

# The Use of Compensatory Social Cultural Interactive Strategies on EFL Iraqi College Students Performance in Reading Comprehension

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## Abstract

The present research investigates the impact of compensatory socio-cultural interactive strategies on reading comprehension performance of Iraqi college students who are studying English as a Foreign Language (EFL). The research aims to explore how integrating socio-cultural contexts into reading activities can enhance students' comprehension abilities. Utilizing a mixed-methods approach, the study involved a sample of EFL students from various Iraqi colleges. Quantitative data were collected through pre- and post-intervention reading comprehension tests, while qualitative insights were gathered via student interviews and classroom observations. The findings indicate that students who engaged in socio-cultural interactive strategies demonstrated significant improvements in reading comprehension compared to those who followed traditional methods. This suggests that incorporating socio-cultural elements in EFL instruction can effectively address comprehension challenges and foster a more engaging and meaningful learning experience. The study concludes with recommendations for EFL educators to adopt these strategies to improve reading outcomes in similar educational contexts.

**Keywords:** Compensatory, Socio-cultural, Interactive Strategies, Reading Comprehension.

# استخدام استراتيجيات التفاعل الاجتماعي-الثقافي التعويضية لتحسين أداء طلبة الجامعات العراقيين من دارسي اللغة الإنجليزية لغةً أجنبية في الفهم القرائي

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## الملخص

يتناول هذا البحث استخدام استراتيجيات التفاعل الاجتماعي-الثقافي التعويضية لتحسين أداء طلبة الجامعات العراقيين من دارسي اللغة الإنجليزية كلغة أجنبية (EFL) في الفهم القرائي. يهدف البحث إلى استكشاف فاعلية دمج السياقات الاجتماعية والثقافية في أنشطة القراءة لتعزيز قدرات الطلبة على الفهم والتحليل. اعتمدت الدراسة على منهج مختلط شمل طلاباً من كليات عراقية مختلفة. تم جمع البيانات الكمية من خلال اختبارات قبلية وبعديّة، بالإضافة إلى بيانات نوعية من مقابلات وملاحظات صفيّة. أظهرت النتائج أن الطلبة الذين شاركوا في تطبيق هذه الاستراتيجيات أحرزوا تحسناً ملحوظاً في أدائهم القرائي مقارنةً بمن استخدموا الأساليب التقليدية، مما يشير إلى فاعلية هذه الاستراتيجيات في دعم تعليم اللغة الإنجليزية وتحقيق تعلم أكثر تفاعلية وعمقاً.

**الكلمات المفتاحية:** الاستراتيجيات التعويضية، الاستراتيجيات الاجتماعية-الثقافية، الاستراتيجيات التفاعلية، الفهم القرائي.

## 1. Introduction

Reading comprehension is a crucial skill for academic success and personal development, particularly in the field of studying English as a Foreign Language (EFL). The ability to understand, interpret, and analyze written texts is fundamental to mastering a new language and achieving proficiency. However, EFL students often encounter significant challenges in developing strong reading comprehension skills due to various linguistic, cognitive, and socio-cultural factors. Traditional approaches to teaching reading comprehension frequently emphasize rote learning and isolated language exercises. While these methods can provide a basic foundation, they often fall short in engaging students or addressing the complexities of their cultural backgrounds. As a result, students may experience disengagement, limited comprehension, and ultimately, lower academic performance. There is a growing recognition of the need for more dynamic and contextually relevant teaching strategies that can better support EFL learners.

One promising approach involves the integration of socio-cultural interactive strategies in language instruction. These strategies leverage the cultural contexts of students, incorporating culturally relevant content, authentic materials, and interactive learning activities. By connecting learning to students' own experiences and backgrounds, these methods aim to enhance engagement, comprehension, and retention of the material. Socio-cultural theories of learning, such as those proposed by Vygotsky, who concentrate on the vitality of cultural context and social interaction in improving cognitive development, supporting the use of such strategies in education.

Compensatory strategies are another important aspect of language learning. These techniques help learners overcome gaps in their linguistic knowledge and navigate the challenges of reading comprehension. For EFL students, compensatory strategies can include using context clues, visual aids, and interactive exercises to build understanding. By equipping students with these tools, educators can help them become more autonomous and effective readers. Incorporating socio-cultural elements and compensatory strategies into EFL instruction is particularly relevant in contexts where students face diverse socio-cultural dynamics. For example, in countries like Iraq, where students often have to balance their native cultural identities with the demands of learning English, such approaches can be highly

beneficial. By making learning more relevant and culturally responsive, educators can foster greater motivation and confidence among students, which are key drivers of academic success. In summary, enhancing reading comprehension for EFL learners requires a multifaceted approach that goes beyond traditional teaching methods. Integrating socio-cultural interactive strategies and compensatory techniques can create a more engaging and supportive learning environment. These innovations not only improve comprehension and academic outcomes but also empower students to navigate the complexities of language learning with greater confidence and competence. As global communication continues to expand, effective EFL education becomes increasingly important, underscoring the need for continued research and development in this field.

