

THE HYPE BEHIND BIONIC READING APPROACH

by:

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Reading involves a complex cognitive process of symbol decoding to create or deduce meaning (reading comprehension). It is a tool for learning languages, communicating, and exchanging knowledge and concepts (Nacer, 2015). Reading is not a typical task performed in class or at home, yet it is a powerful learning tool. However, reading challenges are a frequent issue; roughly one in five adults, including children, experience some sort of reading difficulty. Reading problems can also interfere with other learning tasks, such as writing, spelling, fluency, and comprehension. Students find it very difficult to perform well in school because of these barriers, which also frequently affect self-esteem.

The children who did not first learn about grammar and vocabulary before attempting to learn reading had less ability to comprehend or predict the meaning of the text. There are different reading tactics, yet learners struggle to comprehend how to read material thoroughly. Other factors that make it difficult for children to comprehend the content include the length of the sentences they read. They also had trouble organizing the structures' meanings. Extensive sentences also include long structures, which makes it challenging for learners to understand the text's meaning because of the text's numerous structures (Hayurdin & Nurmalasari, 2021).

One tool is meant to help a learner read more quickly right away. It is known as bionic reading. The words bios (life) and electronics combine to form the word "bionic." Renato Casutt, a Swiss developer and typo designer, created the "bionic reading" font which refers to the utilization of the human brain, a natural phenomenon, in combination with reading technology. In today's world, reading and text comprehension is necessary

for involvement. Learners must comprehend the fundamentals of reading to understand how bionic reading functions. This typographic technique aims to facilitate reading by "leading the gaze through artificial fixation points," which in this case are the bolded letters in the text. Depending on how long a word is. Bionic reading will bold the initial few letters to act as the "artificial fixation points" that attract the learner's eyes. Theoretically, this enables a reader's brain to swiftly catch up and complete the rest of the word while their eyes concentrate on the bolded letters. Reading should become easier as a result of having to stare at fewer letters, which in turn minimizes eye strain (Medel, 2022). The application's developers claim that by doing this, the eyes are guided to concentrate on the key phrases in the text. This enables learners to read more quickly and effectively since their brain reads faster than their eyes (Trakhman, 2022).

According to statistics provided by the Dyslexia Center of Utah, 20 percent of people, or one in every five children, struggle with reading because of a language-based learning disability (Ricard, 2022). However, feedback from the audience after the introduction of the bionic reading system revealed that dyslexic persons instantly grasped the information correctly the first time they went through it, which was otherwise not feasible without bionic reading. Bionic reading can be very beneficial for those who want both a quick and focused reading experience. This cutting-edge reading method is undoubtedly evolutionary even though it may not be revolutionary. After all, it improves learners' reading experience and elevates it to a level they never imagined possible. Despite the internet's obsession with bionic reading, there are still difficulties associated with it. Questions are being raised regarding whether it will make sense for shorter texts, but also concerning the elegance of the frequently bolded syllables.

Despite these uncertainties and difficulties, it is undeniable that this cutting-edge reading method is enabling users to read e-books extremely quickly as well as skim webpages and obtain the information they need with ease. The most recent reading technique appears to be bionic reading, and while its results are still being researched and

examined, the claims seem to be very encouraging. It won't be too difficult to get started with bionic reading. Currently, accessible applications will make it simple for learners to change conventional text into bionic reading text. Additionally, readers of bionic books can immediately begin using their current e-reading software and hardware. Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) and Software as a Service (SaaS) are the current delivery methods for bionic reading (Ricard, 2022). Therefore, anyone can appreciate a quick reading experience and recognize the distinction from traditional book reading. Further, the bionic approach does not require any prior knowledge to begin reading. Current e-reading programs can be compatible with books in bionic format. It ultimately boils down to making reading accessible to everyone. There is no mystery as to why this bionic reading method has gone viral online.

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