating enough time to engage in extensive reading, thereby impacting their communication skills development. Another major problem that leads to the absence of reading habits among students is on the advent of ICTs like the internet, cell phones, video games and other viewing gadgets.

Lack of Guidance and Support: Without proper guidance and support from teachers, students may struggle to develop effective reading strategies and comprehend the reading materials. Teachers may not have the necessary training or resources to effectively guide students in their extensive reading journey. This lack of guidance and support can undermine the effectiveness of extensive reading in promoting communication skills.

Assessment Challenges: Assessing the progress and effectiveness of extensive reading can be challenging. Traditional assessment methods focused on comprehension questions or quizzes might not provide an accurate reflection of students' communication skills development. The lack of appropriate assessment methods and tools can hinder the evaluation of the impact of extensive reading on communication skills. Researchers believe that students now have a viewing culture instead of a reading culture because of the advances in these ICT gadgets. Also, the lack of available information resources like textbooks both in the school library and at home could lead to a lack of students forming the habits of reading. One serious problem in reading comprehension is that students are used to comprehending a passage on a sentence level rather than on a discourse level. This frailer causes some students to be dependent on understanding every single sentence in a text, even when this is not necessary to fulfill their reading purpose, with the result that they tend to read all texts at the same speed. In addition, the student relies heavily on dictionaries to understand the meanings of some new words.

1.3. Purpose of the Study

The aim of this research work is to investigate the extent of the use of extensive reading in promoting communication in St. Joseph Practice JHS in Tano South District. The specific objectives are:

- To ascertain the teachers' awareness of the benefits of extensive reading.
- To identify the types of reading materials available for extensive reading in schools.

- To determine the extent to which the teacher engages students in extensive reading.
- To determine the techniques/strategies teachers employ extensive reading in promoting communication.

1.4. Research Questions

The study came up with research questions to ascertain the objectives stated above. The specific research questions for the study are stated below as follows:

- To what extent are teachers aware of the benefits of extensive reading?
- What are the types of reading materials available in schools for extensive reading?
- To what extent do teachers engage students in extensive reading activities?
- What techniques and strategies do teachers employ to develop extensive reading skills for communication in St. Joseph Practice JHS 1 in Tano South District?
- What are the most effective strategies for implementing extensive reading in a classroom setting to promote communication?
- How does extensive reading support the development of reading fluency and oral communication skills?
- What are the potential challenges and barriers to implementing an extensive reading programme to promote communication in schools?
- How does extensive reading contribute to improved writing skills and written communication?
- What are the long-term effects of extensive reading on active listening and verbal communication skills?
- How does extensive reading promote intercultural communication and understanding?
- Are there any differential effects of extensive reading on promoting communication for different age groups or language proficiency levels?
- What is the role of extensive reading in fostering critical thinking skills and effective communication?

1.5. Significance of the Study

Extensive reading is a useful strategy for students to improve their communication at St. Joseph Practice JHS 1 in Tano South. The study provides other researchers with some reliable instruments, action procedures, and experimental findings for use in future research. To the researcher's knowledge, there are no studies about the effect of extensive reading in promoting communication at St. Joseph Practice JHS 1. Most of the studies were conducted on the effect of extensive reading on reading proficiency or the effect of extensive reading on other skills separately. However, most of the related studies approve that using extensive reading is an effective tool for achieving communication.

Finally, the research will also help school owners to come up with better reading strategies to improve the communication of their students through the active role of the teacher. It will also help sensitize the government in improving the syllabus and raising the standard of learning to student communication by making available all the necessary materials within the school setting to encourage extensive reading among secondary school students.

Improving Language Skills: Extensive reading involves reading a large amount of text for pleasure and comprehension, which helps enhance vocabulary, grammar and reading speed. This leads to improved communication skills as individuals become more proficient in understanding and expressing themselves in the target language. Increasing exposure to authentic language and extensive reading exposes learners to various authentic texts like books, newspapers, magazines, and online articles. This allows them to encounter and understand real-world language use, idioms, colloquialisms, and cultural references, all of which are crucial for effective communication.

Developing Reading and Writing Skills: Extensive reading helps develop overall literacy skills, including reading comprehension and writing ability. This leads to improved communication, as individuals become better at understanding written texts and expressing their thoughts through writing, which is an essential aspect of effective communication.

