

SKIMMING AND SCANNING TECHNIQUE: IS IT EFFECTIVE FOR IMPROVING INDONESIAN STUDENTS' READING COMPREHENSION?

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Abstract: Skimming and scanning are reading techniques that involve quick eye movements and the use of keywords to swiftly navigate through text, each serving slightly different purposes. Skimming entails reading rapidly to obtain a general overview of the material, whereas scanning involves reading rapidly to locate specific facts. In essence, skimming provides readers with a sense of the overall information contained in a section, while scanning assists readers in pinpointing particular details. This study conducted a comprehensive review of existing literature using a systematic approach. The systematic literature review (SLR) method entails a structured process of gathering, evaluating, and analyzing pertinent information from diverse sources, followed by synthesizing the findings to draw conclusions. The findings revealed that skimming and scanning are seemingly straightforward reading strategies. Employing skimming and scanning strategies proves effective in enhancing students' comprehension in reading tasks. In the scope of Indonesian students, it was found that the skimming and scanning give positive effect toward students' reading comprehension, especially in speed reading and reading improvement. In conclusion, skimming and scanning strategies are efficient in reducing time consumption during reading tasks.

Keywords : Skimming and Scanning Technique, Indonesian Students, Reading Comprehension

Abstrak : Skimming dan scanning adalah teknik membaca yang melibatkan gerakan mata yang cepat dan penggunaan kata kunci untuk dengan cepat menjelajahi teks, masing-masing memiliki tujuan yang sedikit berbeda. Skimming melibatkan membaca dengan cepat untuk mendapatkan gambaran umum tentang materi, sedangkan scanning melibatkan membaca dengan cepat untuk menemukan fakta-fakta spesifik. Pada dasarnya, skimming memberikan pembaca gambaran informasi keseluruhan yang terdapat dalam suatu bagian, sedangkan scanning membantu pembaca dalam menemukan detail-detail tertentu. Penelitian ini melakukan tinjauan komprehensif terhadap literatur yang ada menggunakan pendekatan sistematis. Metode tinjauan literatur sistematis (SLR) melibatkan proses terstruktur dalam mengumpulkan, mengevaluasi, dan menganalisis informasi yang relevan dari berbagai sumber, kemudian mensintesis temuan-temuan tersebut untuk mengambil kesimpulan. Temuan penelitian ini mengungkapkan bahwa skimming dan scanning adalah strategi membaca yang tampaknya mudah dipahami. Penggunaan strategi skimming dan scanning terbukti efektif dalam meningkatkan pemahaman siswa dalam tugas-tugas membaca. Dalam lingkup pelajar di Indonesia, ditemukan bahwa strategi skimming dan scanning memberikan efek positif terhadap pemahaman bacaan mahasiswa, terutama dalam kecepatan membaca dan peningkatan kemampuan membaca. Kesimpulannya, strategi skimming dan scanning efisien dalam mengurangi waktu yang dibutuhkan dalam tugas membaca.

Kata Kunci : Teknik Skimming dan Scanning, Mahasiswa Indonesia, Pemahaman Membaca

INTRODUCTION

Reading comprehension consists of the word reading and comprehension. Reading is one of four skills that should be taught in teaching English (Subayil, 2017). It is not only read aloud the passage or the text but also comprehend the meaning of the passage and the text through reading comprehension (Zalha et al., 2020; Rohani et al., 2022). According to Kirby et al. (2011) reading is difficult and something they cannot master. Meanwhile, comprehension is the process of building the meaning of the text by connecting the prior knowledge and the previous experience (Pardo, 2004). In this case, reading comprehension is the process of making meaning from text (Rahmi & Marnola, 2020; Woolley, 2014). The function of reading comprehension is to gain an overall understanding of what is described in the text rather than to obtain meaning from isolated words or sentences (Wahyuningsih, 2021; Widiyanto, 2017).