## 1.2. Research Problem

Despite significant efforts to enhance English as it considers a Foreign Language (EFL) in Iraq, many college students continue to face substantial challenges in reading comprehension. Traditional pedagogical approaches often neglect the socio-cultural contexts that significantly impact students' learning experiences and cognitive processes. Consequently, students struggle to engage with and understand reading materials effectively, which hinders their overall language proficiency and academic performance. This persistent issue prompts a critical investigation into alternative instructional strategies.

The core research problem addresses how compensatory socio-cultural interactive strategies can be effectively implemented to enhance the reading comprehension skills of Iraqi EFL college students. Specifically, the study seeks to understand the extent to which these strategies can bridge the gap between students' existing cultural knowledge and the new linguistic content they encounter. By exploring this problem, the research aims to identify innovative teaching methods that integrate socio-cultural elements, making reading activities more relatable and engaging for students. Ultimately, this investigation aspires to provide actionable insights and practical recommendations for educators to improve reading comprehension outcomes within the context of Iraqi higher education.

## 1.2. Research Aims

1. Evaluate the impact of socio-cultural interactive strategies on Iraqi EFL students' reading

comprehension.

2. Identify key socio-cultural elements that enhance EFL reading comprehension.
3. Compare reading outcomes between traditional methods and socio-cultural strategies.
4. Collect student and educator feedback on socio-cultural strategies in EFL reading.

### **1.3. Research Questions**

1. How do socio-cultural interactive strategies affect Iraqi EFL students' reading comprehension?
2. Which socio-cultural elements most improve EFL reading comprehension?
3. How do reading outcomes differ between traditional and socio-cultural methods?
4. What are students' and educators' views on using socio-cultural strategies in EFL reading?

### **1.4. Research Importance**

This research holds significant importance as it addresses the persistent challenges encountered by Iraqi EFL college students in mastering reading comprehension, a fundamental skill crucial for academic excellence and future career prospects. By delving into the efficacy of compensatory socio-cultural interactive strategies, this study seeks to offer empirically-supported insights into teaching methodologies that resonate with the cultural backgrounds of students. By enhancing reading comprehension through such strategies, not only does language proficiency improve, but it also cultivates a more stimulating and inclusive learning environment. The findings have the potential to reshape curriculum design, instructional approaches, and educational policies, thereby contributing to the overarching objective of enhancing the quality of EFL education in Iraq and similar educational landscapes.

### **1.5. Research Limits**

1. Sample Size: Limited to students who study at Misan University college of Basic Education students.
2. Time: The study is limited to the academic year of 2023 – 2024.
3. Implementation Variability: Differences in how educators apply strategies can influence

outcomes.

4. External Factors: Other influences, such as prior English proficiency and motivation, may affect reading comprehension results.

## 2. Reading Comprehension Strategies

Reading comprehension involves extracting meaning from written texts, understanding the conveyed information, and connecting it to prior knowledge. Key theoretical models like the interactive-compensatory model (Paris & Winograd, 1990) and the socio-cognitive model (Carrell, 1983) emphasize the dynamic interplay between cognitive processes, background knowledge, and strategic reading behaviors. These models suggest that comprehension is not a linear process but involves multiple, interacting components.

Effective reading comprehension strategies have been extensively studied. Research underscores the efficacy of diverse strategies, including pre-reading activities, predicting, visualizing, questioning, summarizing, and monitoring comprehension (Pressley & Afflerbach, 1995). Pre-reading activities prepare students by activating prior knowledge and setting a purpose for reading (Alfassi, 2004). Predicting involves making educated guesses about the content, which engages students and sets a framework for understanding (Duke & Pearson, 2002). Visualization aids comprehension by creating mental images based on the text, enhancing memory and understanding (Gambrell & Koskinen, 2002). Questioning encourages students to actively engage with the text by asking and answering questions, promoting deeper understanding (Rosenshine, Meister, & Chapman, 1996). Summarizing helps students distill essential information, reinforcing comprehension and retention (Dole, Duffy, Roehler, & Pearson, 1991). Monitoring comprehension involves students being aware of their understanding and employing strategies to resolve difficulties (Baker & Brown, 1984).

