

How to Cite:

Rashid, M. H., Lan, Y., & Hui, W. (2022). The importance of vocabulary in teaching and learning in applied linguistics. *Linguistics and Culture Review*, 6(S2), 541-550.

<https://doi.org/10.21744/lingcure.v6nS2.2177>

The Importance of Vocabulary in Teaching and Learning in Applied Linguistics

Md. Harun Rashid

Faculty of Modern Languages and communication, Universiti Putra Malaysia, Malaysia

Email: harun.sh96@gmail.com

Yu Lan

Faculty of Humanity and Law, Yanching Institute of technology, China

Email: y1343567091@gmail.com

Wang Hui

Faculty of Modern languages and communication, Universiti Putra Malaysia, Malaysia

Email: vicky0176742521@gmail.com

Abstract--The importance of teaching and learning vocabulary and presenting a comprehensive survey of modern English vocabulary, focusing on various linguistic descriptive frameworks and pedagogical contexts. The linguistic approaches to the analysis of the modern lexicon in English are discussed in detail, emphasising vocabulary and language learning, dictionaries and lexicography, and the literary and stylistic study of vocabulary. The perspective of this study is a vital resource for students and researchers to investigate the terminology of vocabulary within English language learning and its importance.

Keywords---importance of vocabulary, teaching and learning, applied linguistic.

Introduction

Classroom vocabulary is the most challenging aspect of communication and is labelled the most problematic area by teachers (Celik & Toptas, 2010). Even though learners know the language's grammar, communication will break down if they do not know the correct word. Various researchers, scholars, and language teachers have conducted studies over the past several decades to find out which strategies are effective for vocabulary learning (Levenston, 1979). Oxford (1990) argued that fluency in a language involves the memorization of vast volumes of

vocabulary. A cause of forgetting was noted by Celce-Marcia (2001), Krashen (1997), and Brown (2000). Pupils who have limited word awareness aren't able to combine information from different sources and generalise from words they've already learned to new words, says Schouten-van Parreren in 1989.

One way to train your language skills is to teach you essential words and show you techniques to understand more words (Hulstjin, 1993, cited in Morin & Goebel, 2001). A hundred trillion bits of information is technically feasible, but not enough of it can be used until recall techniques come to the learner's assistance. During vocabulary learning, words serve as inputs and are allocated to memory (intake). To forget a phrase, learners have to be unable to recall it. Mnemonic devices (memory strategies) help words stay in long-term memory to be appropriately assimilated and promote later retrieval. The problems that students have with long-term vocabulary and the problems that teachers have with teaching it well are solved in the current research.

Importance of Vocabulary in teaching and learning in applied linguistic

Students would not comprehend others' ideas or communicate their own ideas if they did not have a broad vocabulary. Wilkins (1972) observed that while spelling is essential, word use is all-important. This represents my own experience: even without syntax, I can interact with some sufficient vocabulary and phrases. Language's nature is known as "lexis." When students' fluency and speech in English increase, it is essential for them to improve their word awareness and learn their language learning techniques. Students have a deep urge to learn new words. "Learners carry dictionaries around and not grammar books" (Schmitt, 2010). Learning vocabulary increases students' English speaking skills. Voltaire purportedly said, "Language is challenging to put into words." "I think most English learners will approve. When teachers are trying to figure out what a word means, they should pay attention to three things: the shape, the context, and the use.

According to Nation (2001), a word's shape includes pronunciation (spoken type), spelling (written form), and any terms that constitute this object (such as a prefix, root, and suffix). An instance of word pieces can be found in the word "uncommunicative," which features the prefix "un-" and the suffix "-ive," indicating that someone or someone is willing to do something. Everybody uses this term when talking about people that are unable to speak. The definition, the objects it applies to, and the meanings that come to mind as people think of a particular word or expression are all facets of meaning.

As described, use includes grammatical roles of words and phrases, collocations that go with them, and restrictions on use, such as frequency, degree, etc. According to Nation (2001), there are two dimensions: receptive and productive. Vocabulary is among the most critical language-learning skills. This is the foundational strength for all other talents. Vocabulary is the students' fundamental way of using English efficiently. When students watch a movie, listen to an English song, read an email, or send a letter to a friend, they will still need to use the English language. For the remainder of this introductory chapter,

the emphasis will be on why vocabulary is essential, what makes words challenging, and the key explanations for why students miss their studies.