Reading comprehension is increased when strategies are explicitly taught and used by the student during reading (Coyne et al., 2009). In addition, the article from Snowling et al., (2009) asserts that good reading comprehension involves reading the words on the page, accessing their meanings, computing the sense of each sentence and much else as well (Pflaum et al., 1980). Thus, reading comprehension has to be suited with the appropriate techniques (Gultom, 2022; Wahyuningsih, 2021). In this case, the technique that can be done in order to improve students' reading comprehension is through skimming and scanning technique.

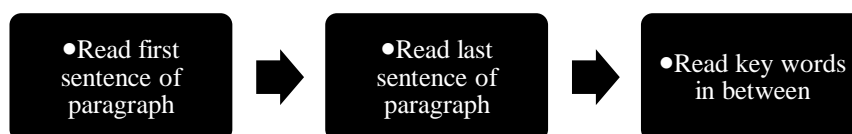
Skimming and scanning are reading techniques that use rapid eye movement and keywords to move quickly through text for slightly different purposes (Nasution, 2023; Susanty, 2019). It can be applied by English teachers to improve student's reading comprehension (Diaz & Laguado, 2013). In terms of its difference, skimming is reading rapidly in order to get a general overview of the material. Meanwhile scanning is reading rapidly in order to find specific facts (Dewi, 2022; Basuki, 2018). In brief, while skimming tells the readers about what general information is within a section, scanning helps the readers to locate a particular fact. Previous studies have shown that the implementation of the skimming and scanning techniques can increase students' ability in reading comprehension.

Skimming allows the readers to read quickly to get a general sense of a text so that the readers can decide whether it has useful information for them (Famelia et al.,

2022). Through skimming, the readers can also get a key idea (Marliasari, 2017). Meanwhile, scanning allows the readers to locate quickly a single fact, date, name, or word in a text without trying to read or understand the rest of the piece (Fauzi, 2018). In this case, the readers may need that factor word later to respond to a question or to add some specific details. However, skimming and scanning is not always the most appropriate way to read (Marliasari, 2017). Although it is very useful as a preview to a more detailed reading or when reviewing a selection heavy in content, but the readers may miss important points or overlook the finer shadings of meaning.

Skimming Technique

According to Abdelrahman & Bsharah (2014) the procedures of the skimming technique are divided into three steps, such as:

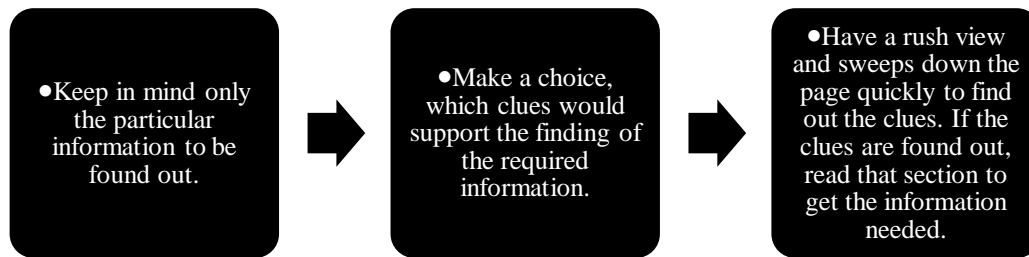


Those steps above help the readers get a feel for a text before actually read it, and the readers will know what to expect as they do a more detailed reading. Skimming is done at a speed three to four times faster than normal reading (Adifatoni, 2019; Insiyah, 2019). Readers often skim when they have masses of materials to read in a limited amount of time. In skimming, readers only have to take the most important information and the main idea rather than read all of the words (Yusuf et al., 2017).

In relation to the effectiveness of the skimming technique, Abdelrahman & Bsharah (2014) mentioned that in the implementation of skimming technique, readers also need to increase concentration, improve memory and recall, and reduce sub vocalization, interruptions, procrastination and stress. Readers are taught to skip words and learn to select key words or phrases to captivate important information with concentration and practice (Lestari & Ibrahim, 2021). So, skimming and scanning deals with the process of determining the gist or main idea of the text.