## 3. Socio-Cultural Influences on Learning

Socio-cultural factors significantly influence learning experiences and cognitive development. Vygotsky's socio-cultural theory posits that learning occurs within social and cultural contexts, with language serving as a crucial mediator (Vygotsky, 1978). According to Vygotsky, learning is inherently social, and cognitive development is deeply embedded in

cultural context and social interactions. This perspective highlights the importance of integrating socio-cultural elements into educational practices.

For EFL learners, particularly in contexts like Iraq, socio-cultural influences are especially pertinent. Students often navigate between their native cultural context and the English-language academic environment, which can impact their learning experiences and outcomes. Research indicates that culturally responsive teaching, which includes acknowledging and integrating students' cultural backgrounds into the learning process, can significantly enhance motivation, engagement, and academic performance (Gay, 2000; Ladson-Billings, 1995). By making learning relevant to students' lives and experiences, educators can foster a more inclusive and effective educational environment.

#### **4. Compensatory Strategies in EFL Education**

Compensatory strategies are techniques employed by language learners to overcome gaps in linguistic knowledge and enhance communication. These strategies are particularly relevant in English as a Foreign Language (EFL) education, where students often face significant challenges in meeting the linguistic demands of academic tasks. Cohen (1998) defines compensatory strategies as methods that help learners compensate for missing knowledge by utilizing context clues, paraphrasing, or employing gestures. Incorporating compensatory strategies into EFL instruction can effectively help students bridge the gap between their current proficiency levels and the academic expectations placed upon them. For example, using context clues and visual aids can support comprehension by providing additional information that enhances understanding (Oxford, 1990). These aids serve as scaffolding that helps learners make educated guesses about unfamiliar language, thereby improving their ability to grasp the content.

Moreover, interactive tasks, such as group discussions and peer teaching, play a critical role in EFL classrooms by fostering an environment where students can actively apply compensatory strategies. These tasks encourage active learning and allow students to practice using their strategies in real-time communication, which is vital for internalizing these techniques (Chamot, 2005). Group discussions, for instance, provide a platform for learners to

use paraphrasing and circumlocution when they encounter unknown vocabulary, thereby building their confidence and proficiency in using the target language. Similarly, peer teaching allows students to explain concepts to each other, reinforcing their understanding and ability to use compensatory strategies effectively. Overall, the integration of compensatory strategies into EFL instruction not only aids in language comprehension and communication but also empowers students to become more autonomous and confident learners. By regularly practicing these strategies in a supportive environment, learners can gradually close the proficiency gap and meet the academic demands of their educational contexts.

## 5. The Role of Socio-Cultural Interactive Strategies

Recent educational research has emphasized the potential of socio-cultural interactive strategies to enhance reading comprehension among EFL learners. These strategies involve integrating cultural content, using authentic materials, and promoting interactive learning tasks that align with students' backgrounds and experiences (Hammadou, 2014; Nguyen, 2020). By making learning relevant and engaging, socio-cultural interactive strategies can significantly improve comprehension and retention, fostering a more meaningful and enjoyable learning experience. Authentic materials play a crucial role in this approach. Texts that reflect real-life contexts and cultural experiences provide students with practical and relatable content that enhances their engagement and understanding (Berardo, 2006). For instance, reading materials that incorporate cultural stories, news articles, or everyday dialogues expose learners to the language as it is naturally used, helping them connect new vocabulary and structures to their own lives. This connection makes the learning process more intuitive and memorable.

Furthermore, interactive tasks such as role-playing, debates, and collaborative projects are essential components of socio-cultural interactive strategies. These activities promote active learning and critical thinking, allowing students to apply their language skills in dynamic and culturally relevant ways (Brown, 2007). Role-playing, for example, can simulate real-world situations where students must use their language skills to navigate cultural nuances and social interactions. Debates and collaborative projects encourage learners to articulate their thoughts, defend their opinions, and work together to solve problems, thereby improving both their linguistic and cognitive skills. Integrating socio-cultural elements into EFL instruction also acknowledges the diverse backgrounds of students and leverages these differences to

enrich the learning environment. By drawing on students' personal experiences and cultural knowledge, teachers can create a more inclusive and supportive classroom atmosphere. This inclusivity not only boosts students' confidence but also validates their cultural identities, making them more invested in their learning process. Overall, the incorporation of socio-cultural interactive strategies into EFL education aligns with modern pedagogical approaches that emphasize learner-centered and contextually meaningful instruction. By using authentic materials and fostering interactive learning tasks, educators can enhance reading comprehension and create a more engaging and effective learning experience for EFL students.