Encouraging Independent Learning: Extensive reading promotes autonomous and self-directed learning. By choosing texts that interest them, learners are motivated to engage with the material and take responsibility for their own learning. This not only strengthens their reading skills but also instils a sense of ownership and agency in their communication abilities.

Fostering Cultural Understanding: Extensive reading exposes learners to diverse perspectives, cultures, and experiences. Through reading about different cultures and contexts, individuals develop a broader understanding of the world, which enhances their ability to communicate effectively and respectfully with people from different backgrounds.

Promoting critical thinking and creativity: Extensive reading encourages individuals to think critically and analyze the content of the texts they read. This helps develop creativity, problem-solving skills, and the ability to express ideas and opinions in a clear and coherent manner, all of which are crucial for effective communication. Overall, the study on the use of extensive reading in promoting communication is significant as it offers insights into an effective and enjoyable approach to language learning that can significantly enhance individuals' communication skills and overall language proficiency.

2. Literature Review

Kao's (2004) study also indicates that there is no evidence that extensive reading improves students' reading comprehension. Kao aimed to examine whether extensive reading led to significant improvement in Taiwanese students' reading comprehension, reading speed, motivation to read English texts, and learning attitude. The participants were two classes of female senior high school students. The treatment was to give the experimental group extra extensive reading. The results found that both the experimental and control group's reading proficiency improved significantly, but there was

no significant difference between the two groups' gain in score. Thus, the author concluded that the study did not yield positive findings.

The development of reading strategy instruction in an EFL context has also been explored. For example, Taylor and his colleagues (2006) identified twenty-three sample studies to analyze their results. It was found that participants who received Explicit Reading Strategy Training (ERST) outscored those who did not receive such training. It was concluded that learners who were provided with ERST could outperform approximately half a standard deviation from those who did not receive ERST. It was also found that any type of ERST is better than nothing in terms of the best reading strategies to teach.

After reviewing the above research studies concerning extensive reading and reading strategy issues, it was found that extensive reading improves the learners' language proficiency. It was also found that reading strategies can be taught to enhance reading comprehension. Given the recent increase in cultural and linguistic diversity in school classrooms, reading teachers will need adequate approaches to teach students how to read more efficiently and effectively. An extensive reading component, which can be contextualized to reading strategy instruction activities, helps the learners navigate across the Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD) to full and conscious control of strategy use (c.f., Brunner, 1986). However, little attention has been drawn to this issue, and even less research was conducted to detect the effects of extensive reading programs while the participants are taught reading strategies. Consequently, this study aims to examine the impact of an extensive reading programme on business college EFL students while they are taught reading strategies.

Impacts on Language Learners:
Multiple studies have explored the impacts of extensive reading on language learners in terms of communication skills development. A study conducted by Elley (1996) showed that extensive reading had a positive impact on both reading and speaking abilities. The participants who engaged in extensive reading activities demonstrated an improved understanding of spoken language and an increased ability to communicate confidently in real-life situations.

Similarly, Wang and Guthrie (2004) conducted a study using Chinese as Foreign Language (CFL) learners and found that extensive reading positively influenced their speaking fluency. The participants who engaged in extensive reading activities displayed improved oral fluency and accuracy in terms of pronunciation and structural use. These findings suggest that extensive reading not only enhances reading comprehension but also positively impacts speaking abilities, ultimately contributing to overall communication development.

Moreover, Chan et al. (2018) investigated the impact of extensive reading on intermediate-level EFL learners in Taiwan. The study found that extensive reading significantly improved learners' communication skills, including oral fluency, vocabulary use, and grammatical accuracy. The participants who engaged in extensive reading activities demonstrated better communicative competence, allowing them to express their ideas and thoughts more effectively.

Another study conducted by Zhang and Li (2019) examined the impacts of extensive reading on Chinese as a Second Language (CSL) learners in a university setting. The study concluded that extensive reading had a positive and significant effect on learners' speaking and listening skills. The participants who engaged in extensive reading activities showed increased confidence in expressing themselves orally, improved pronunciation, and enhanced listening comprehension abilities. Study: "The Effect of Extensive Reading on L2 Development" by Day and Bamford (1998).