Scanning Technique

For the implementation of scanning technique, there are three main steps of scanning technique based on Buhang (2023), Hubaib (2022), and Yusuf et al. (2017), such as:



While conducting the procedures above, readers should have full concentration while reading, be able to scan for the two or three search terms that describe the information needed and look for certain words which may carry specific information in the text. Scanning is unlike skimming, because readers are not concerned with the broader meaning of the text, but the detail. In this technique, the readers look for specific information within a text such as dates, names, and places, among others (Aritonang et al., 2018; Hubaib, 2022). Scanning is effective in the process of quickly searching for particular piece or pieces of information in a text (Masada & Evitarini, 2022). The main effectiveness of scanning is to extract specific information without reading the whole text, which relates into fast reading activity (Lubis et al., 2022). In conclusion, scanning technique deals with eyes movement in quickly down the page seeking specific words or phrases.

There were lots of studies has examined the effectiveness of skimming and scanning, the implementation of them, and how the skimming and scanning studied. Thus, this study gives different approach on the way of skimming and scanning conducted as a research topic. The previous studies are conducted in quantitative and qualitative way, and also through mix-methods. The different side of this research are: (1) the method used (SLR), (2) the purposes that to analyze of strengths and weaknesses of skimming and scanning from recent years and to see does it effective or not in improving students' reading comprehension.

METHOD

This research conducted a systematic literature review inspired by the works of Mercer-Mapstone et al. (2017) and Amundsen & Wilson (2012), and also the book from Jesson et al. (2011) entitled *Doing your Literature Review: Traditional and Systematic Techniques*. Generally, SLR (Systematic Literature Review) is a research method used to organize and analyze all relevant literature or scientific articles in a particular field. The

SLR method requires a systematic procedure for collecting, reviewing, and evaluating relevant information from various sources, and then integrating the findings to draw conclusions. The main objective of the SLR method is to provide a complete summary of existing relevant research and to identify knowledge gaps in the field that can serve as the basis for further research (Jesson et al., 2011). This method is often used in the fields of social sciences, health, and information technology and involves the use of strict research criteria to ensure that only high-quality research is included in the analysis.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Result

There are several previous researches in the last three years which involves Skimming and Scanning as the strategy in teaching and learning. Those researches are formulated as follows:

In 2023, there are four main research that were using skimming and scanning techniques. Firstly, Nasution (2023) entitled *Penerapan Metode Baca Cepat Scanning dan Skimming dalam Pembelajaran Maharoh Qiroah*. Based on the results of the application of the scanning and skimming methods carried out at the Darul Ikhlas Islamic Boarding School, the authors conclude that there is a significant influence on students' Arabic language skills in the field of maharoh qiroah. Secondly, Jelimun et al. (2023) entitled *Literacy Assistance for Fourth Grade Students at SDN 1 Ruteng Anam: Big Book, Skimming, and Scanning Method*. The results found that the use of skimming and scanning methods in reading has helped students to be able to read quickly and understand the information contained in the story text. In addition, the use of the Big Book has helped the fourth graders of SDN Anam feel trained to write a series of stories based on the pictures in the given ledger. Thirdly, Buhang (2023) entitled *Implementasi Teknik Skimming dan Scanning sebagai Upaya Meningkatkan Kemampuan Membaca Cepat Teks Tanggapan bagi Peserta Didik Kelas IX C SMP Negeri 11 Gorontalo*. The results found that the use of Skimming and Scanning Techniques can have a positive effect on increasing the Speed Reading Skills of Response Text for class IX C students of SMP Negeri 11 Gorontalo, and the Skimming and Scanning Techniques can be used as an alternative in learning Indonesian. Fourthly, Dewirsyah & Rahayu (2023) entitled *The difference between Skimming and Scanning in Indonesian Language Article Speed Reading Activities*. The results was found that by having these skimming and scanning

abilities, individuals who read can save study time so that they have more opportunities to obtain other learning. From all the studies that conducted in 2023, it can be seen that the skimming and scanning brings the significant influence on students' language skills, helped students to read quickly and understand the information contained in the story text. Furthermore, skimming and scanning may save study time.