An importance of language teaching and learning

Students required a wide array of unique word-learning techniques. Word definitions, word relationships, and how we can use words in various contexts are repetitive, in-depth teaching is more likely to affect comprehension (Graves, 2006; McKeown and Beck, 2004). Take aim is an accurate and efficient application of the vocabulary learning techniques listed. The vocabulary goal is for children who can read at least at a fourth-grade level. Target is available in two formats.

Critical teaching and learning in vocabulary

The instructor is critical in helping students develop their vocabulary. Sadly, vocabulary instruction has not tackled these concerns, and teachers have not seen the value of encouraging their students to acquire an extensive vocabulary. For a long time, English teachers used teaching methods such as Direct Process and Audio Linguicism, which stressed the primary importance of teaching grammatical structures. In classes where the accent was on grammar, the new vocabulary was restricted and only applicable to the grammar constructs taught. A substantial change happened at the beginning of the 1970s: direct Process and Audio linguicism lost emphasis to the Communicative Technique, which stressed teaching vocabulary. Students learned different vocabularies and speech practices.

Words were incorporated in those classes, and students were advised to speak as soon as possible. Today, the number of approaches to use in English class is more available. The syllabus is made up of vocabulary and grammar constructs. Since there are many classes for each lesson, teachers have time to study and learn vocabulary. Words are no longer an add-on. Teachers now understand that words and their pronunciation, collocations, and word frequency, are essential. Students also face problems communicating themselves fluently and find speaking practices tiring.

The significant areas of Vocabulary research in teaching and learning

Teachers must first understand the difficulty of the English language for their pupils. Since English is the most-used language by far, understanding enough of its vocabulary can be a challenging task. Other languages frequently add prefixes or suffixes to create entirely new words (like German) or ones like Spanish. Because when you know the processes behind word creation, you can quickly think up and understand many new terms. Because of this, learning English requires acquiring multiple vocabulary that are not formal. This vocabulary would likely form a crucial restriction on how well English is understood (Nation & Meara, 2002). In the 2,000–3,000 community, vocabulary is of better value for speaking, but the experience of about 3,000 families is the minimum threshold for beginning to read authentic documents. Thousands of words are more than sufficient for readers to understand open records. Many novel words should be

grasped because of their meaning and to comprehend most of the text's communicative content.

A vocabulary of this magnitude is required for university study in a second language. In the past two decades, research about learning and teaching L2 vocabulary has increased, and so both teachers and researchers can benefit from reading an entertaining and open work on the subject. In the L2 vocabulary analysis, the authors have provided significant articles, such as step-by-step reviews, that help readers better consume research. The book's 14 chapters can also act as a diverse complement to any library's lexical analysis collection. Both Nation and Webb are well-known lexicographers. The most recent book clarifies how to study different facets of vocabulary, provides expert reviews of current studies, and increases the possibility that readers might perform lexical research. The text was written to serve students interested in the study who want to further their knowledge of vocabulary learning problems and research and teachers who want to use more evidence-based activities in their classroom. The book is aimed at L2 learners interested in vocabulary and not as an introductory text on the study of architecture.

The organisation of Nation and Webb's book simplifies navigation. Readers with a pedagogical perspective will undoubtedly be drawn to the first two parts, that is, the first seven pages, which outline intentional and incidental vocabulary learning and provide some teaching methods for vocabulary teachers to incorporate into their classrooms. Corpus-based analysis involves the construction and usage of word lists. The final section includes material on vocabulary evaluation. Readers interested in science will benefit from seeing several studies in each chapter as the authors discuss and criticise notable studies relating to the chapter's subject. Also, the writers' recommendations for undertaking investigations, reviewing research findings, and recommending studies to bridge differences in information would support researchers. The statistics listed above are realistic, and many learners achieve these standards. These numbers help determine pupils' learning expectations, but they do not inform us which vocabulary the students must know to work in English. The exact terms to be taught often stand out. For example, rookies in a classroom would, among other things, require vocabulary such as "book," "pencil," "read," and "say." Medical students would need to learn the technical vocabulary needed in that field. It is clear that situational and technological vocabularies are good vocabulary targets, but which vocabulary to teach is not apparent. The best criteria we have for selecting target words is their level of use. Frequent words in English are among the most versatile and quickly acquired. Text coverage significantly affects the utility of frequent terms. Knowing a limited number of English words helps you access a considerable percentage of the standard written text.

