

# Solutions To Help Students Majoring In English Learn To Read Chinese Effectively

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## **Abstract**

*In Vietnam, Chinese now has an important position in social and personal needs. One of the simplest, most convenient and economical ways to approach, develop and improve Chinese is to read books or materials related to the current needs of each individual. In order to help learners understand the importance of reading Chinese books, the author selected 120 students from 3 English Language classes of course 11 at Dong Nai University (DNU) to experiment with this article. The results showed that students who regularly read Chinese improved their vocabulary, understood the main idea of the reading and were then able to apply the grammatical structures in the reading to other skills. In addition, reading Chinese also helps students enhance their understanding of Chinese culture. From there, they easily create good relationships with Chinese people in particular and Chinese speakers in general. In addition to what is simply called reading, students need to have an understanding and make smart choices every time they choose books to read. Become a smart reader to find the best books to nourish yourself.*

**Keywords:** Reading method; Chinese development; Reading; Chinese language; Chinese learners.

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## **I. Introduction**

Foreign Language 2 is a compulsory module for students studying DNU's specialised English as English Language (ESL). After completing the program, students need to meet HSK level 3 (equivalent to B1) at DNU. However, despite achieving intermediate outcome standards, students majoring in English Language still face difficulties in reading and understanding Chinese with topics related to daily life and work. Thus, in order for students to be motivated to improve their learning to read Chinese better and better, they first need to learn a summary of the formation of and relationship between Vietnam and the country whose language they are required to learn in the course is Chinese, From there, set goals to be clearer in learning, avoiding wasting time. Next, Vietnamese students in general, ESL students of DNU in particular need to know, China is the cradle of human civilization, with a history of more than 5000 years China is really a rich and diverse treasure of knowledge in all fields of politics, culture, society. Therefore, when learning Chinese, we will have many opportunities to access long-standing and valuable Chinese culture. In addition, China is also known as a country with an economy that competes with major powers in the world such as the US, EU ... According to statistics of the Center for Industry and Trade Development Investment Promotion under the Trade Promotion Agency of the Ministry of Industry and Trade of Vietnam, from 2015 to now, the total investment capital and the number of projects of investors from China into Vietnam have always increased significantly and currently, Chinese enterprises in Vietnam are always in a scarce situation in finding manpower who is good at Chinese to serve the increasing and sustainable trade between the two countries. Finally, English majors need to realize early on that learning to read Chinese alongside their major from the moment they are in the lecture hall is the shortest and most effective path, giving them more chances of success and career advancement earlier than an ESL student at DNU but Chinese is only at a normal level.

## **II. Literature Review**

Up to now, there are many articles pointing out the importance of reading books in improving foreign language skills, but studies on reading books, on reading methods have only been shown in the form of articles published on social networking sites or articles in newspapers, not scientific research articles orthodox learning. Therefore, researching and giving suggestions on effective Chinese reading solutions for ESL students who are learning Chinese as a 2nd language at DNU is a completely new topic, helping ESL students have more opportunities to choose jobs in the future when they have more Chinese knowledge.

**Good opportunities to expand the future**

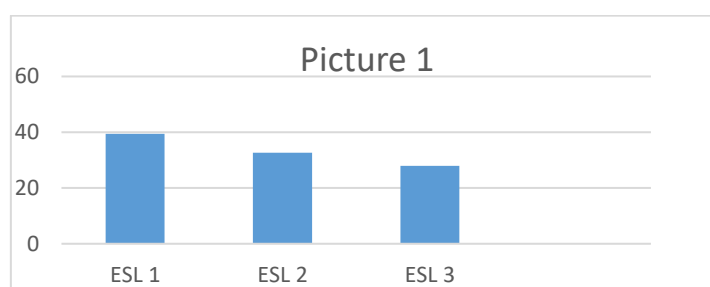
ESL majors who know and are good at Chinese will have more advantages when applying for scholarships or participating in competitions to win scholarships to China and every year the Foreign Language Department is always favored when there are scholarships to China for NNA majors. Scholarships granted by the Chinese government to foreigners include: Chinese Scholarship Council (CSC); Confucius Institute Scholarship (CIS); "One Belt – One Road" Scholarship; Silk Road Scholarship; Chinese Provincial Scholarships; Scholarships of Chinese Universities; ... consider the qualifications of ESL majors who have good results in the process of learning Chinese.

**Easier to learn another language**

Chinese is the most spoken language in the world and has a very long history, while English - the major of ESL students is only ranked 4th in the world. This shows that learning Chinese in parallel with the major of students at DNU is a great advantage for DNU students to study abroad or easily learn more languages in neighboring countries such as Korea and Japan because these countries are also significantly influenced by Chinese.