In 2022, there are four main research that were using skimming and scanning techniques. Firstly, the study from Famelia et al. (2022) entitled *Upaya Meningkatkan Kemampuan Membaca Pemahaman dengan Teknik Skimming dan Scanning pada Siswa Kelas VII SMP Taman Siswa Teluk Betung tahun pelajaran 2021/2022*. The results showed an increase in learning activities per cycle, namely in the first cycle, the category was quite active to be active in cycle II, while for students' comprehension, it can be seen from the classical completion value which has increased in each cycle. Secondly, Hubaib (2022) entitled *Meningkatkan Kemampuan Membaca Cepat Melalui Metode Skimming and Scanning*. The results showed that skimming and scanning technique can improve the students' speed reading, reading comprehension, and learning achievement. Thirdly, Masada & Evitarini (2022) entitled *Meningkatkan Kemampuan Membaca Cepat Siswa Dengan Teknik Skimming Dan Scanning Melalui Layanan Bimbingan Dan Konseling*. The results found that when doing the exercises given and students look happy and motivated in learning. In addition, students look enthusiastic in the learning process so that they can do well on the assignments given. Fourthly, Lubis et al. (2022) entitled *Pelatihan Teknik Membaca Cepat: Skimming and Scanning Bagi Siswa Kelas XI Jurusan Teknik Komputer dan Jaringan SMK Swasta Yapim Biru-Biru*. The results was found that training quick reading (skimming and scanning) technique, there were significant enhancement of students' skill in reading text, especially in English text. It could be known based on successful of students in finishing test that related to the English text that was prepared. From all the studies that conducted in 2022, it can be seen that skimming and scanning improved students' reading comprehension and help the students to do the assignments given.

In 2021, there are four main research that were using skimming and scanning techniques. Lestari & Ibrahim (2021) entitled *Upaya Peningkatan Partisipasi Aktif Siswa SD terhadap Pembelajaran Bahasa Indonesia berdasarkan Kurikulum 2013 (Studi Penerapan Metode Skimming dan Scanning dalam Membaca Cepat)*. From this research,

it was found that by using skimming and scanning methods students could more quickly understand the reading they read, besides that the skimming and scanning methods also accelerated the reading methods of elementary school students. Next, Moku et al. (2021) entitled *Improving Students' Reading Comprehension Through Skimming and Scanning Techniques at the Tenth Grade of SMA*. The results found that the use of skimming-scanning techniques is effective in improving students' reading comprehension and these two techniques are proper to be applied in the learning process. Third study comes from Rahmatullah et al. (2021) entitled *The Application of Skimming and Scanning Technique to Strengthen the Understanding of Sports Management Material of Physical Education Students*. There is a significant difference in student's satisfaction before and after the treatment of skimming and scanning techniques in sport management course. The satisfaction obtained from the skimming and scanning techniques can trigger self- motivation from students to continue reading from various references and can affect the emergence of student's interest in writing. Next, Lubis & Usman (2021) entitled *Reading Comprehension Learning Model in English Text Using Scanning and Skimming Methods in Physical Education, Health and Recreation Study Program Stok Bina Guna*. This study resulted that student behavior during reading comprehension learning was good and there was an improvement. From those previous researches in 2021, it can be seen that skimming and scanning accelerated the reading methods, improved students' reading comprehension, and bring significant difference in student's satisfaction before and after the treatment of skimming and scanning techniques. Overall, studies in 2023-2021 found that all the studies that using skimming and scanning gives positive results and beneficial for improving students' reading comprehension.