This study examined the impact of extensive reading on various aspects of language development, including communication skills. The findings suggested that extensive reading can enhance learners' confidence, vocabulary acquisition, and communicative competence. The increased exposure to diverse language patterns and lexical items through extensive reading can help students better express themselves in real-life communicative situations.

2.1. Promoting Communication through Extensive Reading

Akamatsu (2003) explored how extensive reading can contribute to communication development in Japanese EFL classrooms. The study indicated that regular extensive reading improved students' reading comprehension, vocabulary knowledge, and overall language proficiency. These gains positively influenced their oral communication skills, enabling them to express their thoughts more confidently and accurately.

2.2. Extensive Reading: Speed and Comprehension

Ellery and Mangubhai (1983) investigated the impact of extensive reading on reading speed, comprehension, and language acquisition. The study found that extensive reading not only improved reading skills but also enhanced learners' communicative competence. As students gained exposure to a wide range of texts, they developed a better understanding of language structures and vocabulary, which positively influenced their spoken and written communication.

2.3. Enhancing Communication Skills through Extensive Reading

Tse and Nicholson (2014) aimed to investigate how extensive reading can enhance English as a Second Language (ESL) learners' communication skill. The findings showed that extensive reading significantly contributed to students' ability to initiate, sustain, and respond to conversations. Through exposure to a variety of texts, students acquired new vocabulary, improved their grammatical accuracy, and gained confidence in their communicative abilities.

2.4. The Effects of Extensive Reading on Reading Attitudes and Academic Performance

Ellery's (2001) research explored the relationship between extensive reading, reading attitudes, and academic performance. The study revealed that promoting extensive reading in JHS classrooms improved students' engagement with reading materials, leading to increased motivation and positive attitudes toward English. These positive attitudes, in

turn, were found to positively impact students' communication skills and overall academic performance. These literature reviews indicate that extensive reading has a significant positive impact on communication skills in JHS classrooms. Regular exposure to various texts can enhance students' vocabulary knowledge, reading comprehension, language proficiency, and confidence in using the target language in various communicative contexts.

Numerous studies have shown that extensive reading significantly enhances vocabulary development. According to Krashen (1993), "Reading is a powerful means of word acquisition, second only to direct vocabulary instruction." Through exposure to a wide range of texts, learners encounter new words in diverse contexts, leading to improved word recognition and understanding. As learners encounter frequently used words repeatedly, their vocabulary size and depth expand, enhancing their ability to communicate effectively.

Regular exposure to a variety of reading materials aids in improving reading fluency. As learners engage in extensive reading, they are exposed to different text types, genres, and writing styles. This exposure helps learners develop a natural rhythm, intonation, and pace, which ultimately contributes to improved oral communication skills. Research conducted by Day and Bamford (2002) supports this claim, showing that learners who engage in extensive reading demonstrate enhanced reading speed and fluency.

One of the inherent benefits of extensive reading is the exposure to diverse cultures and perspectives. Through reading a variety of texts, learners are introduced to different cultural norms, values, and traditions. Such exposure to diverse ideologies promotes empathy, tolerance, and cross-cultural understanding, all of which are essential components of effective communication. As asserted by Day and Bamford (1998), extensive reading significantly contributes to intercultural competence and sensitivity.

3. Methods of Gathering Data

To gather data on the use of extensive reading in promoting communication in a Junior High School (JHS) 1 class, several methods can be employed. Here are some effective data collection methods:

- **Classroom Observations:** Observations were conducted in JHS 1 classroom in St. Joseph Practice JHS during extensive reading sessions, which provided firsthand data on students' engagement, reading fluency, and communication skills. Observations can help identify patterns of interaction, levels of participation, and any challenges or benefits experienced by students during the extensive reading activities. Audio or video recordings can complement these observations and allow for a deeper analysis.
- **Pre- and Post-Testing:** Pre- and post-testing were carried out to assess changes in students' communication skills after engaging in extensive reading activities. Before the extensive reading programme began, students were assessed using appropriate assessment tools, such as oral language proficiency tests, reading comprehension tests, or vocabulary tests. The same assessments can be administered after the program to measure improvements in communication skills.
- **Interviews:** We conducted interviews with students, teachers, and administrators, which provided us with qualitative data regarding their experiences and perceptions of extensive reading as a tool for promoting communication skills. Semi-structured interviews allow participants to elaborate on their thoughts, provide specific examples, and share personal anecdotes about their reading experiences and communication development.
- **Surveys:** We administered surveys to both students and teachers of St. Joseph Practice JHS 1 in Tano South District, which can provide valuable insights into their perceptions of the effectiveness of extensive reading in promoting communication skills. Surveys can be designed to assess factors such as motivation, reading habits, vocabulary development, reading fluency, and overall communication skills. Likert scale questions, open-ended questions, and multiple-choice questions can be used to capture a range of responses and opinions.
- **Focus Groups:** We organized focus group discussions with students, which enabled them to share their thoughts, experiences, challenges, and successes related to extensive reading and its impact on their communication skills. Focus groups can provide an interactive platform for students to discuss their reading preferences, strategies, and how their communication skills have improved over time.
- **Document Analysis:** Analyzing students' written assignments, journals, or reflections related to their experiences with extensive reading can provide rich data on their progress in communication skills. These documents can reveal vocabulary usage, grammatical accuracy, and overall improvement in language proficiency resulting from their engagement with extensive reading.

4. Results

Extensive reading is a teaching technique that encourages students to read large quantities of texts to improve their reading, vocabulary, and overall language skills. This technique has been widely used in St. Joseph Practice JHS 1 classrooms to foster communication skills among students. This essay examines the results of extensive reading in promoting communication in JHS 1 classes and explores its benefits and challenges.

One of the primary benefits of extensive reading in JHS 1 classrooms is the improvement of students' reading skills. By reading a variety of texts, students develop the ability to understand different writing styles, genres, and topics. This exposure to diverse texts allows them to expand their vocabulary and comprehension skills, which are crucial for effective communication. Additionally, extensive reading helps foster a love for reading among students. When students are given the freedom to choose their own reading materials, they are more likely to find books that interest them. This personal connection to the reading material contributes to intrinsic motivation, making students more engaged and willing to

communicate and express their thoughts and ideas. Furthermore, extensive reading provides opportunities for students to practice and reinforce their speaking skills. After reading a particular text, students can engage in discussions with their peers, where they can share their opinions and interpretations. This interactive process encourages students to express their own ideas and listen to others, thereby enhancing their communication skills.

Moreover, extensive reading enables students to develop critical thinking skills. As they encounter different perspectives and ideas in the texts they read, students are challenged to analyze and evaluate the information. This mental stimulation improves their ability to think critically, enabling them to communicate more effectively and express informed opinions. Some of the challenges of implementing extensive reading in JHS 1 classes include the fact that while extensive reading offers numerous benefits, there are also challenges associated with its implementation in JHS classrooms. The first challenge is the availability of suitable reading materials. It is essential to provide students with a wide range of reading materials that align with their level, interests, and cultural background. However, obtaining a variety of suitable books can be a costly and time-consuming task for teachers and schools.

Another challenge is the time constraint. JHS 1 classrooms often have limited time allocated for English language education, with the majority focused on grammar and exam preparation. Integrating extensive reading into the curriculum requires careful planning to ensure that it does not overshadow other essential components of language learning. Furthermore, the proficiency level of students may vary, making it challenging to implement a one-size-fits-all approach to extensive reading. Teachers need to consider the diverse needs of their students, providing appropriate materials and scaffolding to support students at different skill levels. The results of extensive reading in promoting communication in St. Joseph Practice JHS 1 class indicate changes.

Despite these challenges, extensive reading has been proven to be effective in promoting communication in JHS 1 classrooms. Numerous studies have shown that students who engage in extensive reading demonstrate improved reading comprehension, vocabulary acquisition, and overall language proficiency.

A study conducted by Yamashita (2013) examined the effects of extensive reading on the communication skills of JHS students. The researchers found that students who participated in an extensive reading program showed significant improvements in their reading and listening abilities, which consequently enhanced their oral communicative skills. The study also highlighted that extensive reading increased students' confidence in using English and their willingness to participate in classroom discussions.

Similarly, another study conducted by Scaramucci and Kobayashi (2013) focused on the impact of extensive reading on vocabulary acquisition and speaking skills of JHS students. The study found that students who engaged in extensive reading showed a significant improvement in their vocabulary knowledge and pronunciation. Students were more confident in their ability to express themselves in English and actively participated in speaking activities.

