Students' Attitudes towards Reading as a Determinant of Performance in O' Level English in Oyo State Secondary Schools, Nigeria

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Abstract : This study observed students' attitudes towards reading as a determinant of performance in O' Level English in Oyo state secondary schools. Random sampling technique was used to select two schools from each of the five geo-political zones of the state while stratified sampling technique was used to select twenty students from each of the ten schools. A researcher designed questionnaire was used to gather information on students' attitudes while a prepared test based on O' Level syllabus was stapled to each of the questionnaire to ascertain their level of achievement in O' Level English. The Percentage, Mean, Standard Deviation, Chi-square and Pearson Contingency Coefficient were used to answer and test the research questions and hypotheses raised. The findings showed that the general attitude of students towards reading was ambivalent; the general level of achievement was also low. The findings also revealed that there was a significant difference in the attitudes of students to reading on the basis of gender and home background. Students from educated homes also had better attitudes towards reading than their counterparts from illiterate homes. The findings also showed that there was a significant relationship between students' attitudes to reading and their performance in O' Level English. Students with positive attitude to reading had better grades in O' Level English than students with ambivalent and negative attitudes. Based on the findings, it was recommended that students should change their attitudes to reading; the school and the home were also advised to always encourage students to read.