**ESL students' testimonials when learning Chinese book reading method (Figure 1)**

In addition to pointing out the importance of Chinese in Vietnam, in order to reinforce the reason for conducting the research on the topic "solutions to help students majoring in English learn to read Chinese effectively", the author conducted a survey of Chinese learners' opinions about reading Chinese books through a survey with a duration of 3 months for for students of class 11, year 2, who are studying English Language at Dong Nai University because these students have very good English vocabulary but Chinese is only at an average level and have not read and understand basic Chinese books. Participating in this survey were a total of 120 students, of which 39.4% were ESL 1 students, 32.6% were ESL 2 students, and 28% were ESL 3 students. (Figure 1)



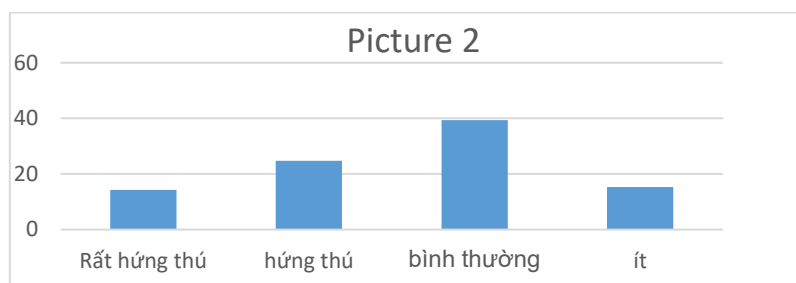
**Table. Students' comments on the benefits of reading books.**

Date	Class	Lessons	Benefits identified by students	Tỉ lệ %
March 4, 2024	ESL 1	Reading 1	Expand vocabulary	84,4%
March 5, 2024	ESL 2	Reading 1	Practice reading comprehension	77,9%
March 6, 2024	ESL 3	Reading 1	Know more grammar	66,2%
April 1, 2024	ESL 1	Reading 2	Learn more Chinese expressions	70,1%
April 2, 2024	ESL 2	Reading 2	Access new sources of information and knowledge	
April 2, 2024	ESL 2	Reading 2	Access new sources of information and knowledge.	64,9%
April 3, 2024	ESL 3	Reading 2	Practice listening skills (for audiobooks).	36,4%
May 6, 2024	ESL 1	Reading 3	Enrich thinking and thinking.	67,5%
May 7, 2024	ESL 2	Reading 3	Realize many short and effective paths to success.	89,3%
May 8, 2024	ESL 3	Reading 3	Apply listening, speaking, and writing	75,3%

			skills very well after forming reading habits.	
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**Students' interest in reading Chinese books (Figure 2)**

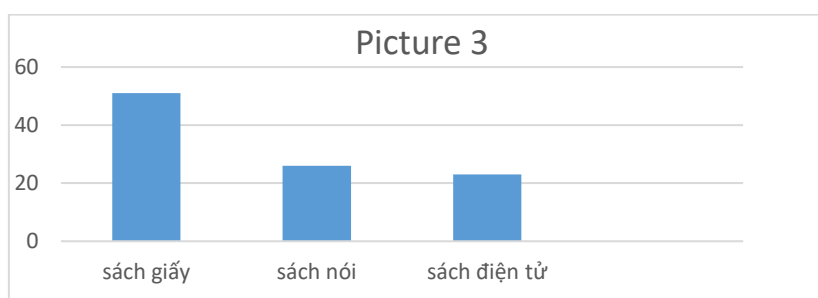
39.4% of students felt normal, 24.7% of students felt interested, 14.3% of students felt very interested, 15.3% of students felt less interested and the remaining percentage were not interested in reading Chinese books.



P 2. Survey results on students' interest in reading Chinese books.

**How to read Chinese books that students are interested in (Figure 3)**

61% of students are interested in reading paper books, followed by e-reading 26% of students and only 13% of students are interested in reading audiobooks.



**Besides, learning to read Chinese still has many limitations**

In the survey on difficulties that students face in reading Chinese books, for the form of paper books, the biggest difficulty is finding official books in Vietnam (75.5% of students); The second difficulty is the high price (67% of students).

For audiobook format, 85% of students have difficulties due to insufficient vocabulary for complete listening comprehension; 19.8% of students cited the limitation of the audiobook format as the quality of the content being less censored.

As for reading e-books, 48.1% of students agreed that reading e-books for a long time will harm the eyes; 69.2% of students were susceptible to reading labels due to the appearance of advertisements from other apps.

**III. The Central Solution Of The Research Paper**

**How to increase interest in reading Chinese books**

Choose books that are right for us at the present time we often do that activity: shopping, fashion.

