

IMPROVING READING COMPREHENSION THROUGH SQR3 STRATEGY

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Abstract. Reading comprehension is a fundamental component of language acquisition and academic success. This article examines the effectiveness of the SQR3 strategy—Survey, Question, Read, Recite, and Review—in improving learners' ability to understand and retain written information. The study highlights how structured reading techniques enhance active engagement, promote metacognitive awareness, and develop critical thinking skills. Drawing on theoretical and practical perspectives, the paper argues that SQR3 significantly contributes to deeper comprehension and long-term retention.

Key words: reading comprehension, SQR3 strategy, metacognition, active learning, language acquisition.

ПОВЫШЕНИЕ НАВЫКОВ ЧТЕНИЯ С ПОМОЩЬЮ СТРАТЕГИИ SQR3

Аннотация. Понимание прочитанного является ключевым элементом изучения языка и академического развития. В данной статье рассматривается эффективность стратегии SQR3 (обзор, вопрос, чтение, пересказ, повторение) в улучшении навыков понимания текста. Отмечается, что данный метод способствует активному обучению, развитию метакогнитивных навыков и критического мышления (Robinson, 1946; Grabe, 2009).

Ключевые слова: понимание прочитанного, стратегия SQR3, метакогниция, активное обучение.

O'QIB TUSHUNISHNI SQR3 STRATEGIYASI ORQALI YAXSHILASH

Annotatsiya. O'qib tushunish til o'rganish jarayonining asosiy tarkibiy qismi hisoblanadi. Ushbu maqolada SQR3 strategiyasining o'quvchilarning matnni chuqur anglashiga ta'siri o'rganiladi. Mazkur metod o'quvchilarni faol o'qishga jalb qiladi, metakognitiv ko'nikmalarni rivojlantiradi va bilimni mustahkamlaydi (Robinson, 1946; Brown, 2007).

Kalit so'zlar: o'qib tushunish, SQR3 strategiyasi, faol o'qish, metakognitiv ko'nikmalar.

Reading comprehension is widely recognized as one of the most essential skills in both first and second language learning. It goes beyond the simple decoding of words and involves constructing meaning, making inferences, and critically evaluating information presented in texts (Grabe, 2009). Despite its importance, many learners struggle with comprehension due to passive reading habits and lack of effective strategies.

To address these challenges, educators have introduced various reading strategies aimed at improving learners' engagement with texts. One of the most influential and widely used approaches is the SQR3 strategy, originally developed by Francis P. Robinson [4].

This method provides a systematic framework that transforms reading into an active and purposeful process.

The SQR3 strategy is grounded in cognitive and metacognitive learning theories, which emphasize the importance of active participation in the learning process. According to Brown [1], effective reading requires learners to monitor their understanding and apply strategies that enhance comprehension. Similarly, Duke and Pearson [2] argue that strategic reading significantly improves students' ability to process and retain information.

SQR3 integrates these principles by guiding learners through five structured steps: Survey, Question, Read, Recite, and Review. Each stage is designed to activate prior knowledge, set reading purposes, and reinforce understanding.

The first stage, **Survey**, involves previewing the text to gain a general understanding of its structure and content. Learners examine headings, subheadings, visuals, and summaries to form initial expectations. This step activates background knowledge and prepares the reader for deeper comprehension [3].

The second stage, **Question**, encourages learners to generate questions based on the surveyed material. This process transforms passive reading into an active inquiry, increasing motivation and focus. Self-questioning has been identified as a powerful metacognitive strategy that enhances comprehension [2].

The third stage, **Read**, requires careful and focused reading to find answers to the generated questions. During this phase, learners engage with the text by identifying key ideas, making connections, and taking notes. Active reading strategies such as highlighting and summarizing contribute to better understanding [1].

The fourth stage, **Recite**, involves recalling and expressing the information in one's own words. This step reinforces memory and helps learners assess their level of comprehension. According to cognitive theory, retrieval practice strengthens long-term retention [3].

The final stage, **Review**, focuses on revisiting the material to consolidate learning. Regular review helps transfer information from short-term to long-term memory and ensures deeper understanding. It also allows learners to identify gaps in their knowledge and address them effectively [2].

The SQR3 strategy offers several advantages for improving reading comprehension. Firstly, it promotes active learning by engaging students in the reading process. Instead of passively reading, learners interact with the text through questioning and summarizing. Secondly, it enhances metacognitive awareness. Learners become more conscious of their reading strategies and are able to monitor their comprehension more effectively [1]. Thirdly, SQR3 improves retention and recall. The structured steps of reciting and reviewing ensure that information is stored in long-term memory, making it easier to retrieve later. Finally, the strategy develops critical thinking skills. By analyzing and questioning the text, learners gain a deeper understanding and are better able to evaluate information.

The implementation of SQR3 in educational settings has shown significant improvements in students' reading performance. It is particularly effective for academic texts, where understanding complex information is essential. However, successful application requires consistent practice and teacher guidance.

Teachers play a crucial role in modeling the strategy and encouraging students to use it independently. Over time, learners become more confident and autonomous readers, capable of applying SQR3 across different subjects and contexts.

In conclusion, the SQR3 strategy is a powerful and practical approach to improving reading comprehension. Its structured framework encourages active engagement, enhances memory retention, and develops critical thinking skills. By integrating SQR3 into daily reading practices, learners can significantly improve their academic performance and become more effective readers.

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