Building Vocabulary For Language Learning: Approach For ESL Learners To Study New Vocabulary

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Vocabulary Learning Strategy (VLS) has been seen and researched in two facets;

1. Of psychological viewpoint, and

2. From the Second Language Acquisition (SLA) prospective.

(Kudo, Y. 1999).
A study by Adolph and Schmitt (2003) showed that language learners need to master, at least, 3000 words to communicate and understand 95% of the language coming from native speakers.

(Araya Pérez, D., et al., 2013)
Background

- Vocabulary Learning (VL), has not gotten the primary attention from Applied Linguists until 1980s.

- It was known "as a 'neglected aspect of language learning' " as noted in the publication by Paul Meara, (1980) who criticized and characterized its negligence in SLA research.

  (Lightbown & Spada, 2006, p. 96)
Laufer (1998) for instance, stated that ‘the main difference between language learners and native speakers of the target language was precisely their lexical competence’


VLS has been classified in two big categories:

1. From a cognitive/mental activities by L2 learners; and

2. of social and interactional forms in which L2 learners practice his/her ability to study new words.
Taxonomy of VLSs

- Oxford (1990) has divided VLS into Direct and Indirect strategies.
- Gu & Johnson (1996) designed seven types of VLS in their study.
- Schmitt (1997) developed a new taxonomy which is as Oxford’s.
- Nation, (2001) classified VLS into three types of strategies; Planning, Sources, and Processes.
Research questions

(1) Which VLSs do ELLs follow?

(2) Which of these strategies are more effective to them?
Method

Likert-Scale Questionnaire

- I have used online survey to collect my data.
- Five items scale ranging from “1-Strongly Agree” to “5-Strongly Disagree”.
- Seeks L2 learners of English, but also included native speakers of English as well.
- I have piloted my questionnaire before launching it.
- Data has been analyzed using SPSS.
Method

Participants

- The participants were mainly college students from undergraduate and graduate level, but also included participants with higher degree.
- There are 27 Variables under five categories:
  1. Synonyms relations;
  2. Meaning vs. context;
  3. Listening practices;
  4. Writing process &
  5. Bookmark Voc. search.
- 121 participants have completed the online Survey.
Research Reliability

Case Processing Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>N</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cases</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valid</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>99.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excluded(a)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(a\). Listwise deletion based on all variables in the procedure.

Reliability Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cronbach's Alpha Based on Standardized Items</th>
<th>N of Items</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>.852</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cronbach’s Alpha : .852
## Result & Discussion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English Proficiency level</th>
<th>Mean for all the 20 Q</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Novice (at the very beginning stage)</td>
<td>Mean 2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Beginner</td>
<td>Mean 2.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermediate</td>
<td>Mean 2.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermediate High</td>
<td>Mean 2.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced</td>
<td>Mean 2.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native-Like</td>
<td>Mean 2.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Speaker</td>
<td>Mean 2.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N 67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Superior</td>
<td>Mean 1.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Learners with low level proficiency **2.23**

Learners with high level proficiency **2.04**
### I^st\ Variable

- Use semantic map for each word
- Check synonyms first for new words
- Synonyms mean more words.
- Build up global knowledge of new words by knowing synonyms.
- Experience different contexts of new words.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Using Synonyms</th>
<th>Rely on synonyms to build word in groups</th>
<th>Lookup synonyms first to better know meaning of new words</th>
<th>Recheck synonyms if new words were not understood</th>
<th>Synonyms is more important than meaning alone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>2.36</td>
<td>2.93</td>
<td>2.25</td>
<td>2.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Std. Deviation</td>
<td>1.151</td>
<td>1.086</td>
<td>1.190</td>
<td>1.064</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**The Mean for all items related to Using Synonyms: 2.62**
### Meaning Vs Context

**2nd Variable**

- Guess the meaning from context before knowing the meaning
- See new word in example for better learning it
- Visualize new words
- Memorize word's context to remember its meaning
- Check new word while reading to know different context of it
- I distinguish between definitions and contexts of new words

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Guess the meaning from the contexts</th>
<th>See new word in examples for better learning it</th>
<th>Visualize new words</th>
<th>Memorize words context to remember its meaning</th>
<th>Check new word while reading to know different context of it</th>
<th>I distinguish between definitions and contexts of new words</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mean</strong></td>
<td>1.94</td>
<td>1.53</td>
<td>2.40</td>
<td>2.09</td>
<td>2.54</td>
<td>2.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>N</strong></td>
<td>120</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Std. Deviation</strong></td>
<td>1.095</td>
<td>1.037</td>
<td>1.344</td>
<td>1.138</td>
<td>1.052</td>
<td>.954</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The Mean for all items related to **Meaning vs Context**: 2.12
Listening & Pronunciation strategy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Learn pronunciation of new words by checking its syllables</th>
<th>Listen to people how they use words in different context</th>
<th>Listening to media to learn pronunciation of new words</th>
<th>Use new words in speaking and writing to best remember them</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>2.52</td>
<td>2.12</td>
<td>2.48</td>
<td>1.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Std. Deviation</td>
<td>1.316</td>
<td>1.094</td>
<td>1.250</td>
<td>1.008</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Mean for all items related to Listening & Pron.: 2.27

3rd Variable

- Learn pronunciation of new words by checking its syllables.
- Listen to people how they use words in different contexts.
- Listening to media to learn pronunciation of new words.
- Use new words in speaking and writing to best remember them.
**Remembering strategy for writing**

**4th Variable**

- **Picture your word.**
- **Use them in writing.**
- **Check syllable for spelling practices.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Remembering strategy for writing</th>
<th>Check part of speech before meaning</th>
<th>Use new words in speaking and writing to best remember them</th>
<th>I check syllables of new words to learn its spelling</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>2.44</td>
<td>1.97</td>
<td>2.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Std. Deviation</td>
<td>1.114</td>
<td>1.008</td>
<td>1.334</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Mean for all items related to **Remembering str. for writing**: **2.29**
### Bookmark Strategy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Use variety of strategies to keep track of new words</th>
<th>Recheck new words for better understanding</th>
<th>Prefer to use online dictionaries</th>
<th>Use vocabulary list for new words</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mean</strong></td>
<td>2.47</td>
<td>1.85</td>
<td>1.78</td>
<td>2.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>N</strong></td>
<td>120</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Std. Deviation</strong></td>
<td>1.359</td>
<td>1.018</td>
<td>1.104</td>
<td>1.318</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Mean for all items related to **Bookmark strategy**: 2.17

### 5th Variable

- **Set up a vocabulary notebook**
- **Check new words daily and weekly**.
- **Repetition & retention practices**.
- **Deliberate Vocab. learning**.
Conclusion

Synonyms Relations

Meaning Vs Context

Remembering strategy for writing

Bookmark Strategy

Listening & Pronunciation strategy

Cognitive Strategy

Meta-cognitive & Social Strategies

Social Strategy

Reliability Score

Memory Strategy

Meta-cognitive Strategy; Dictionary Strategies

VOCAB-BACKUP

.736

.729

.406

.481

.608
References


References


THANK YOU