

Article

Can We Increase the Power of Reading by Adding Communicative Output Activities? A Comment on Song and Sardegna (2014)

Stephen Krashen

University of Southern California (Emeritus), Los Angeles, USA

Beniko Mason

Shitennoji University Junior College, Osaka, Japan

Kenneth Smith

Wenzao Ursuline University of Languages, Kaohsiung, Taiwan



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Song and Sardegna (2014) introduce their study by saying, 'To the best of our knowledge, no study to date has investigated the incidental acquisition of specific grammatical items through extensive reading with communicative output activities. This study aims to fill this gap in our knowledge base' (2014: 69). Song and Sardegna claim to have achieved their aim, providing us with evidence that 'suggests' that 'enhanced extensive reading,' defined as extensive reading supplemented with oral activities, '... can contribute to incidental acquisition of English prepositions' (2014: 67).

Their subjects were intermediate level high school students of EFL in Korea and the study lasted one semester. Their enhanced extensive reading group did indeed make better gains on a test of English prepositions than a traditionally taught group. Neither group received any direct instruction on English prepositions. But this does not provide evidence that output practice 'enhanced' the results. *To show this, a third group would be necessary, one that did reading only, without output practice.* Song and Sardegna's

Corresponding author:

Stephen Krashen, University of Southern California (Emeritus), 29201 Heathercliff Road No 112, Malibu, Los Angeles, CA 90265, USA.
Email: skrashen@yahoo.com

results are consistent with the claim that output helped, but are also consistent with the claim that extensive reading alone was responsible for the gains, that 'enhancement' was not necessary.

As Song and Sardegna note, studies have demonstrated that reading alone is helpful. In addition to the references Song and Sardegna supply, reviews of studies (see, for example, Krashen, 2004, 2011) show that reading contributes to the development of reading ability, writing ability, vocabulary, spelling and several aspects of grammatical competence. Reading alone is not, as Song and Sardegna claim, 'slow, unpredictable, and haphazard' (2014: 68): studies of sustained silent reading show that it is more efficient than traditional instruction, yielding greater gains in the same amount of time (Krashen, 2004, 2011; Mason, 2004) and studies show that adding supplementary writing does not increase the power of reading (Mason, 2004, Smith, 2006). In addition, we must point out that Song and Sardegna used a very small sample ($n=12$ for each group), did not include reliability data for their test, and, as they noted, the enhanced group had far more exposure to English. This latter problem is not serious, however, as the enhanced group gained far more per hour of instruction; it was, in other words, more 'efficient.'

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Book Review

FLOWERDEW, John
Discourse in English Language
(London: Routledge, 2011)

Reviewed by: Ying Zhai
Science and Technology,

This book provides a detailed analysis of the applications in language education for undergraduates, postgraduate students and language education. The book provides a general introduction to the field of discourse studies related to discourse studies and comments.

Chapter 1 is the introduction to the book, which defines several terms, i.e. *discourse*, *register*, *genre*, *text*, *context*, *coherence*, *cohesion*, *pragmatics*, *sociolinguistics*, *linguistics*, *linguistic theory*, *linguistic analysis*, *linguistic description*, *linguistic explanation*, *linguistic evaluation*, *linguistic criticism*, *linguistic theory*, *linguistic analysis*, *linguistic description*, *linguistic explanation*, *linguistic evaluation*, *linguistic criticism*. Chapter 2 introduces the book. Chapter 3 introduces the book. Chapter 4 introduces the book. Chapter 5 introduces the book. Chapter 6 introduces the book. Chapter 7 introduces the book. Chapter 8 introduces the book. Chapter 9 introduces the book. Chapter 10 introduces the book. Chapter 11 introduces the book. Chapter 12 introduces the book. Chapter 13 introduces the book. Chapter 14 introduces the book. Chapter 15 introduces the book. Chapter 16 introduces the book. Chapter 17 introduces the book. Chapter 18 introduces the book. Chapter 19 introduces the book. Chapter 20 introduces the book. Chapter 21 introduces the book. Chapter 22 introduces the book. Chapter 23 introduces the book. Chapter 24 introduces the book. Chapter 25 introduces the book. Chapter 26 introduces the book. Chapter 27 introduces the book. Chapter 28 introduces the book. Chapter 29 introduces the book. Chapter 30 introduces the book. Chapter 31 introduces the book. Chapter 32 introduces the book. Chapter 33 introduces the book. Chapter 34 introduces the book. Chapter 35 introduces the book. Chapter 36 introduces the book. Chapter 37 introduces the book. Chapter 38 introduces the book. Chapter 39 introduces the book. Chapter 40 introduces the book. Chapter 41 introduces the book. Chapter 42 introduces the book. Chapter 43 introduces the book. Chapter 44 introduces the book. Chapter 45 introduces the book. Chapter 46 introduces the book. Chapter 47 introduces the book. Chapter 48 introduces the book. Chapter 49 introduces the book. Chapter 50 introduces the book. Chapter 51 introduces the book. Chapter 52 introduces the book. Chapter 53 introduces the book. Chapter 54 introduces the book. Chapter 55 introduces the book. Chapter 56 introduces the book. Chapter 57 introduces the book. Chapter 58 introduces the book. Chapter 59 introduces the book. Chapter 60 introduces the book. Chapter 61 introduces the book. Chapter 62 introduces the book. Chapter 63 introduces the book. Chapter 64 introduces the book. Chapter 65 introduces the book. Chapter 66 introduces the book. Chapter 67 introduces the book. Chapter 68 introduces the book. Chapter 69 introduces the book. Chapter 70 introduces the book. Chapter 71 introduces the book. Chapter 72 introduces the book. Chapter 73 introduces the book. Chapter 74 introduces the book. Chapter 75 introduces the book. Chapter 76 introduces the book. Chapter 77 introduces the book. Chapter 78 introduces the book. Chapter 79 introduces the book. Chapter 80 introduces the book. Chapter 81 introduces the book. Chapter 82 introduces the book. Chapter 83 introduces the book. Chapter 84 introduces the book. Chapter 85 introduces the book. Chapter 86 introduces the book. Chapter 87 introduces the book. Chapter 88 introduces the book. Chapter 89 introduces the book. Chapter 90 introduces the book. Chapter 91 introduces the book. Chapter 92 introduces the book. Chapter 93 introduces the book. Chapter 94 introduces the book. Chapter 95 introduces the book. Chapter 96 introduces the book. Chapter 97 introduces the book. Chapter 98 introduces the book. Chapter 99 introduces the book. Chapter 100 introduces the book.