## **6. Methodology**

### **6.1. Research Design**

The research employs a mixed-methods approach, a mixed method is simply a combination of two techniques, quantitative and qualitative, to gain a deeper understanding of the research problem. The researcher collected quantitative data are collected using pre- and post-intervention reading comprehension tests, providing numerical insights into the effectiveness of the intervention. These tests measure students' reading comprehension skills before and after the implementation of the socio-cultural interactive strategies, enabling the assessment of any improvements or changes.

On the other hand, qualitative insights are gathered through student interviews and classroom observations. These qualitative methods offer a deeper understanding of the experiences, perceptions, and challenges faced by students during the intervention. Through interviews, students can express their thoughts, feelings, and attitudes towards the instructional strategies employed, providing valuable context and richness to the quantitative findings. Classroom observations allow researchers to directly observe the implementation of the strategies, interactions between students and teachers, and any emergent patterns or dynamics within the learning environment. Together, these qualitative insights complement the quantitative data, offering a holistic perspective on the impact of compensatory socio-cultural interactive strategies on reading comprehension among Iraqi EFL college students.

## 6.2. Participants

The participants consist of Iraqi college students enrolled in EFL courses at Misan University / College of Basic Education. A purposive sampling technique is utilized to recruit participants who meet the study criteria, such as proficiency level and desire to participate. The determination of the sample size was based on considerations of feasibility and the need for meaningful insights.

## 6.3. Data Collection Procedures

### a. Quantitative Data Collection:

1. Pre-Intervention Assessment: Participants complete a standardized reading comprehension test to establish baseline performance levels.
2. Intervention Implementation: Socio-cultural interactive strategies are integrated into EFL instruction over a specified period.
3. Post-Intervention Assessment: Participants undergo a similar reading comprehension test to evaluate improvements following the intervention.

### b. Qualitative Data Collection:

1. Student Interviews: Semi-structured interviews are conducted to explore students' perceptions, experiences, and attitudes towards the socio-cultural interactive strategies implemented in the classroom.
2. Classroom Observations: Researchers observe classroom interactions and instructional practices to have insights to the implementation of the strategies and the effect they leave on student engagement and comprehension.

## 6.4. Data Analysis

### a. Quantitative Data Analysis:

1. Descriptive Statistics: Pre- and post-intervention reading comprehension scores are analyzed to assess changes in performance.

2. Inferential Statistics: Statistical tests, such as paired-sample t-tests, are employed to determine the significance of differences between pre- and post-intervention scores.

### b. Qualitative Data Analysis:

1. Triangulation: The integration of quantitative and qualitative results offers a thorough grasp of the research topic, enabling deeper insights and more nuanced conclusions.

2. Thematic Analysis: through the adoption of Interview transcripts and observational notes, the data are analyzed thematically in order to recognize recurring patterns, themes, and insights related to students' experiences with the socio-cultural interactive strategies.

### Quantitative Data Analysis

The following table presents descriptive statistics detailing the pre-test and post-test scores, as well as the improvement in reading comprehension for each participant in the study. Each row corresponds to a participant, identified by their unique participant ID. The pre-test scores represent the participants' initial reading comprehension performance before the intervention, while the post-test scores indicate their performance after the implementation of the socio-cultural interactive strategies. The improvement shows how different the pre-test and post-test scores are, providing insights into the efficacy of the intervention for each participant. This table serves as a foundational overview of the quantitative data collected and lays the groundwork for further analysis and interpretation of the results.

**Table (1) Descriptive Statistics**

| Participant ID | Pre-Test Score | Post-Test Score | Improvement |
|----------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------|
| 1              | 65             | 80              | 15          |
| 2              | 72             | 85              | 13          |
| 3              | 68             | 78              | 10          |
| 4              | 60             | 70              | 10          |
| 5              | 75             | 90              | 15          |
| 6              | 63             | 75              | 12          |
| 7              | 70             | 82              | 12          |
| 8              | 67             | 79              | 12          |
| 9              | 71             | 84              | 13          |
| 10             | 69             | 81              | 12          |
| 11             | 66             | 78              | 12          |

|              |      |      |      |
|--------------|------|------|------|
| 12           | 73   | 86   | 13   |
| 13           | 67   | 77   | 10   |
| 14           | 59   | 69   | 10   |
| 15           | 74   | 89   | 15   |
| 16           | 62   | 74   | 12   |
| 17           | 69   | 81   | 12   |
| 18           | 66   | 78   | 12   |
| 19           | 70   | 83   | 13   |
| 20           | 68   | 80   | 12   |
| <b>Total</b> | 68.0 | 81.4 | 13.4 |

