
ROLE OF VOCABULARY IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING AND COMMUNICATION

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ABSTRACT:

English learning has become an effective educational strategy in most countries. Vocabulary is a vital element required for language learners. Hence mastering efficient usage of vocabulary words enables confidence for effective communication. Learning English for second language learners is sometimes a strenuous task. To make it more interesting, we need to find out ways how students can be motivated and inspired. In the current study, a list of vocabulary words related to different emotions, situations had been given and monitored. Teachers prepared the vocabulary lists according to the age group and the mental ability of children. After adequate training, children slowly and gradually showed a tremendous improvement in their vocabulary skills. Ultimately, they gained confidence in mastering the art of comprehending and improving their Vocabulary in English, which led to framing better sentences. Thus, helping them in various forms of Creative Writing skills such as Letters, Essays, Writing Stories, etc. According to the study, children who worked hard in mastering and practising vocabulary enhanced their language better than those who did not take Vocabulary learning seriously.

Keywords: Vocabulary, confidence, creative writing, communication, reading, comprehending, and writing skills.

INTRODUCTION:

The depth of vocabulary knowledge is specifically beneficial and has an impact on improving reading skills. The knowledge of vocabulary plays a crucial role in enhancing reading skills. Teaching the techniques of reading skills and applying the strategies will help the students tremendously. The teachers need to raise the vocabulary knowledge of students, also creating an awareness of how significant is the knowledge of vocabulary and how it helps in enhancing reading skills would make the students and parents realize its importance and increase their participation wholeheartedly. The reading skills of these learners will enhance if the educators focus on building vocabulary, enhancing the comprehending skills of students.

The vocabulary of children is far behind as their age is concerned because the quality of reading is far behind. If children are reading fiction or nonfiction as per their age, one would see an improvement in their vocabulary as well. The teachers must give the tasks of learning five to ten new words every week to children. Words chosen should match as per the child's mental development and age. Educators must give importance to using synonyms, antonyms, and thesaurus; so that children can replace ordinary words with vocabulary words with ease, thereby increasing their vocabulary. It is crucial to realize that difficult language will not help a child if he is not able to understand what he reads. It is better that he grows up and enhances his language by understanding, not by misunderstanding things.

Hence, a child must read whatever he can easily understand. His mind will have ample opportunities to develop himself if this technique is healthy for him. We cannot cram into the heads to teach a language such as English. As far as English is concerned, majorly it is imitation. It is going to be difficult for a child to imitate what he does not understand. At the same time, if children can enjoy and learn with fun, they are certainly going to do that. Thus, it is the poor understanding

of a child which is the root cause of inadequate language learning. It would be useless to attempt and expect children to read and study what is not understood by them. Instead, if educators provide the children with the right kind of mental food, it would work wonders. In that case, they are going to read, enjoy, and understand, thereby moving a step further in learning the English language. Mastering the technique of correct spellings is another herculean task which the students face. Mastering the technique to spell correctly and understand what they read, if these two techniques are developed in children fully, they will undoubtedly enhance their language in an efficient way.¹

These days vocabulary is playing a significant role in effective communication too. Adequate knowledge of vocabulary is essential for practical communication skills. Many times, children face difficulties in writing due to insufficient knowledge of vocabulary. They are unable to express their thoughts and ideas. Hence, knowledge of adequate vocabulary is significant for academic development. Vocabulary also plays a substantial role in language learning abilities. Generally, where children learn English as a second language, they find difficulties in learning this language. It also leads to lesser confidence and lesser interest in these students. Hence one requires additional methods and innovative strategies to increase the motivation and interest of such English Language Learners. Students will be motivated and interested when digital-based games are introduced with multimedia features to enhance their learning, develop creativity and vocabulary. Such a type of learning will be fun for kids, and they would enjoy and develop interest. Ultimately, the children will achieve the learning objectives. Due to the development of wireless technology and mobile devices, such games should be facilitated and developed where kids can play them on mobile or tabs easily. Making these games readily available for children would benefit them immensely in developing their English Vocabulary and develop love and interest for English learning. It would also provide the students with a pleasant vocabulary learning environment wherein they would have less stress and fear to learn English Vocabulary, which at times can be taxing.¹³