On the other hand, there were also some studies that found the negative side of skimming and scanning. Firstly, the study from Blitary (2020) in his study entitled *Skimming and Scanning: Reading Techniques to Improve VIII B Grade Students' Active Participation and Recount Text Reading Comprehension Achievement at SMPN 1 Arajasa* found that there are some weaknesses of skimming and scanning technique, such as: (1) it cannot retain facts and details, (2) overall understanding is reduced because the students do not read the whole text, (3) it can be used only for finding the general concept, (4) it can cause misunderstanding in comprehending the content of the text. The next study comes from Khoirunnisa (2019) in her study entitled *Teaching and Learning*

Reading by Using Skimming and Scanning Technique of Eleventh Grade at the MA Muhammadiyah Bandar Lampung in Academic Year 2019/2020 found that the students looked bored in teaching and learning process. That was indicated that the students were not had interest in learning reading. Third study comes from Ulmi (2015) in her study entitled *The Effect of Using Skimming and Scanning Techniques on the Eighth Grade Students' Reading Comprehension Achievement of Recount Text at SMPN 1 Silo Jember* found four weaknesses in his research. Firstly, it was very difficult for the students in comprehend the words in the text. Secondly, there were some students who were confused about the similar and opposite meaning of the words. Thirdly, there were only some students both in the experimental and the control group who paid much attention to the lesson. Lastly, the mean score of the students both in the experimental class and the control class were lower than the passing grade of the English subject of the school that was 75. Although there was an effect of using skimming and scanning techniques on the students' reading comprehension achievement, it could not be said that the effect was significant.

Discussion

The study found that the students who applied skimming and scanning strategies had very positive opinions towards the strategies and the effects on understanding reading text (Uke, 2018; Maxwell, 1972). In skimming, the reader reads the introductory information, the heading and subheading, and the summary. After skimming, decide whether to read the material more thoroughly, and select the appropriate speed which to read. Skimming to get an overview is an important skill for students (Thi & Ngoc, 1997). Therefore, scanning is very useful for students to find specific information to get answers from the questions in the assignment or exam, and minimize their time to answer the questions in the text (Deveci, 2018). It is also found that there is an effect of using reading strategies such as skimming and scanning on students' achievement in reading comprehension and their speed rates as well (Fauzi, 2018; Fatmawati, 2014). Skimming and scanning seem to be two terms which are very simple in reading strategies. However, both are able to give an important progress for readers to comprehend the texts instead of improving their speed of reading. Five aspects of reading below are treated by skimming and scanning as strategies of teaching reading in this study.

Skimming and scanning strategies are effective to improve students'

comprehension in the reading tasks (Afriani et al., 2022). Consequently, the researcher may speculate based on this finding that the faster students' performance in reading the better their comprehension in completing reading tasks. In this case, the skimming and scanning strategies have several advantages in learning English. Here is a detailed explanation of these advantages:

1. Improving reading speed (Simanullang & Sinaga, 2019): Skimming and scanning involve reading quickly and efficiently. By using these strategies, students can train their reading speed. Fast reading ability is an important skill in English, especially when dealing with long texts or when searching for information quickly.
2. Enhancing overall comprehension (Kadek et al., 2023; Sandi, 2021): Skimming helps students get a general overview of the text. By quickly reading through paragraphs or sections of the text, students can identify main ideas, structure, and topics being discussed. This helps students understand the overall context before engaging in more in-depth reading
3. Finding specific information (Ildarovna, 2023; Wahyuningsih, 2018): Scanning is a useful strategy for finding specific information within a text. By quickly moving their eyes to search for relevant keywords or phrases, students can find answers or the information they need without having to read the entire text. This helps save time and improves efficiency in searching for desired information
4. Tackling complex texts (Rahmawati, 2019; Asmawati, 2015): Skimming and scanning are also useful when students encounter complex or difficult texts. By using these strategies, students can get an overall picture of the complex text before delving into more detailed reading. This helps them build a strong initial understanding and enables them to handle difficult texts with more confidence.
5. Efficient time management (Girsang & Damayanti, 2022): Skimming and scanning techniques allow students to quickly assess the relevance of a text. They can determine if the text contains the information they need or if it's worth investing more time in a thorough reading. This helps students manage their time effectively by prioritizing their reading materials and focusing on the most important sections.
6. Building vocabulary (Rosmarie & Mualimin, 2020): Skimming and scanning expose students to a wide range of vocabulary words and phrases. By encountering various words in different contexts, students can improve their vocabulary acquisition. Skimming helps