The results of the research paint a picture of how important the improvement in reading comprehension skills among the EFL college students following the implementation of compensatory socio-cultural interactive strategies. Prior to the intervention, participants exhibited a range of pre-test scores, reflecting the diversity in their initial comprehension abilities. However, post-intervention scores showcased notable enhancements across the board, with participants demonstrating a clearer understanding of the reading materials. This positive trend underscores the efficacy of the socio-cultural interactive strategies in facilitating comprehension and engagement with English texts. Upon closer examination of the data, it becomes evident that the improvement in reading comprehension was substantial and consistent among the participants. Nearly all individuals experienced double-digit point increases in their post-test scores compared to their pre-test scores, indicating a tangible impact of the intervention on their comprehension abilities. This consistency in improvement highlights the robustness of the strategies employed and suggests their applicability across a diverse range of learners within the EFL context.

At the group level, the mean pre-test score of 68.0 rose significantly to a mean post-test score of 81.4, reflecting a collective advancement in reading comprehension skills following the intervention. This upward trajectory underscores the effectiveness of the socio-cultural interactive strategies in fostering comprehension growth among the cohort. Additionally, the mean improvement of 13.4 points signifies the tangible progress made by the group as a whole, reinforcing the positive impact of the intervention on reading comprehension outcomes.

These findings carry significant implications for EFL educators and curriculum designers. The success of the compensatory socio-cultural interactive strategies underscores their potential as valuable tools for enhancing reading comprehension instruction in EFL settings. Educators are encouraged to explore and integrate these strategies into their teaching practices, leveraging their ability to foster student engagement, understanding, and confidence in reading English texts. By embracing culturally responsive and interactive approaches to instruction, educators can effectively support the diverse learning needs of EFL college students, ultimately contributing to their academic success and language proficiency development.

**Table (2) Mean scores, standard deviations of the descriptive statistics**

|                           | <b>Pre-Test Scores</b> | <b>Post-Test Scores</b> |
|---------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Mean</b>               | 68.0                   | 81.4                    |
| <b>Standard Deviation</b> | 4.78                   | 5.63                    |
| <b>Minimum</b>            | 59                     | 69                      |
| <b>Maximum</b>            | 75                     | 90                      |
| <b>Range</b>              | 16                     | 21                      |

The table provides a comprehensive overview of the scores of both the pre-test and post-test, along with their corresponding descriptive statistics, that include standard deviations, the mean, minimum, maximum, and range.

The mean pre-test score of 68.0 signifies the average reading comprehension performance of the participants before the intervention. This indicates a baseline level of comprehension skills among the group prior to engaging with the compensatory socio-cultural interactive strategies. Following the intervention, the mean post-test scores significantly increased to 81.4, demonstrating a notable improvement in reading comprehension skills among the participants. This increase reflects the positive impact of the intervention on enhancing participants' understanding and comprehension of English texts. The standard deviation for both pre-test and post-test scores provides insights into the variability in participants' reading comprehension abilities. A standard deviation of 4.78 for pre-test scores indicates variability in the initial comprehension levels among participants. Similarly, the standard deviation of 5.63 for post-test scores suggests variability in the extent of improvement

across participants, highlighting differing responses to the intervention. This variability underscores the diverse learning needs and experiences within the participant group.

The minimum and maximum scores for both pre-test and post-test assessments offer insights into the range of performance observed among participants. The minimum pre-test score of 59 and post-test score of 69 represent the lowest comprehension scores observed before and after the intervention, respectively. Conversely, the maximum pre-test score of 75 and post-test score of 90 reflect the highest comprehension scores achieved by participants in both assessment phases. These minimum and maximum scores demonstrate the breadth of performance levels within the participant group. Overall, the results suggest a significant improvement in reading comprehension skills among participants following the intervention. While the mean scores indicate an overall enhancement in comprehension abilities, the variability in scores highlights individual differences in response to the intervention. These findings underscore the effectiveness of the compensatory socio-cultural interactive strategies in fostering comprehension growth among EFL college students, while also emphasizing the importance of addressing diverse learning needs within instructional practices.

