


Chapter 11

Assessment of Vocabulary Levels Among Regional Middle School Students

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ABSTRACT

Vocabulary plays a vital role in language learning and teaching. Knowledge of vocabulary is the root of second language learning. An assessment of regional middle students' lexical knowledge is essential before enhancing second language learning and teaching. This chapter is an empirical study based on written tests. The researcher used the following sections for testing vocabulary levels: (1) compound words; (2) odd one out - word group; (3) prefix; (4) suffix; and (5) identifying professions through pictures. This chapter interprets the data and analyzes the five sections, showing averages and frequencies. This study offers suggestions for empowering and enhancing vocabulary in second language learning and teaching.

INTRODUCTION

The teaching and learning of vocabulary should challenge pupils to think about lexis and relationships among vocabulary. The language learner should have a sound

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knowledge in vocabulary because it is a means to successful communication. The use of words depends on the understanding of their meaning.

Yzonder (2016, pp. 444-450) claimed that “lack of sufficient knowledge in vocabulary is said to be the building blocks of any language. Teaching words is a significant method of enhancing pupils’ lexis knowledge. Understanding various aspects of words empowers instructors and encourages pupils. Therefore, learners need daily education and updates on vocabulary to strengthen their knowledge.

DEFINITION OF LEXIS

Lexis knowledge is the core of second language teaching and learning. Neuman (2009, pp. 384-392) noted that effective communication depends on the words we speak and hear. Carlo (2008, pp. 56-76) stated that word knowledge involves spelling, pronunciation, morphology, syntax, and depth of meaning. According to Kamil and Hiebert (2005, pp. 1-23), vocabulary can be generically defined as knowledge of words or word meaning. They stated that vocabulary learning is the basis of language and without vocabulary, one cannot learn any language; it is the knowledge of words.

Lexis should be enhanced because it is authoritative. It creates opportunities, which equates to success. Lexis is considered the number of words used by speakers to express meaningful ideas and concepts. In the end, learners with a large vocabulary will master language.

VOCABULARY FOR REGIONAL MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

Pupils with a limited knowledge of vocabulary will be unable to convey meaningful conversations. To participate in useful interactions, students must comprehend sentence construction and vocabulary. Lacking vocabulary results in the inability to understand text or meanings.

Expertise in vocabulary plays a significant role in the use of language. A large quantity of vocabulary equates to the successful conveyance of concepts or opinions. It is recognizable in speech as students think and produce words to create effective statements. Therefore, vocabulary plays a vital role at the high school level as students prepare to pass the board exam. In the highly competitive academic setting, a lack of lexical knowledge will prevent regional students from continuing their studies.

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