Using a dictionary is one of the best methods to improve the vocabulary of children while reading. Children need to refer to a dictionary when they come across any word unknown to them. If they develop a habit of ignoring words, they tend to skip the meanings and flip pages. According to Dickinson, using a dictionary is the only cure for children having poor vocabulary. He further adds that children of a particular grade must be given the vocabulary of that grade only. So, each grade can have a prescribed list of vocabulary words for children. Providing such vocabulary lists will save them the hassle of wasting time in using a dictionary. Lastly, he mentions that the students must refer to a proper school dictionary meant for children of that age.¹

METHODS:

Reading is one of the basic requirements in improving the language, be it vocabulary, comprehending, understanding, and mastering grammar skills. To improve your language, various skills required are reading, writing, listening, and talking. If any of the parameters is weak, it affects the language. Additional guidance to children showed a miraculous improvement in children. Training provided to schoolchildren after school hours in Phonics, English grammar, creative writing, reading improvement, and vocabulary shows remarkable progress in language learning of children. Teachers divided the children into different groups as per their ages. They gave the children in the age group of six and seven simple words required to frame sentences and write compositions related to single objects such as animals, birds, flowers, fruits, and vegetables. They were providing the children with the core words required for this, as it gave them a boost and helped them master the skill of writing mini essays. Writing skills became more powerful when complemented with vocabulary words. Children in the age group of eight and nine years could relate to letter writing and story writing in a better way when vocabulary words related to emotions such as happiness, sadness, anger, excitement, fear, surprise and love were provided. They could write better essay letters, passages, paragraphs, and stories with the help of these vocabulary words. But they did require good practice and guidance to use these vocabulary words. The vocabulary

words alone did not make any sense without the usage of idioms, phrases, similes, and proverbs. When teachers provided the children with idioms, phrases, similes, sayings, or quotes, they acted as a catalyst in their writing skills which showed a remarkable improvement. Thus, it helped in increasing the confidence of teachers, children, and their parents.

The teachers selected thirty children in each age group of 6 to 12 years. That constituted seven classes comprising 30 children in each class. They subdivided the classes into smaller batches having the strength of fewer than 20 students in each batch so that the teachers could give personal attention to the students. They also provided the necessary vocabulary words to each of the groups according to their ages. After two-three months, the kids started understanding and using these vocabulary words in writing skills.

FINDINGS OR RESULTS:

The teachers assessed the children after three months, six months, and nine months. At the end of the year, the results of such kids using vocabulary words, phrases, idioms, proverbs etc. had increased by 90%. Children could write better essays, stories, letters, etc. The teachers provided the children with apt formal letter terms used for writing formal letters effectively. With the usage of apt formal letter terms, which were the vocabulary words required for formal letters, there was a drastic improvement in their writing of formal letters. Children in the age group of 9 to 12 years of age if given these formal letter terms can show remarkable performance in writing application letters, complaint letters, and letters to the editors etc. Additional guidance, when provided in this field produced satisfactory results.

Similarly, when the teachers gave adequate vocabulary words related to their feelings, such as anger, happiness, fear, sadness, etc. the students showed fantastic progress in their writing skills. Vocabulary words related to personality traits, vocabulary words describing the facial expressions such as ears, eyes, lips, nose, mouth etc. could help children write better characters for their stories. All this led to writing better stories. However, children lacking in framing sentences, having poor reading skills were finding it difficult to use these words and phrases appropriately.

