CHAPTER IV

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4.1 Level of Proficiency to be attained by the Pupils in Relation to Comprehension of the Read Material

With a view to ascertaining a consensus of views on "curriculum planning in English", seminars were held at various places. The brochure that shed light on deliberations and discussions has pin-pointed the outlines for implementing the basic patterns, vocabulary items, competence expected at each level and guidelines related to presentation of the fundamentals of the language learning.

If we take Reading Comprehension area of Class IX level, the committee has specified the following objective and sub-objectives:

"The student develops the ability to read English with ease and comprehension.

The competence specifications were:

(a) grasps the meanings of words, phrases and sentences from the context;
(b) follows the sequence of ideas, facts etc;
(c) locates significant details;
(d) identifies relationships between ideas, events and facts;"
(e) acquires the ability to use both types of suitable dictionaries - English - Gujarati and English - English;
(f) comprehends materials falling outside the prescribed textbook;
(g) acquires a reasonable speed in reading silently with comprehension.

Content Specifications:

(a) silent reading of prescribed textbooks and other materials written to similar specifications;
(b) silent reading of the instructions written on/under maps, figures, registers, advertisement, memoranda, news bulletins, time tables etc.;
(c) reading of slogans, head lines;
(d) reading of slogans, head lines, advertisements and other programmes in newspapers, picture stories, jokes, etc., published in magazines;
(e) translation of paragraphs from English into mother-tongue.1

4.2 Bare Minimum Requirements regarding
(i) the structural patterns
(ii) vocabulary
(iii) phrasal verbs
(iv) function words
(v) common abbreviations
(iv) Function words

During the period of VIII, IX and X, the pupils have to work out 88 function words. Function words are significant because the pupils have to familiarise themselves with the functions of those words.

(v) Common abbreviations

The whole design is based on the structural approach. In Class IX, the pupils are expected to learn and master 24 teaching points thoroughly. The teachers being the best judges, can use mother tongue judiciously. They are at liberty to alter the order of the teaching points covered in the syllabus. The chief objective would be to present the reading material in a natural and interesting manner.

The prose section would comprise of Ninety (90) pages for Intensive Reading, 25 pages for explanation and consolidation of points in grammar, 20 pages for supplementary Reading. The total number of pages that the pupils have to encompass would be 135 pages. 80 to 100 lines of poetry would adorn with a feather in the crown.

(1) The structural patterns would include some special verbs, passive voice (elementary type), Infinitive, Noun clause construction, Relative + to infinitive + what/when/where, Reported speech, Adjectival phrases with present and past participles, possibility, Adverb clause of concession, Adverb clause of time, used to, Relative clauses, Some verbs generally not