students identify keywords and grasp their meanings, while scanning assists in locating specific vocabulary related to a particular topic or theme.

7. Enhancing critical thinking skills (Siahaan & Pangaribuan, 2022): Skimming and scanning require students to engage in active reading and critical thinking. They need to make quick judgments about the relevance and importance of information, interpret the context, and extract key points. These cognitive processes help develop critical thinking skills, enabling students to analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information effectively
8. Fostering reading fluency (Nezami, 2012): Skimming and scanning exercises contribute to the development of reading fluency. Regular practice with these strategies allows students to become more comfortable and proficient in their reading abilities. The increased reading speed and comprehension gained through skimming and scanning can transfer to overall improved reading fluency in English

By employing skimming and scanning techniques, students can reap numerous advantages that go beyond language learning (Arifitriyanti et al., 2021), enhance their overall English reading skills (Hoang & Nguyen, 2023), develop reading speed, and efficient information retrieval. Furthermore, it can empower students to become more efficient readers, critical thinkers, and effective learners across various domains. Furthermore, it is important to note that skimming and scanning strategies are most effective in certain contexts and purposes, such as quickly obtaining a general overview of a text, locating specific information, or previewing material before detailed reading (Basri et al., 2022; Harnila, 2018). They are commonly used in tasks such as reading news articles, research papers, or academic texts with a specific goal in mind. It is essential for educators and learners to recognize that skimming and scanning are valuable tools, but they should be complemented with other reading strategies for a well reading experience (Rahmawati & Fitriawati, 2022; Indah, 2018).

Despite the strengths and positive results of skimming and scanning, it can be seen there were also several weaknesses found from the study that using skimming and scanning. Skimming and scanning are reading strategies with their own strengths and weaknesses in learning. Skimming provides an overview of a text, saving time by quickly grasping its structure and identifying key information. However, skimming may result in a lack of details and is not suitable for complex texts. On the other hand, scanning helps locate specific information efficiently, making it useful for finding answers quickly. Yet,

scanning may lead to a limited understanding and is dependent on the clarity of the search. Both strategies serve as useful tools for obtaining an overview or searching for specific information, but they should not replace deeper reading and comprehensive understanding in learning.

CONCLUSION

Skimming and Scanning is the innovative teaching strategies to help learners read the passage effectively and efficiently. In fact, the implementation of skimming and scanning can be done anytime and anywhere. From this study, it can be seen that skimming and scanning gives various results through its implementation. This research focused on the analysis of skimming and scanning effectiveness on Indonesian students' reading comprehension. It is recommended for further research to analyze more on the various updates on skimming and scanning implementation and effectiveness, especially in this Merdeka curriculum.

In conclusion, the effectiveness of implementing skimming and scanning strategies in learning activities in Indonesia depends on the specific context and learning goals at hand. The strategies can prove effective when there is a need to swiftly process large amounts of information, such as in reviewing lengthy textbooks or articles. Skimming allows for obtaining an overview and identifying key details, while scanning enables quick pinpointing of specific answers. However, the effectiveness also hinges on the students' reading skills and the nature of the texts and learning objectives. Skimming and scanning serve as valuable tools for managing extensive information and facilitating swift information retrieval. Nevertheless, they should be integrated with a more comprehensive and holistic learning approach to ensure optimal educational outcomes.

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