

Practical Steps to Academic Reading Comprehension

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Preface

This book, *Steps to Academic Reading Comprehension*, is a collection of a wide variety of texts to improve the students reading comprehension skill; of course, it is intended for university students whose major field is other than English. The novelty of the book lies in the fact that the texts have been arranged according to the author's cognitive empathy with regard to the students linguistic and nonlinguistic schemata. To this end, the texts have been graded by readability index from introductory and elementary to intermediate levels based on their lexical density, complexity of sentences, lengths of texts, the amount of redundancy and un/markd themes. Authenticity of the texts derived from the naturalness of language and their rich contextualization also provides opportunities for meaningful, communicative interaction. In addition, the vast variety of the texts allows teachers to indulge students with appropriate sections and/or texts of their interest.

As mentioned above, the book includes three sections of introductory, elementary and intermediate levels which contain twenty five, twenty five and twenty eight units, respectively. Each unit starts with an independent text as its crux accompanied with different comprehension exercises, especially True/False items, multiple-choice items and information questions to make students cognizant of textual clues and strategies in order to acquire to negotiate meaning progressively. Identification of synonyms and antonyms in matching items as well as filling in the contextualized blanks through essential content vocabulary of the texts paves the ground for the natural extension of the students' vocabulary knowledge. The intermediate section of the book word involves additional exercises including cloze tasks to tap the students' expectancy grammar and also word formation activities embedding familiar and functional paradigms of basic lexicon which reinforce the long retention of the students' active and passive vocabulary in use.

Finally, my debt of gratitude is to my dear colleague, Mr Asshabi, for his invaluable comments and meticulous editing of the work. In fact, I myself have the responsibility for any fault of the work.

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