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**| RESEARCH ARTICLE**

## **The Effectiveness of Teaching Reading Skills by Using Cartoon Clips/ Comic Strips in Saudi Context**

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**| ABSTRACT**

This paper conducts a study to assess the effectiveness of reading strategies such as using visual aids like comic strips at the secondary school level, KSA. The objective of this research is to highlight the need to use visual aids such as cartoon clips and comic strips, which makes reading comprehension a creative process. This research will be beneficial for EFL reading skill students by better understanding, word processing, and forming relations with the text. The purpose of this research is to show better and more effective techniques implacable in a Saudi Context. In this research, the researcher will use the survey method and a questionnaire as a tool to collect data from a random sample of 50 students. This paper will make suggestions and recommendations for future study and will teach new pedagogical methods through graphic display.

**| KEYWORDS**

Reading Comprehension, Effectiveness, Visual Aids, Graphic Display, Comic Strips

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### **1. Introduction**

Reading is a skill that makes sense of the printed words. It helps to recognize and decode printed text words. A good way to improve language proficiency is to encourage them to read extensively. Students who read more English experience significantly greater improvement in reading ability and vocabulary knowledge. Also, it can improve language usage, such as reading comprehension, writing, vocabulary knowledge, grammar, and academic performance.

English helps to communicate. It is the language of international business and science. English teaching and learning process in Saudi has picked up pace, but it is not very significant in terms of the students' achievement. Especially the big concern is English reading. The researcher believes that second language composition can be positively influenced by pleasure reading in the second language. In addition to its cognitive benefits, extensive reading helps to develop confidence and a positive attitude.

#### **1.1 Background of the study**

Comic strips are a form of visual aid that can be used to improve reading skills and L2 ability. Students are usually less motivated to read because of their shyness and fear of making mistakes. Bringing in such devices can develop interest and can be a fun way of learning.

More and more educators in the West are stressing teaching skills using comic strips. Comics became popular in 1964 and were regularly published in English newspapers. They were an efficient way to deliver a quick message. Graphic displays portray how well the student is able to read and remember a text with visuals. Researchers have outlined five functions of visuals in reading.

a) Representation: Visuals represent the text's content or text

- b) Organization: Visuals enhance the text's coherence
- c) Interpretation: Visuals provide the reader with more information
- d) Transformational: Visually target critical information in the text and recode it in a more memorable form.
- e) Decoration: Visuals are used for their aesthetic properties to spark reader's interest

### **1.2 Statement of the problem**

Attaining foreign language skills, the area most emphasized is writing, and reading is ignored because exams do not ask students to read aloud. Hence, even after finishing high school, students find it difficult to read. The same situation is seen in Saudi graduate students, in that extensive reading was found to be significantly ignored. In the area of content and language use, of the second language on second language proficiency regarding reading skill need to adopt new techniques and more effective strategies. One such strategy is to replace the boring text with comic strips

### **1.3 Significance of the research**

A key skill for academic performance and general personal growth is being able to read efficiently. As in many other nations, teaching reading skills to students is difficult for educators in Saudi Arabia. Reading instruction can be significantly improved by implementing creative and interesting instructional strategies. This study suggests looking at how comic strips can help Saudi pupils improve their reading abilities.

### **1.4 Research Question**

Are visual aids such as comic strips more effective in reading comprehension?

## **2. Literature Review**

The literature review section provides an overview of previous research on reading instruction, comic strips as an educational tool, and their potential impact on reading skills development. It examines relevant studies conducted globally, as well as research specific to Saudi Arabia, to identify existing gaps in knowledge and highlight the potential benefits of using comic strips as a teaching tool. Effective reading is a crucial ability for academic success and general personal development. Teaching reading skills to pupils is challenging for educators in Saudi Arabia, as it is in many other countries. By using innovative and engaging teaching techniques, reading instruction can be considerably improved. This study advises examining how comic books can aid Saudi students in developing their reading skills. There is a saying, "A picture is worth a thousand words." According to Duke and Pearson, 2002, "A visual display helps readers understand, organize and remember some of those words."

Since 1970, many ESL researchers have recognized the importance of the strategies ESL students use while reading. Several empirical investigations have been conducted on reading strategies and their relationships to successful and unsuccessful second language reading (Hosenfeld, 1977; Knight, Pardon, & Waxman, 1985; Block, 1986; Jimenez, Garcia, & Pearson, 1995). Moreover, in recent years, a great deal of research in L1 and L2 fields has been conducted on reading strategy training teaching through comic strips reading strategies help improve student performance on tests of comprehension and recall (Carrell, 1985; Brown & Palincsar, 1989)

### **2.1 Types of Learners**

There are three types of learning styles. These are auditory, visual and kinaesthetic. Most of the learners are visual learners, and they remember what they see. Hence, for EFL teaching, it is best to present students with visuals, graphs, and pictures to reinforce reading. Kinaesthetic readers like hands-on experience, and they process information through activity. Hence, a lot of activities of reading comprehension can be made by using comic strips. Reading strategies indicate how readers understand a task, comprehend the clues, and make sense of what they read (Block, 1986). They range from simple fix-up strategies, such as simply rereading difficult segments and guessing the meaning of an unknown word from context, to more comprehensive strategies, such as summarizing and relating what is being read to the reader's background knowledge (Janzen, 1996).

### **2.2 Visual Aids**

Visual aids include Multimedia, presentations, videos, transparencies, graphs, drawings, models, cartoon clips, and comic strips. Brown, A., & Palincsar, A. (1984). emphasized that using a variety of media and visual aids will increase the probability that the students will learn more, retain better what they learn, and improve their performance of the skills they are expected to develop.

