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TADOKU SPECIAL

SSS method an effective way to learn English

By Akio Furukawa

Head teacher, SEG Tadoku Department, and chair, SSS ER Study Group

The Start with Simple Stories (SSS) Tadoku (extensive reading) method is a unique, simple and fun way to learn a language, the effectiveness of which has been reported by many schools in Japan.

In 2001, University of Electro-Communications Prof. Kunihide Sakai created the idea of SSS, advocating three

fundamental rules for extensive reading known as ta-

doku 3-gensoku in Japanese: 1. Do not use dictionaries

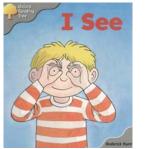
while reading. 2. Skip the difficult words. 3. Quit reading when the

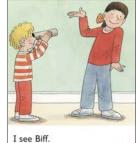
book becomes difficult. In other words, students

are required to read easy books that they can enjoy without dictionaries. Since 2002, middle and

high schools, universities,

jukus and private English schools for children and adults have begun independently offering SSS Tadoku programs, with the number increasing every year. Among them, Toyota Technical College, Kinki University, Ohyu Academy and SEG Juku are popular for their high levels of English education. The principle of the SSS method is to start by reading English books with simple stories, such as Oxford Reading Tree Series Stage 1(see Fig.1), to read many books, and to raise the reading level step by step.





Akio Furukawa

Fig. 1 Oxford Reading Tree Stage 1 (Oxford University Press)

SEG SSS Tadoku program

SEG (Scientific Education Group), a juku for junior high and high school students, began the SSS Tadoku program in 2002, when it was rare for English to be taught using this method. In 2009, 508 students were learning English via the extensive reading method at SEG.

The purpose of our SSS Tadoku program at SEG is to have students achieve maximum benefits from extensive

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(1) 中1~高2生を対象に、多読部分の指導をする多読指導の講師

SEG英語多読教室主宰 古川昭夫

英語教育の最終的な目的は、英語で考える脳を作るこ とであるといってもよいでしょう。英語で考えることの 重要性は今までも多くの人が力説していますが、初期段 階から実際にどういう訓練をすれば、英文を日本語を介 さずに理解できるようになるのかについては定説があり

Start with Simple Stories (SSS)方式の多読は、英語 を学ぶごく初期段階から、英語の本を読み、段階的に読 む本のレベルを上げてゆく方法で、英語で考える力を確 実に育てることのできる英語習得法です。

Chart 1 Average Scores of ACE

(Nationwide and SSS)

SSS方式の段階的多読では、CD付きのやさしい絵本か

Junior High Grade 2(SSS)

Junior High

High School

High School

ら始めます。そうすれば、英語を学ぶ最初の日から、日 本語での解説無しに直読直解できるのです。やさしい絵 本から徐々にレベルを上げて、200万語程度(時間にし て、250時間程度)英文に触れれば、中1から英語を始 めた中学生でも、CNNのニュースや、"High School Musical"などの映画を日本語字幕なしにある程度の理解度 で楽しむことができるようになるのです。私は、経験か ら、 英語力の伸び=読み聴きした英文の量×(理解度)4 という仮説を立てています。辞書を引いたり、日本語の 説明を聞いたり、繰り返し音読するなどをすれば、読む 英文の理解度は、100%近くなり、読んだ量に対する伸び の率は高くなりますが、読む英文の量は少なくなります。 一方、英文の理解度を70%に落とすと、読んだ量に対す

Table 1: Average scores of ACE (Nationwide) G

70.6

78.3

81.7

Table 2: Average scores of Upper 1/3 of ACE (Nationwide)

G

79.7

92.1

98.8

Chart 1 also shows that the average scores for Vocab-

67.3

76.3

83.7

٧

81.1

93.4

105.0

R

135.7

145.3

R

186.2

L

157.6

156.6 163.1 485.1

L

171.4 172.5 504.8

199.3 | 188.2 | 591.3

178.7 550.4

Total

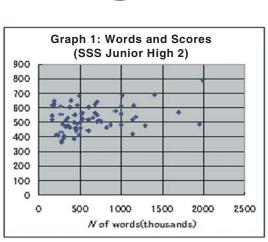
457.5

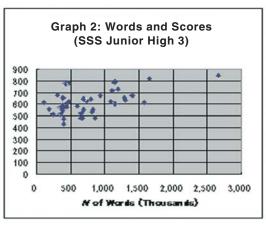
152.2 425.8

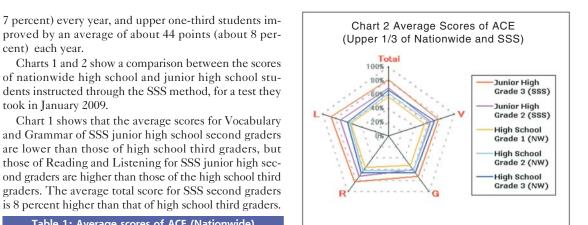
る伸びの率は、100%理解にくらべて24%に減りますが、 理解度を落とすことで、従来の10倍の英文を読むことが 可能になります。従って、従来に比べて約2.4倍の効率で 英語力を伸ばす、つまり、中1~2の2年間で、中1~高2 の5年分の英語力を伸ばすことが可能という仮説です。

今年3月に、Denverで開かれた英語教授法の国際学会 では、近畿大学、豊田高専、SEGでの多読の成果が発表 され、世界中から集まった英語教師の注目を集めました。 ぜひ、2倍以上の効果のある多読を、あなたの教室に もとりいれてみませんか?