Always provide opportunities for us to read even for short periods of time: Always carry large or small books that fit into our daily schedule; Enlist learning to read at break time (10 minutes); Sit too coffee while waiting for you to arrive when you arrive early (15 minutes); School (15 minutes) or in bed before bed (20 minutes), ...

Write down new words or interesting phrases after books you've just read, about 10 new vocabulary words, or 5 phrases that are familiar to the life around you.

Choose a familiar and noisy corner to relax with a book and should form a daily routine of about 15 to 30 minutes.

Share the information that you are most interested in about the passage you have just read with friends and relatives through reminders or means of information such as facebook, zalo, ... or join a few specialized Chinese reading groups to experience sharing and getting feedback. From there, it will also help readers have more motivation to continue sharing information and knowledge with their friends and improve their ability to remember at the end of the day.

### **Effective reading steps**

English Language students have the advantage of learning how to read books in their major, so do not forget to apply them to Chinese reading practice such as: Read in full, Skim, Read headings, Read lookup.

Before reading, find out what you currently want from the book and find a title that suits your current conditions in terms of time, finance, etc. Plan your purchase and make a note of when the book will be completed. (For starters, it is recommended to choose 1 pamphlet and be able to read for 1 week, 15-30 minutes a day).

While reading, occasionally skim the title and table of contents in the book to remind us to remember and know the goal to read. Always mark or note in 1 notebook what we enjoy with the passage or chapter we just read in the book.

After reading, we make a habit of asking ourselves 3 to 5 questions such as what does it mean to read the passage? In what situation do we apply the last paragraph? Who is the right person for us to share what we just read? ...

### **Method selection for effective reading**

Reading paper books, the simplest, DNU ESL students can go to the department's library or can ask directly the teacher who is teaching for appropriate support and advice. Or students can search for books through reputable websites in Vietnam such as Fahasa, Shopee, Tiki to find official books. However, paper books are expensive compared to students and even for learners who read Chinese specially.

Read audiobooks, this book is especially suitable for busy learners, we can learn to read audiobooks through 2 very popular platforms today, audiobooks or podcasts. Audiobooks have many advantages: Learners can take advantage of time anytime, anywhere such as walking, doing housework, taking care of bonsai or pets ... to listen to the book read. Audiobooks give the human brain the ability to create meaningful images when listening to a story instead of reading it.

Here are some suggestions for censored audiobook form Chinese titles:

Youtube: Practice listening to Chinese every day -VI VU (beginner Chinese students).

(<https://www.youtube.com/@LuyenNgheTiengTrungMoiNgay>)

Super E.L.F Station (elementary Chinese proficiency students).

(<https://www.youtube.com/c/H%E1%BB%8DcTi%E1%BA%BFngTrungSuperELF/videos>)

This channel has rich and diverse content including topics of psychology, school emotions, personal development .... This channel is suitable for those from the intermediate level of Chinese and above, has a fairly fast reading speed with many different voices and uses local words.

Reading e-books, also known as e-books, students can use media such as computers, smartphones, and Kindle e-readers to read books. E-books are carried by learners anytime, anywhere, e-books are considered an endless treasure of knowledge in all fields. Recently, the reading culture of Vietnamese people is receiving more attention and attention. Practical evidence is that book fairs are organized on a large scale, large and small seminars on reading issues are held continuously. However, because e-books have ads of other applications, readers do not focus while using. Besides the advantages, e-books will have a dangerous effect when read too long before going to bed, the blue light from the screen will make it difficult for us to fall asleep. To ensure health as well as eye protection, students should apply reasonable rest periods such as reading 30 minutes, resting eyes for 30 seconds after each reading.

## **IV. Conclusion**

Books are an intangible source of knowledge, reading books brings many extremely valuable benefits. Although learning to read in many different ways, the end goal is always a common destination for all readers. When we read books, we can expand our knowledge, learn from the knowledge recorded in the book and apply it to many different fields. Besides, reading books also helps us become useful people for society, learn humanistic lessons and good values of life in books, help us think and act more positively. Books are also a source of inspiration and joy in life. Positive stories and happy books can help us feel refreshed and happier when we're struggling. However, we need to choose valuable books and practice what we learn in life. In short, books are a good friend of man, reading books not only helps us acquire knowledge but also cultivates a beautiful soul. Therefore, students majoring in English Language of DNU who learn to read Chinese books through the above methods seriously and need to learn to read in parallel with the English Language major will definitely have the opportunity to succeed right from the time they are sitting in the DNU lecture hall and will have the opportunity to advance greatly after graduation thanks to reading Chinese books.

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