Acquisition in applied linguistics (AL) from the period 2000 to the present

"Operant" activity develops due to environmental feedback and formation. Children learn language by recording and managing reward contingencies. Human language learning is disconnected from reinforcement learning. In Feodor's view, all human languages have a distinct intrinsic language faculty. Both human languages have physical and emotional limits for all species, says F.

Feodor (1955), one of Feodor's domain-specific, informationally encapsulated, and intrinsic language definitions.

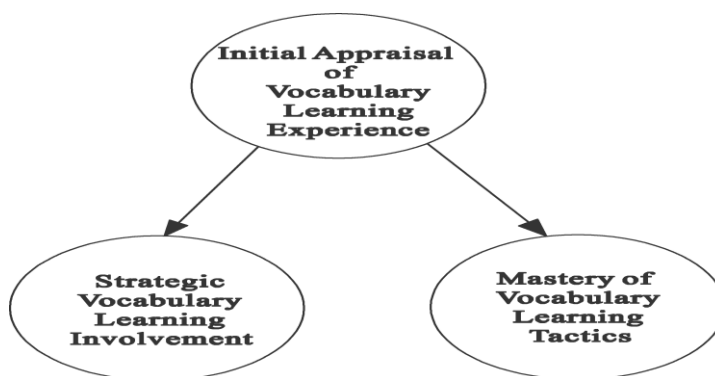
Developed and became dominant from the 1980s to the present

No	Theory	Author	Year
1	Expedia	Chen	2013
2	Snappy Words	Avinash	2016
3	Quizlet	Imrie	2014
4	Vocab Sushi	Angalakuduru	2014
5	My Dictionary (Usami et al	Usami et al	2015
6	BBC Learning English	Gibbs	1992

The researchers mentioned above believe that vocabulary learning is necessary for all languages. Vocabulary involves using words in day-to-day communication. Since vocabulary knowledge is involved, you may conclude it would be challenging to learn. There is no generally known theory of vocabulary acquisition. Frey and Fisher (2014).

Motivation

Geller & Watson, 1995, we can infer that motivation also assists in vocabulary learning; however, to date, there have not been enough empirical or theoretical studies on motivation to firmly conclude on this subject (Laufer & Hulstijn, 2001). Few research has explored the role of encouragement in vocabulary learning (Elley; Gardner & MacIntyre).



Model of Motivated Vocabulary Learning Schmidt & Watanabe, 2001).

Elements of the Model

We will use structural equation modelling (SEM) to build our model of inspired vocabulary learning. SEM is a new multivariate statistical methodology that helps analyse different relationships. SEM is a verifying test, not an exploratory one. A model is developed from a literature review and then sent for empirical testing in certain instances. We continued by defining the key elements that are essential

for inspired vocabulary learning. In conjunction with our previous literature study (Tseng et al., 2006), we came up with six latent variables that SEM researchers often call latent variables. These are the six variables that we came up with.

Initial Appraisal of Vocabulary Learning Experience

The latent variable "initial appraisal of the vocabulary learning experience" (IAVLE) is conceptualised as the initial motivational level of vocabulary learning, which can be indicated by value, interest, effort, or desire. The motivation generated at this stage (i.e., choice motivation) has to do with goal-setting, intention formation, and the initiation of intention enactment (Dornyei, 2001).

Self-regulating Capacity in Vocabulary Learning (SRCvoc)

The current view of the nature of self-regulating capacity is that it is an aptitude (Winne & Perry, 2000). Moreover, it is viewed as developable and can be influenced by experience: [Self-regulated learning] is now modelled as a "developable" aptitude, an aptitude that changes incrementally with experience and instruction for dynamically adapting how one changes with tasks (Winne, 1996).

Vocabulary Learning Strategy

As mentioned earlier, in this study, we divide vocabulary learning strategy use into two components: strategic vocabulary learning involvement (SVLI) and mastery of vocabulary learning tactics (MVLТ). The former refers to the quantity dimension of strategy use, which concerns effortful covert or overt acts to discover or improve particular tactics' effectiveness. The latter refers to the quality dimension of strategy use, which concerns mastering specific or unique covert or overt learning methods to acquire vocabulary knowledge. (Oxford, 1990).