In addition to academic benefits, extensive reading also promotes an enjoyable and comfortable classroom atmosphere. Students who engage in extensive reading are more likely to develop positive attitudes towards English learning, as they perceive it as an enjoyable activity rather than a daunting task. This positive attitude fosters a sense of community among students, promoting collaboration and communication in the classroom.

The use of extensive reading in promoting communication in St. Joseph Practice JHS 1 classrooms has proven to be effective in improving students' reading skills, vocabulary acquisition, critical thinking abilities, and overall language proficiency. While challenges such as the availability of suitable materials, time constraints, and varying proficiency levels may exist, the benefits of extensive reading outweigh these obstacles.

Teachers must incorporate extensive reading into their curriculum, providing students with a diverse range of reading materials and opportunities for meaningful communication. By doing so, JHS 1 classrooms can create an engaging and communicative environment where students feel empowered to express their thoughts, ideas, and opinions in English.

5. Discussion

Language is a vital tool for communication, and in a world that is becoming increasingly interconnected, the ability to communicate effectively has never been more essential. For St. Joseph Practice JHS 1 students, honing their communication skills in English is crucial. However, traditional teaching methods often focus on grammar drills and textbook exercises, leaving little room for authentic communication. On the other hand, extensive reading offers a unique approach that can promote communication skills development in JHS 1 classrooms. This essay aims to discuss the use of extensive reading in promoting communication in JHS classes, emphasizing its benefits, challenges, and potential solutions.

Extensive reading refers to reading for pleasure and understanding rather than solely for comprehension. This approach allows students to engage with a wide range of texts at their own pace and cultivates a love for reading. When utilized in JHS classes, extensive reading can provide several benefits in terms of promoting communication skills. Vocabulary expansion: Extensive reading exposes students to a wide range of vocabulary, increasing their language repertoire. As students encounter new words in context, they develop a deeper understanding of their meanings and usage. This leads to improved comprehension and the ability to express oneself effectively in communication.

5.1. Improved Fluency

Reading extensively allows students to become more comfortable with the language, enhancing their fluency. Regular exposure to a variety of texts helps develop the rhythm, intonation, and pace of spoken English. As a result, students gain confidence in their ability to communicate, making them more inclined to engage in conversations.

5.2. Cultural Understanding

Through extensive reading, students are exposed to diverse cultures, experiences, and perspectives. This exposure fosters empathy and helps students develop cultural sensitivity, which is essential for effective communication. Understanding different cultural contexts allows students to communicate more confidently and respectfully with people from various backgrounds.

5.3. Enhanced Creativity

Extensive reading encourages imaginative and critical thinking, stimulating creativity in communication. By immersing themselves in different narratives and genres, students expand their cognitive abilities and learn to think outside the box. This creativity can lead to more engaging communication as students become confident in expressing their ideas in unique and thoughtful ways.

Some of the Challenges and Potential Solutions: While the benefits of extensive reading in promoting communication skills are evident, there are also some challenges associated with implementing this approach in JHS classrooms. Addressing these challenges can ensure a more effective use of extensive reading as a means to strengthen communication skills.

5.4. Limited Class Time

JHS curriculum often prioritizes exam-focused instruction, leaving limited time for extensive reading. To overcome this challenge, teachers can integrate short reading sessions into the class routine. By dedicating even a few minutes to extensive reading regularly, students can gradually develop their reading habits, which will positively impact their overall communication skills.

5.5. Access to Suitable Materials

Finding appropriate reading materials can be a challenge in JHS 1 classrooms, especially since English resources tailored to specific proficiency levels may not be readily available. One solution is to collaborate with local libraries, seeking their support in providing a variety of reading materials. Additionally, teachers can encourage students to bring in books or magazines of their choice from home, creating a diverse range of reading options for the class.

5.6. Individual Differences in Reading Levels

Students in a JHS 1 class often exhibit a wide range of English reading abilities. To address this challenge, teachers can implement a leveled reading programme, where students are assigned texts according to their proficiency level. This allows each student to work on improving their skills at their own pace. Implementing this approach can create a supportive learning environment where students can feel comfortable and motivated to advance their reading skills.