なお、今年も、洋書があたる英語多読キャンペーン を、各出版社の協力で行っています。詳しくは、次の英 文記事の後にある、日本語記事をご覧ください。







of high school students.

Chart 2 shows that a leap in scores for upper one-third middle students between second graders and third graders is far greater than that of students of upper onethird of high school students nationwide of different

The average total number of words that our middle second graders have read at our school and at home is 623,424, and 773,811 for our middle school third graders. That works out at an average of about 30,000 words read and listened to in a year by private middle and high school students. Thus, the number of words our SSS students read annually is about 2.5 times more than ordinary students. The scatter charts between the total number of words and ACE scores for junior high second and third graders at our juku are as follows:

Since the correlation coefficients are 0.33 for junior high school second graders and 0.55 for junior high school third graders, the numbers of words and the scores have a positive correlation. Consequently, the results showed by the tables, charts and graphs prove that teaching English through extensive reading is a better way to reach a higher level in English compared with the traditional



■英語 1 0 0 万語多読キャンペーン

2009年4月1日から、12月31日までに、100冊 あるいは、10万語以上の洋書を読んだ方は、そ の読書記録のコピーと、「私の推薦する1冊」と 題した洋書の推薦文をSSS英語多読研究会宛に お送りください。

応募者の中から、抽選で100名の方に洋書 2冊を贈呈する他、読書推薦文の審査で入賞し た方に20名に、洋書20冊をプレゼントします。

http://www.seg.co.jp/sss/information/ 100mango-fair.html

Grade 2(NW) High School lessons for 80 minutes while a native English teacher presides over other English skills including grammar, writing, and conversation for 80 minutes, following a 20-

minute break. The students are divided into several classes with about 12 students in each class. Let us examine the reports and compare how well our

junior high school students scored on a test originally aimed at high school students. Additionally, let us see how many words our junior high school students have read in our Tadoku class and their autonomous reading at home.

ACE Test Score

The ACE (Assessment of Communicative English) test is an exam for Japanese high school students administered by the Association for English Language Proficiency Assessment. Our students take the ACE tests in August and January.

The average scores of an ACE test (code A0338) of high school students and those of upper one-third students nationwide who took the test are shown at table 1 and 2. In the tables, V stands for Vocabulary (a full score is 150 points), G for Grammar (150 points), R for Reading (300 points) and L for Listening (300 points).

Students improved by an average of 30 points (about

ulary, Grammar, Reading and Listening of SSS junior high third graders are far better than those of high school third graders across the nation, and the difference of average total scores between SSS second graders and third graders is 11 percent, which is 1.4 times as much as that grammar and translation method.

took in January 2009.

High School

High School

High School

High School

High School

High School

Grade 1

Grade 2

Grade 3

Grade 1

Grade 2

Grade 3

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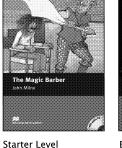
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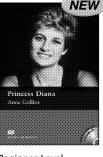


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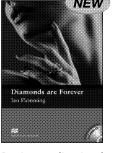






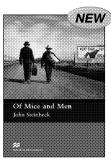




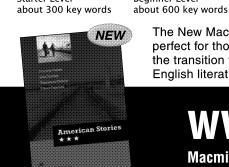


about 1400 key words





Upper Int. Level

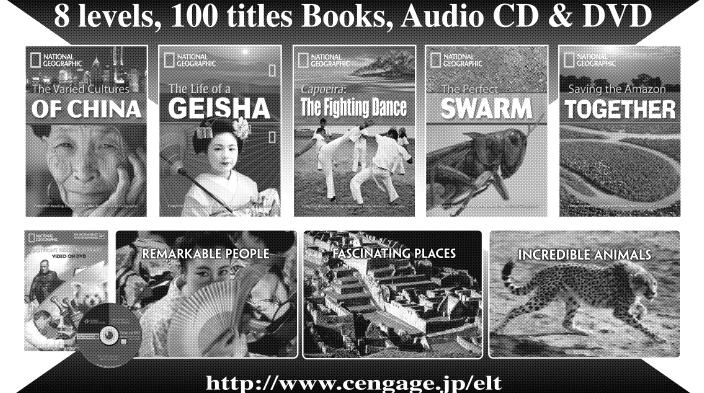


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