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IMPROVING STUDENTS' VOCABULARY LEARNING STRATEGIES

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Abstract: This article discusses the importance of building a strong vocabulary in students to enhance their educational achievements, cognitive growth, and communication skills. It highlights the challenges many students face in acquiring and retaining a diverse vocabulary and emphasizes the role of educators in facilitating vocabulary learning through effective methods. It also emphasizes the significance of vocabulary in communication, both in native and foreign languages, and the impact of a broad vocabulary on comprehension and effective dialogue.

Keywords: vocabulary, skill, strategies, language, method, encourage.

A strong grasp of vocabulary is vital for students' educational achievements and cognitive growth. An extensive vocabulary not only improves language skills but also fosters critical thinking, comprehension, and communication. Nevertheless, many students find it challenging to acquire and retain a diverse vocabulary. Educators can assist students in enhancing their vocabulary learning capabilities by employing effective methods. These strategies can open up endless opportunities for students to broaden their word power. The primary reason people have for learning foreign languages is for the purpose of communication. Communication involves both sending and receiving messages effectively in order to convey thoughts, ideas, and information between individuals. It is essential for individuals to be able to understand each other and decode messages accurately to ensure clear and appropriate communication. To develop strong communication skills in a foreign language, it is important to have a good grasp of vocabulary, language structures, and strategies for using language in various contexts. Dialogues are a helpful way to practice and understand communication in different scenarios.

Listening and understanding spoken language is crucial in language learning as it enables learners to comprehend information accurately and engage in conversations effectively. Having a broad vocabulary is a key aspect of communication as it allows individuals to understand messages and communicate clearly with others. By developing a strong vocabulary foundation, individuals can understand a high percentage of information conveyed by speakers, leading to better communication outcomes in various contexts, including educational settings such as English as a Foreign Language (EFL) classes. Efforts are being made by numerous scientists and educators to enhance the effectiveness of teaching English. Providing students with a strong vocabulary and the ability to utilize these words in real-life situations is among the most valuable contributions teachers can offer for their success. Vocabulary acquisition is integral to language learning, serving as a crucial indicator of proficiency in both spoken and written communication.

In today's world, an average person typically understands the meanings and nuances of around 100,000 words in their native language, but only actively uses about 12,000 of them. The active vocabulary varies greatly among individuals, with some using as few as 2,000 words and others up to 20,000 words.

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For example, English and German writers like William Shakespeare used 24,000 words, Thackeray 5,000 words, Hermann Hesse 15,000 words, Theodor Storm

22,000 words, and Johann Wolfgang von Goethe utilized 80,000 words actively. Shakespeare himself coined 1,700 words out of the 20,000 he knew, with 700 of these words still in use today. The renowned Russian writer Leo Tolstoy used 400,000 words, while the famous poet A.S. Pushkin used 30,000 words.

It is known that words in all languages often have multiple meanings. For instance, in German, the word "die Bank" can mean both a financial institution ("bank") and a bench, with the context indicating the correct meaning.

Since new words can often be understood from their context,

it is possible to learn them with minimal guidance. Lessons and experiences demonstrate that students' mastery of the "immersion method" leads to the learning of new words.

In this method, students write new words with their translations above.

Come/Venir/kommen - kelmoq

Live/Vivre/wohnen - yashamoq

Rainy/Pluvieu/regnerisch - yomg'irli

Always/Toujours/immer - doimo

Dog/Le chien/Hund – it

Footprint/La trace/Spur - iz

Students create a list with translations of new words and continue in this manner to reinforce the words. If a created set can be easily recalled, the words are considered memorized.

This paired associative learning method has been discussed and criticized in the field of education for many years, and it has been reshaped and refined. In this method, words remain in isolation (contextless "word cemetery"), and the absence of syntactic characteristics of words allows for such learning to be efficient.

However, while acknowledging its positive aspects without disregarding its intrinsic negative characteristics heavily emphasized in educational technology, the regional aspects of such methods differ despite being commonly used in foreign language lessons.) But, we students should use these sentences:

- 1. Encourage Reading: Reading is a highly effective method for increasing vocabulary. Encourage students to read various materials such as books, newspapers, magazines, and online articles. Exposure to different genres and writing styles exposes students to a wide range of words and phrases. Recommend that students keep a vocabulary journal where they can record new words along with their meanings and usage in context.
- 2. Learning in Context: Advocate for students to learn new words within the context of sentences rather than in isolation. Understanding how a word is used in a sentence or passage helps students better grasp its meaning and usage. Offer real-life examples, stories, and situations that incorporate the new vocabulary.

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- 3. Employ Mnemonics and Visualization: Mnemonic devices and visualization techniques can aid in remembering new words and their meanings. Encourage students to create mnemonic devices such as acronyms, rhymes, or visual images that help link the word with its definition. This approach can make the learning process more interesting and memorable for students.
- 4. Word Games and Activities: Integrate word games and activities into classroom instruction to make vocabulary learning interactive and enjoyable. Activities like crossword puzzles, word searches, and vocabulary bingo can engage students and reinforce their understanding of new words. Encourage peer-to-peer vocabulary challenges and competitions to motivate students to enhance their vocabulary skills.
- 5. Word of the Day: Establish a routine of highlighting a "Word of the Day" in the classroom, introducing a new word each day. Encourage students to research the word's definition, synonyms, and usage in various contexts. Explore the word's origins, etymology, and variations to deepen students' understanding and appreciation of language diversity.
- 6. Utilize Vocabulary Apps and Online Resources: Use technology to support vocabulary learning. Numerous apps, websites, and online resources offer interactive exercises, quizzes, and games to build vocabulary. Encourage students to explore these resources to reinforce their learning beyond the classroom.
- 7. Regular Review and Practice: Consistent review and practice are essential for retaining new vocabulary. Encourage students to regularly review their vocabulary journals, practice using new words in speaking and writing, and engage in daily vocabulary exercises. Repetition and practice are key for solidifying new words in long-term memory.

In conclusion, enhancing students' vocabulary learning skills requires exposure, practice, and active participation. By incorporating various strategies and techniques into teaching, educators can empower students to establish a strong foundation of vocabulary knowledge. Fostering a passion for language and a curiosity for acquiring new words can inspire students to become lifelong learners with a proficient command of language.

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