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Reading online and printed text: foreign language reading strategies in biotechnology engineering in a higher education setting

Language learning strategies are specific actions, behaviors, steps, or techniques used by learners to enhance their language learning. Reading strategies refer to those strategies necessary for building reading habits in a foreign language, for developing basic reading skills, and for determining what to do when encountering unknown words and structures. Online reading strategies are used when readers are engaged in online reading and interpret the writer’s viewpoints and integrate abundant materials. The study seeks to explore how biotechnology engineering students behave when reading both foreign language texts online and printed texts by exploring the reading strategies they use. The instruments used in the study involve the “Survey of Online Reading Strategies” and the “Survey of Reading Strategies”. The data gathered so far have shown that biotechnology engineering students reported that they use both online foreign language reading strategies and reading strategies with the printed text at the medium level of frequency. The findings referring to the potential differences in individual strategy use when reading online and when reading printed text are for further discussion.