Vocabulary Knowledge (VOCKno)

As suggested in the introduction, the construct of vocabulary knowledge is quite complicated. However, it has often been conceptualised in terms of vocabulary size and vocabulary depth. It is clear from a wide range of research that specific vocabulary sizes are necessary to do certain things in the language (e.g., Adolphs & Schmitt, 2003; Hazenberg & Hulstijn, 1996; Laufer, 1988; Nation & Waring, 1997).

Post appraisal of Vocabulary Learning Tactics

We speculate that the use of PAVLT will support future vocabulary learning. This step of the model denotes the time when the mission loop has ended. According to Dornyei (2001b),



The Hypothesized Model

The latent variables and hypothesised relationships within them shape a cyclic model of driven vocabulary learning. Both paths are used to show how the model will grow in the future (Gardner et al., 1997).

Most prominent academics in the field of vocabulary and their contributions

Willingness to study vocabulary in TESL is scarce. This study focused on teachers' and students' perspectives on vocabulary teaching and learning. EFL teachers are strongly encouraged to use de-contextual and entirely contextual approaches. A second option is to introduce students to multiple vocabulary learning strategies. Vocabulary mastery was linked to vocabulary learning techniques. Students spent hours studying the language and reviewing their textbooks. Cards will help students comprehend the message. People can acquire a broad vocabulary as well. The image cards will expand and enrich their language and awareness. Students were also facing difficulty comprehending the texts because of a shortage of vocabulary and long texts (Octaberlina, L. R., & Anggarini, I. F. (2020). The ability to recognise both the intent and meaning of words in language exercises, particularly reading, is called "vocabulary mastery." This study aims to discover if there is an impact of reading preferences, vocabulary mastery, and critical thinking on sixth-grade students' reading comprehension in elementary schools in South Jakarta. The quantitative study used the route analysis predictive test method, Path mapping is used to analyse interfering variables.

According to these studies, reading, vocabulary mastery, and critical thinking affect reading comprehension among elementary school students. Well-developed vocabulary significantly increases reading comprehension. Students' critical thinking is often affected by critical thinking in conjunction with reading comprehension (Fahrurrozi, R., & Hasanah, U., 2020). Teachers' classroom activities are related to their values. Awareness of this relationship is essential for promoting vocabulary instruction, learning, and learning outcomes. It is helpful to guide existing instructional methods and methodologies by making teachers aware of their ideas about learning. These results can help understand the role evaluation plays in EFL undergraduate programme decision-making. This paper analysed the views and activities of one hundred Jazan University professors on vocabulary learning strategies. Results found that teachers are excited about new vocabulary expansion techniques but ultimately return to innate instruction, disregarding new advances in the area. They recognise that there is a difference between their values and their practises in class. Finally, the study established that teachers recognise that EFL learners' vocabulary problems can be handled, but they need English learners to appreciate vocabulary development highly. According to the results, teaching students' English vocabulary using the game

Spelling Bee may be helpful to them. Using the game allows students to learn English vocabulary simply because of the implementation of the method. Among schoolchildren in Turkey, "Spelling Bee" is one way to develop vocabulary and is a popular new game on the playground. Students develop inspiration and language skills; skills while playing also help improve students' self-esteem and self-confidence—efficient preparation and time for autonomy (Al-Awaid, S. A. A. (2020).

Teaching & learning of Vocabulary in TESL

A broad vocabulary is a definite aid to students learning English and its four primary skills. Richards and Renandya (2002) stated that vocabulary is essential for foreign language learning and language proficiency. It affects how well learners speak, listen, read, and write. Tan (2001, cited in Utami, 2014) said vocabulary is also essential for language fluency. Teaching vocabulary should be given a great deal of importance in TEFL teaching to develop students' vocabulary mastery. Receptive vocabulary is considered necessary since the language would be first recognised receptively. Practical knowledge necessitates a vocabulary that learners understand, pronounce correctly, and can write and communicate with. Schmitt and McCharly (1997) said that responsive and efficient knowledge can be the only way to accurately measure students' vocabulary skills, so this is what they said.

Conclusions

It has been found that students, in a sense, appear to ignore vocabulary and vocabulary mastery. English teaching will face difficulties and challenges where English is a foreign language. Teachers are unaware of the value of vocabulary acquisition techniques. Survey shows that vocabulary instruction and learning have not been discussed by those studying English as a foreign language. These studies investigated the impact of integrating explicit and implicit vocabulary teaching techniques on students' vocabulary size and reading capacity. The results showed that the mixture of explicit and implicit vocabulary strategies effectively increases vocabulary size and reading ability.

