

WAYS OF ENHANCING LEXICAL COMPETENCE IN A FOREIGN LANGUAGE LEARNING.

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Annotation. This article explores effective strategies for enhancing lexical competence in foreign language learning. It emphasizes the importance of vocabulary in communication and language acquisition, detailing various elements such as words, phrases, and idioms. The authors discuss the challenges faced by learners in memorizing vocabulary and highlight the significance of creating a positive learning environment.

Key words: lexical competence, vocabulary, language acquisition, mnemonics

Vocabulary refers to a collection of familiar words used in a particular language. It plays a crucial role in communication and language acquisition. Language is constructed from various elements such as words, phrases, collocations, idioms, and slangs. These elements are derived from sources like media, blogs, websites, and newspapers, contributing to the expansion of the language's word bank and its functions in the world. Vocabulary is indispensable for improving all aspects of communication, including listening and reading comprehension, as well as expressing thoughts and feelings through writing and speaking. Enhancing lexical competence is key to developing knowledge and skills in various language and literacy domains. It is evident that billions of people utilize English as either a first or second language for communication. Nevertheless, there remains a challenge for learners and teachers when it comes to teaching and learning vocabulary. Scholars and linguists have been observing and recommending new approaches to tackle this challenge for many years.

The acquisition of vocabulary skills is an ongoing and continuous process. Throughout your life, you have the opportunity to expand your vocabulary and enhance your understanding of foreign language vocabulary. Students frequently

face challenges when it comes to memorizing a large number of lexical items. Generating a positive emotional atmosphere during vocabulary learning is crucial. It is important to have diverse and engaging training tasks. During the English learning journey at school, both active and passive vocabulary are developed. Vocabulary can transition from being passive to active, or unfortunately, from active to passive. Some vocabulary is forgotten and permanently lost. The quickest words to be forgotten are often within 24 hours after the lesson, emphasizing the significance of assigning homework to reinforce new words.

To transfer new materials into long-term memory, **several principles** should be followed:

Repetition: Encountering words multiple times enhances retention.

Interval: Distributing study over time is more effective than cramming.

Usage: Engaging with words in interesting contexts solidifies memory.

Cognitive Depth: Making complex decisions about words improves recall.

Personal Organization: Personalizing content through conversation boosts memory.

Visualization: Words that can be visualized are easier to remember.

Mnemonics: Techniques like visual aids and keyword methods aid memory retrieval.

Thus, these principles of vocabulary acquisition allow students to better enrich foreign language vocabulary, and at the same time help the foreign language teacher to develop better teaching and learning strategies for their students.

According to Stella Cottrell, the way we take information also effects what we remember. The more you know about how the brain and memory work, the more you can develop techniques to remember what you want to remember, when you need it. We each use varied strategies to remember different kinds of information [1]. If someone asks your best friend's phone number, you use *fact strategies*. Trying to recall your first day at university *event strategies* serve calling different types of memory:

To enhance memory, identify **what helps you remember**:

Recency Effect: You may recall the last words best.

Primacy Effect: You may remember the first words best.

Sound: Rhyming or odd-sounding words may stick.

Locus: Associating words with familiar places aids recall.

Real Names: You might have a strong memory for names.

Visual Features: Noticing unique appearances of words helps.

Visual Arrangement: Remembering the layout or patterns on a page is effective.

Semantic Association: Linking words with meaningful connections aids memory (e.g., bread, butter, sandwich).

Stories: Creating narratives from unrelated items enhances recall.

Color and Activity: Highlighted words may be more memorable due to color sensitivity.

“Organizing information into pyramids”

Linking information meaningfully and organizing ideas into hierarchies or concept pyramids are considered as an advantage of this strategy. They are excellent memory aids. In an experiment in 1969, Bower and other psychologists asked a group of people to learn 112 words. First group were given a list of words which were grouped and linked meaningfully and organized into four pyramids. People remembered 100% of the words by the third attempt. By contrast, a second group of people were given the same words, also arranged into pyramid shapes, but this time with the words randomly assigned to each pyramid - they were not semantically linked. This group remembered only 47% of the words by the third attempt. It means memory thrives on organization.

These strategies were presented in “The Study Skills Handbook” by Stella Cottrell.

Ways to effectively learn and remember new words for a long time when learning a foreign language are highlighted by S.Thornbury: "A new word cannot be

taught. It can be presented, it can be explained, it can be practiced in any other way...but ultimately, it is learned only if the individual wants to. The task of teachers is to make language learners interested in words. We teachers can help students with ideas about how to learn, but everyone has their own choices[2].

D. Riddle, S. Thornbury, N. Akar, J. Harmer, P. Ur talk about the importance of teaching new words in context. Also, L. Siegal reveals the benefits of teaching new words in a foreign language through a person-oriented approach[3]. According to him, new words should be taught in context, not in isolation. This allows you to remember and understand words well.

Conclusion

Enhancing lexical competence in foreign language learning is essential for effective communication and language acquisition. This article highlights various strategies, including repetition, interval training, meaningful usage, cognitive engagement, and personalization, which are crucial for vocabulary retention. Understanding how memory works allows learners to apply techniques tailored to their needs, such as the recency and primacy effects, sound associations, and visual aids. The organization of information into meaningful structures further aids recall, as demonstrated by research on memory strategies.

Ultimately, fostering a positive learning environment and engaging students in the process of vocabulary acquisition are vital for their success. As educators, our role is to inspire learners to take an active interest in words, facilitating their journey toward fluency and confidence in a foreign language. By implementing these strategies, both learners and teachers can navigate the challenges of vocabulary acquisition more effectively, leading to improved language skills and greater communication proficiency.

Bibliography

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