Janzen, J. (1996). Has observed that the teaching-learning process with pictures will be successful if the pictures are related to the material; the Pictures must be colorful and varied; vivid images foster kids' imaginations. In order to encourage and motivate children to acquire the language, visual aids, particularly pictures, are very helpful for teaching vocabulary. According to P. L. Carrell (1985). regarding images as components of visual aids. "The goal of the picture is to give the learner a stimulus that will cause

them to respond in a certain way. The action depicted in the image is represented; thus, the action itself cannot be questioned in order to learn the right words to express it. Visual aids often include images. Media can be used to help the students read books and eventually interpret and memorize vocabulary items and comprehend the passage. The effects of extensive reading are thus both cognitive as well as affective. It leads to improvement in reading, writing, and language use and builds a positive attitude, eliminating negative reinforcement. Also, helps in reading, which would, in the long term, increase students' language proficiency.

### 2.3 The importance of visual aids in reading

What is a comic Strip? Comic books are examples of visual media. It is a series of illustrations put together in connected panels to tell a story or display quick humor. It is frequently serialized and has captions and text in balloons. These were traditionally printed daily in newspapers throughout the 20th century and into the 21st century. Visual aids can help you to reach your objectives by providing emphasis to whatever is being said. Clear pictures can create excitement, clarify points, multiply the student's understanding of the text, and reinforce the message.

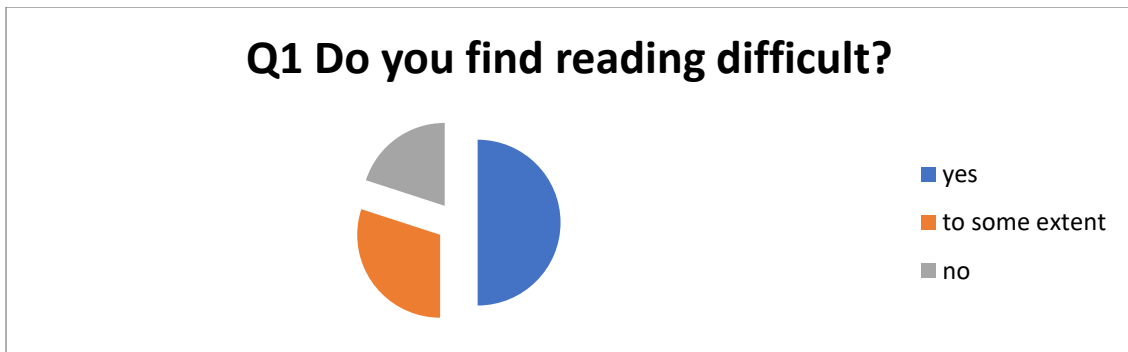
### 3. Methodology

This research is a Survey Research. The population is secondary school students from Saudi Arabia. A random sample of 50 students was taken. These students were asked to fill out a questionnaire to determine their understanding of reading passages with the help of comic strips. The data were tabulated using pie charts and graphs.

### 4. Data Collection and Analysis

The data was collected in the form of a digital questionnaire. The results are as follows

The students were asked the following questions in the survey, and their results are as follows.



**Q3 Do you understand the meaning of the difficult words in reading passage?**



**Q4. Do you find pictures helpful to understand the meaning of a word ?**

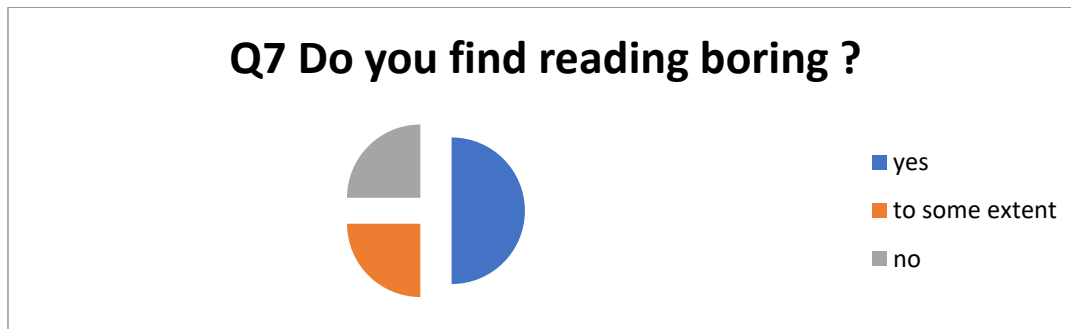


**Q5 Do you think using pictures such as comic Strips can help you in better understanding of the reading passage in...**



**Q6. Does your teacher use any strategies for teaching reading such as visual aids like cartoon clips**





We can conclude that most students find reading boring, and a majority of them want to see comic strips included in their visual aids so these can grab their attention and comprehension. Visual aids involve your students entirely and require a change in the process from reading to visualizing. To see pictures, the concepts or ideas are no longer simply words - but words plus images. If students do not understand the spoken word, a visual aid helps them to better retain the information. Comic strips can make complex information into easy ones. Also, they can convert boredom into interest. The imagination can relate the unknown to the known.

### 5. Conclusion

Teachers can integrate the skills and come up with activities after reading the passage, which involves reading and writing simultaneously to the struggling learners. The teachers should encourage pupils to read stories aloud and not be afraid to read complex texts out loud. Students can understand the text better in visual form and directly connect images to the meaning of challenging words. The resource person can utilize comic strips. The speech bubbles can be utilized to introduce new terminology. A conversation post-reading task is simple to follow after reading a comic strip. It can be used to educate summarizing and to introduce the idea of predicting how the reading material will end. Hence, using visual aids like comic strips integrates the skills to effectively teach reading skills.

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