However, previous research reported that students applied metacognitive techniques the most while using social strategies the least. This aligns with most other related research. From the clarification above, it can be deduced that understanding vocabulary instruction and teaching, and learning techniques play essential roles in improving students' vocabulary skills. Significantly, few comprehensive studies have addressed vocabulary teaching and vocabulary learning in context, including the functions and strategies.

References

- Octoberlina, L. R., & Anggarini, I. F. (2020). Teaching vocabulary through picture cards in Islamic Elementary School: a case study in Nida Suksa School, Thailand. *Jurnal Madrasah*, 13(1), 26-38.

- Fahruruzi, R., & Hasanah, U. (2020). Reading interests, vocabulary mastery, and critical thinking on reading comprehension in elementary school students. *International Journal of Psychosocial Rehabilitation*, 24(8), 1630-1640.
- Al-Awaid, S. A. A. (2020). EFL teachers' beliefs and their instructional practices regarding vocabulary learning strategies. *Asian ESP Journal*, 16(1-2), 117-148.
- Yolcu, M., & Mirioglu, M. (2020). Investigating the Importance Level and Utilization of Vocabulary Learning Strategies among Turkish EFL Learners. *Asian Journal of University Education*, 16(1), 32-45.
- Ningrum, M. P., & Pusparini, I. (2020). IMPROVING STUDENTS VOCABULARY MASTERY USING SPELLING BEE GAME AT FIFTH GRADE IN EDIT YA BUNAYYA PUJON. *Journey (Journal of English Language and Pedagogy)*, 3(2), 66-73.
- Fisher, D., & Frey, N. (2014). Content area vocabulary learning. *The Reading Teacher*, 67(8), 594-599.
- Oxford, R. (1990). *Language learning strategies. What every teacher should know*. Boston: Heinle Publishers.
- Adolphs, S., & Schmitt, N. (2003). Lexical coverage of spoken discourse. *Applied Linguistics*, 24, 425-438.
- Carey, S. (1978). The child a word learner. In M. Halle, J. Bresnan, & G.A. Miller (Eds.), *Linguistic theory and psychological reality* (pp. 264-293). Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
- Cl'ement, R., Gardner, R. C., & Smythe, P. C. (1977). Motivational variables in second language acquisition: A study of francophones learning English. *Canadian Journal of Behavioral Science*, 9, 123-133.
- D'ornyei, Z. (2001). *Teaching and research motivation*. Harlow, UK: Pearson Education Ltd.
- Jiang, N. (2000). Lexical representation and development in a second language. *Applied Linguistics*, 21, 47-77.
- Laufer, B., & Hulstijn, J. (2001). Incidental vocabulary acquisition in a second language: The construct of task-induced involvement. *Applied Linguistics*, 22, 1- 26.
- Schmitt, N. (1997). Vocabulary learning strategies. In N. Schmitt & M. McCarthy (Eds.), *Vocabulary: Description, acquisition, and pedagogy* (pp. 199-227).
- Schmitt, N., Schmitt, D., & Clapham, C. (2001). Developing and exploring the behaviour of two new versions of the Vocabulary Levels Test. *Language Testing*, 18, 55-89.
- Tremblay, P., & Gardner, R. C. (1995). Expanding the motivation construct in language learning. *Modern Language Journal*, 79, 505-518.
- Tseng, W. T. (2000). *A survey of university students' vocabulary knowledge in Taiwan*. Unpublished master's thesis, The University of Nottingham.
- Winne, P. H. (1996). A metacognitive view of individual differences in self-regulated learning. *Learning and Individual Differences*, 8, 327-353.
- Schmitt & M. McCarthy (Eds.), *Vocabulary: Description, acquisition, and pedagogy* (pp. 6-19). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Hulstijn, J. H. (1993). When do foreign-language readers look up the meaning of unfamiliar words? The influence of task and learner variables. *The Modern Language Journal*, 77(2), 139-147.
- Richard, J.C., & Renandya, W.A. (2002). *Methodology in Language Teaching an Anthology of Current Practice*. Cambridge University Press

Schmitt, N. (2010). *Researching vocabulary: A vocabulary research manual*. Basingstoke, UK: Palgrave Macmillan.