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## **A LANGUAGE PROBLEM OR A READING PROBLEM?**

### **An Examination of the Relationship between L1 and FL Reading**

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*The study reported in this paper examines reading in a foreign language (FL) and its relation with general language competence and with first language (L1) reading ability. Specifically, the following relationships were investigated: (a) reading comprehension and general language proficiency in L1 and FL, (b) FL reading comprehension and FL vocabulary recognition, (c) L1 and FL reading comprehension and (d) L1 and FL general language proficiency. Results indicated that there were significant and high intralingual correlations between language proficiency and reading ability in both L1 and FL as well as between vocabulary and reading comprehension in FL. As for interlingual relationships, correlations were weaker between L1 and FL reading comprehension and L1 and FL language proficiency. These data suggest that reading deficiency in FL is more a result of poor language competence than ineffective reading strategies.*

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