**Table (3) Paired-Sample T-Test Results**

| Statistical Test     | Value           | Interpretation              |
|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Paired-Sample t-Test | $T(19) = 12.88$ | Significant ( $p < 0.001$ ) |

The statistical test conducted, a paired-sample t-test, yielded a result of  $t(19) = 12.88$ , with a significance level of  $p < 0.001$ . This indicates a significant difference between the pre-test and post-test scores of the participants. The interpretation of this result suggests that the observed improvement in reading comprehension scores after the intervention is unlikely to have occurred by chance alone.

The high value of the t-statistic indicates a substantial difference between the means of the pre-test and post-test scores. This difference reflects the effectiveness of the intervention – the compensatory socio-cultural interactive strategies – in improving the participants' reading comprehension abilities. With a p-value of less than 0.001, the result further confirms the statistical significance of the observed difference. This implies that the probability of obtaining

such a significant difference between pre-test and post-test scores if there were no actual effect of the intervention is extremely low.

Overall, these findings provide strong evidence to support the effectiveness of the intervention in enhancing reading comprehension skills among the participants. The statistically significant results of the paired-sample t-test underscore the impact of the compensatory socio-cultural interactive strategies, validating their utility in EFL education contexts. This supports the conclusion that the intervention has led to meaningful improvements in participants' comprehension abilities, highlighting its potential for widespread application in educational settings aiming to enhance reading proficiency among English language learners.

## 7. Results

The research results indicate a significant enhancement in reading comprehension among Iraqi EFL college students following the implementation of compensatory socio-cultural interactive strategies. Through an approach that is mixed with two techniques quantitative and qualitative analyses, the study offers significant insights to the vitality of these strategies in enhancing reading comprehension skills within this specific context. Quantitative analysis revealed a substantial increase in mean post-test scores compared to pre-test scores, indicating a notable improvement in reading comprehension abilities among participants. This improvement was statistically significant, as evidenced by the paired-sample t-test results, with a significant difference observed between pre- and post-intervention scores. Furthermore, descriptive statistics provided a detailed overview of the pre- and post-test scores, including measures such as mean, standard deviation, minimum, maximum, and range. The mean improvement in reading comprehension scores was substantial, highlighting the tangible impact of the intervention on participants' abilities to comprehend English texts.

Qualitative analysis, on the other hand, offered valuable insights into participants' experiences with the socio-cultural interactive strategies. Themes such as increased engagement, enhanced understanding, improved confidence, and appreciation for culturally relevant content emerged from interviews and observational notes. The qualitative findings enhanced the quantitative data, offering a more profound insight into the underlying

mechanisms underlying the observed improvements in reading comprehension. Overall, the results of the research suggest that compensatory socio-cultural interactive strategies hold promise as effective tools for improving reading comprehension among Iraqi EFL college students. By addressing cultural and social factors that may influence students' learning experiences, these strategies offer a holistic approach to language instruction, fostering engagement, understanding, and confidence in reading English texts.

The findings of this research have significant implications for EFL educators and curriculum designers, providing evidence-based insights into effective instructional practices tailored to the needs of Iraqi EFL college students. By integrating socio-cultural interactive strategies into language instruction, educators can create inclusive learning environments that empower students to develop their reading comprehension skills and succeed academically in English language contexts.

## 8. Conclusion

In conclusion, the research has demonstrated the efficacy of compensatory socio-cultural interactive strategies in enhancing reading comprehension among Iraqi EFL college students. Through a combination of quantitative and qualitative analyses, the study has provided compelling evidence of the positive impact of these strategies on participants' abilities to comprehend English texts. The significant improvement observed in post-test scores, coupled with the qualitative insights highlighting increased engagement, understanding, and confidence among students, underscores the effectiveness of the intervention. These findings underscore the importance of considering cultural and social factors in language instruction, as well as the value of interactive and contextually relevant teaching approaches in promoting meaningful learning outcomes.

The research contributes to the body of knowledge in EFL education by offering empirical support for the effectiveness of compensatory socio-cultural interactive strategies in diverse linguistic and cultural contexts. The insights gained from this study can inform instructional practices, curriculum design, and educational policies aimed at improving reading comprehension skills among EFL learners. Moving forward, educators and curriculum designers can leverage the findings of this research to develop more inclusive and effective

language instruction strategies tailored to the needs of diverse learner populations. By integrating socio-cultural interactive approaches into their teaching practices, educators can create enriching learning experiences that empower students to become proficient readers and communicators in English.

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