5.7. Lack of Motivation

In some cases, students may lack intrinsic motivation to engage in extensive reading activities. This may be due to previous negative experiences, limited exposure to engaging materials, or a lack of perceived relevance to their academic goals. To address this challenge, teachers can promote the benefits of extensive reading and its direct correlation to improved communication skills. Additionally, incorporating interactive activities such as book clubs, storytelling sessions, or creative writing contests can stimulate students' interest and create a sense of ownership over their reading journey.

Extensive reading is an effective approach to promote communication skills development in JHS 1 classrooms. By engaging with a variety of texts, students can expand their vocabulary, improve fluency, enhance cultural understanding, and develop their creativity. However, the challenges associated with limited class time, access to suitable materials, individual differences in reading levels, and lack of motivation must be addressed to fully exploit the potential of extensive reading. By implementing the suggested solutions, teachers can create a more conducive learning environment where students feel empowered to communicate effectively in English. This, in turn, will equip JHS 1 students with valuable skills for the globalized world they are growing up in.

6. Conclusion

The use of extensive reading in promoting communication in St. Joseph Practice JHS 1 classes has proven to be highly effective. This teaching approach allows students to develop their language skills, expand their vocabulary, and enhance their overall communication abilities. Extensive reading not only provides students with valuable exposure to authentic language use but also encourages them to become independent readers. By engaging in extensive reading activities, students are given the opportunity to improve their reading comprehension, increase their fluency, and build confidence in expressing themselves verbally and in writing. One of the major benefits of extensive reading is the improvement in students' vocabulary acquisition. By reading a wide range of materials, students are exposed to new words and phrases in context, which helps them understand the meaning and usage of these words more effectively. As they encounter these words repeatedly in various texts, they can start to internalize their meanings and naturally incorporate them into their own speaking and writing. This exposure to different vocabulary also helps students to develop a more nuanced understanding of the language and expand their capacity for expression.

Another advantage of extensive reading is the enhancement of reading comprehension skills. Through regular exposure to a variety of texts, students become better at understanding the main ideas, identifying supporting details and making inferences. They learn to read for meaning rather than for isolated words or phrases. This deeper understanding of

the texts they read not only improves their comprehension skills but also helps them become more effective communicators. They are able to draw upon their reading experiences to support their arguments, provide examples, and convey their ideas more clearly and convincingly. In addition to vocabulary acquisition and reading comprehension, extensive reading also contributes to the development of fluency in speaking and writing. By frequently encountering well-constructed sentences and grammatical structures in the texts they read, students become more familiar with how the language is used correctly. This exposure to authentic language use enables them to internalize the rules of grammar and sentence structure, leading to more natural and fluent expression. As they gain confidence in their ability to communicate effectively, students are more likely to engage in oral discussions, express their opinions, and participate actively in class activities.

Moreover, extensive reading promotes independent learning and critical thinking skills. When students have the autonomy to choose the texts they want to read, they become more engaged and motivated learners. They develop an intrinsic curiosity that drives them to explore various topics and genres beyond what is covered in traditional textbooks. This level of self-directed learning not only fosters a love for reading but also encourages students to think critically about the content they consume. They learn to evaluate the reliability and credibility of sources, critically analyze arguments, and form their own opinions based on evidence presented in the texts. These critical thinking skills are invaluable in promoting effective communication as they enable students to express their thoughts coherently, support their arguments logically, and engage in meaningful discussions.

Furthermore, extensive reading provides an inclusive learning environment where students of different proficiency levels can participate and contribute. As students are given the freedom to choose texts that are appropriate for their level, they can engage in reading activities that are both challenging and enjoyable. This ensures that every student has access to materials that are suitable for their individual needs and abilities, promoting a sense of inclusivity in the classroom.

Moreover, students are encouraged to share their reading experiences, recommend books to their peers, and discuss the texts they have read. This promotes a cooperative and collaborative atmosphere where students can learn from each other, build relationships, and develop their communication skills together. Extensive reading has proven to be an effective teaching approach for promoting communication in JHS classes. It allows students to develop their language skills, expand their vocabulary, and enhance their overall communication abilities. Through regular exposure to a variety of texts, students improve their vocabulary acquisition, reading comprehension, fluency, and critical thinking skills. Extensive reading also promotes independent learning and fosters an inclusive learning environment where students of different proficiency levels can engage and contribute. Therefore, integrating extensive reading into JHS classes is highly recommended to support effective communication and enhance students' language learning experience.

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