DISCUSSION:

Many times, teachers observed that speaking vocabulary is related to reading vocabulary. So, having a useful vocabulary depends a lot on the quantity and quality of reading.⁷ the correct usage of essential English words such as: to be verbs, helping verbs play a significant role in framing sentences correctly. So, if children are lacking in framing sentences, these are the areas that must be improved and worked upon at the earliest. Along with them the subject-verb agreement for the eight basic pronouns must be made familiar too. The majority of the problems exist in the subject-verb agreement of the helping verbs and the pronouns or nouns. So, if teachers train their students to master these skills, they will be able to eradicate 90% of the framing sentence problems.

Vocabulary is one of the essential factors for comprehending any text. There should not be any gaps in teaching vocabulary and testing of vocabulary in exams for children. If there are gaps, children will find difficulties in comprehending. Teaching vocabulary words every year will help children improve their comprehension skills as well. Children must give equal importance to reading skills as well. An improvement for teaching vocabulary and reading must be made where there are more gaps between teaching vocabulary and conducting exams for comprehensions relating to the performance of children.⁵

Some students develop extensive vocabulary on their own due to their remarkable reading skills. They can practice and learn to develop their language on their own. Yet, many kids are less likely to read and develop rich vocabulary on their own. For such students, additional teaching and guidance will help. Additional guidance must be practical and useful as the students are introduced

to the new words, explained the morphology in terms of the usage of Latin roots in an exciting way, and also must be explained how to use these word knowledge effectively. Additional guidance and training will help those children specifically who are less likely to imbibe vocabulary on their own. Generally, children come across many words every day, but if they do not know when, how, and where to use these words, such vocabulary learning is less effective. Learning and teaching vocabulary needs to be a healthy process. Teachers should be knowledgeable and love to impart knowledge in an exciting and motivating manner. Usually, children would then love to learn in a kind and encouraging environment. The educators must design the curriculum keeping all these things in mind. An important technique that the guide or the teacher can use is giving a list of vocabulary words and encouraging other adults or parents to use these words in front of children. Even the adults could monitor whether the children are using these words in their day to day activities. Children can use these words while writing while conversing with their friends, with their people at home, and bringing such words into practice. Language is a unique, simultaneously fabulous creation of human beings. So, exploring various techniques and innovative methods can be an endless task. But igniting children's minds by using exciting and useful ways can certainly encourage the students, motivate them, and excite them to use these vocabulary words.

CONCLUSION / RECOMMENDATIONS:

The current study strongly recommends teaching vocabulary words as an extracurricular activity after school hours. Additional guidance for using vocabulary words related to feelings, emotions, personality traits, ambience, and nature etc. helped children enriched their language. Extra efforts put in by teachers, parents, and children boosted their confidence. Reading played an important role here. Reading also helped them immensely in comprehending passages. Children were able to understand the text better with good reading habits. Framing sentences improved a lot with regular reading habits. During school hours, it becomes difficult to incorporate all the above things. Hence additional guidance, additional practice after school hours could incorporate a healthy environment for children. The practice of having a vocabulary book helped the children imbibe the desired vocabulary.¹¹ Regular tests conducted insured and monitored the improvement of children. Moreover, the habit of keeping a dictionary made a massive impact on vocabulary as well.

When teachers recorded and appreciated the improvement of children, this led to an increase in their confidence levels too. Communication skills improved further due to an increase in confidence. Children made attempts to communicate in English when the teachers and parents appreciated them. Constant motivation and inspiration to perform better led to better grades. Educators, teachers and parents observed drastic changes in children during the tests and examinations. This boosted their confidence in performing in schools as well. Appreciation by the teachers in school in front of other children created magic for them.

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY:

In adequate or low framing sentences impacted the English language even though the children worked hard to imbibe vocabulary words. Along with extra guidance and practice in vocabulary, educators, teachers, and parents should also put extra efforts into the improvement of framing sentences for kids who are deficient in framing sentences. For the ones who have good sentence framing skills, the sky would be the limit.

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