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EFFECTIVE METHODS OF TEACHING AND LEARNING ENGLISH VOCABULARY

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Abstract:

The research paper aims at assisting both Indian teachers to teach and learners to learn English vocabulary in novel ways. It will endeavour to resolve stumbling blocks in learning, memorizing and remembering words in English. It functions as an attack on the traditional method of rectification of words by learners. It exhibits new methods of learning and teaching vocabulary both in class and outside the class. It supplements a variety of sources to the teachers and learners: standard dictionaries, You Tube material, games and groups of words, etc. It aims at indulging learners in mastering the four skills of learning: LSRW. Hence, the learners are definitely to listen, speak, read, and write a lot and use the learnt vocabulary in sentences having correlation amongst them. After going through the paper and utilising the sources, the learners can be able to learn more than 25 words at a time. This paper with its novel techniques provides learners with some choices in learning vocabulary of the English language.

Keywords: *Innumerable problems, learning, memorizing, syntax, linguistic competence, fumble, reading, remember, memorise, writing, prefixes, suffixes, listening, online, videos, news channels, dictionary, situations, software, online translation, verification, bilingual, emotion, substitutes.*

In India, English is spoken and used as second and third language; and in some parts of India, especially the North-East part of the country, it is utilized as the First language. In fact, Indians come across innumerable problems while learning English. Difficulty in increasing vocabulary of English is one of the major problems. The present research paper deals with hurdles that hinder Indian learners from learning and acquiring vocabulary of the English language. Also, it emphasizes some effective ways of teaching, learning and memorizing vocabulary of the English language in a simple way.

While teaching in Indian classes at every level of curriculum, teachers of English language find out that since students lack proper knowledge of English vocabulary, they display impossibility of language recognition; they cannot write and speak English appropriately. In classes, students cannot acquire what teachers teach or say besides the

genuine problem of knowledge of syntax. Therefore, they fail to master linguistic competence and that performance. In spite of possessing a good heap of knowledge of English structures, some people in India fail to speak fluently. They fumble frequently as a result lack of English vocabulary. In this regard, it is duty of English teachers in India to discover the causes behind this failure. Some research should be made to find out new ways of teaching and learning English vocabulary in effective ways. The role of the teacher is to guide and motivate students to learn. This research paper does the same.

The research paper suggests some novel ideas about studying and increasing vocabulary in new ways. Reading, a receptive skill, is the most significant factor in increasing vocabulary. Teachers should make students read a lot. The students need to read anything and everything in which they are interested- sports magazine, movie magazine, newspaper, journals, columns and articles in English newspapers, script of the movie, text books, comics, fictional and non fictional books, etc. If the movie is based on a novel, they can read the original text of the novel. The reading can certainly assist anyone in increasing vocabulary. Recently, a new novel based movie Half-Girlfriend was released in the Indian theatres which is the adaptation of the novel Half Girlfriend by ChetanBhagat. Students can read the novel to improve their word power.

Also, just do not read, memorise and remember new words, but try to write them. Actually, writing is a productive skill in which words are produced in the form of writing. The words should be written on a paper in the form of sentences. It is very difficult to remember words in isolation. If a learner learns the learnt words in sentences, he or she can find correlation between sentences and words; and if written in the form of a story, the learners cannot forget the vocabulary so easily. For instance, suppose you have to study the word beautiful, you must employ the word in sentences. Their utilisation is obligatory. You just cannot say that nature is beautiful. You have to say that the nature on the Earth is beautiful, having such different natural things as beautiful trees, birds, humans, etc. in it.

Learners must not limit themselves to a single or a few words. Keeping pen and paper with them, they should expand the vocabulary by using different forms of the same words:

Noun	Verb	Adjective	Adverb
Argument	Argue	Arguable	arguably
Beauty, beautician	Beautify	beautiful	Beautifully,

In this way, the learner can find out many more words of a single word. This sort of learning of words improves both reading and writing ability of the learner.

Besides this, some people are accustomed to use roots of words in English. In using it, focus is put on prefixes and suffixes. This is also an effective way of learning and increasing vocabulary. Some uses of prefixes are as follows:

Prefixes	Examples
in-	Inappropriate, inability, inaccurate, inactive, inadequate, inappropriate, etc.
im-	Impossible, imbalance, immortal, immovable, impair, impure, etc.
re-	Reform, reassure, rebirth, recall, recapitulate, recast, reclaim, etc.
tele-	Television, telecast, telegraph, telephone, telephoto, teleprinter, telescope, etc.
un-	Untruth, unaffected, unalterable, unattached, uncommon, unconscious, etc.

Some uses of suffixes are as follows:

Suffixes	Examples
-tion	Affection, attention, attraction, relation, rejection, projection, action, etc.
-al	Approval, removal, structural, empirical, lingual, provisional, classical, etc.
-ance	Acceptance, continuance, observance, arrogance, clearance, tolerance, etc.
-ence	Insolence, opulence, inherence, existence, competence, impertinence, etc.
-ment	Pediment, denouement, clement, impediment, regiment, argument, etc.

Studying this way is a good idea if the learner possesses patience. In it, the learner has to study a single prefix or suffix and make many words using them. However, it is up to the learners if they wish to learn words in this way. These are just examples. There are innumerable prefixes and suffixes in the English language to be employed for increasing vocabulary.

Besides writing words on paper, learners' focus should be on listening to any spoken English in which the learner is interested. Listening is a receptive skill in which the learner has to listen to speech consciously. Actually, it is a tough job for Indian students. However, there is no choice! While listening to any spoken English, the speaker must listen carefully; because language begins with listening skill. If the listener listens carefully, he or she can produce the same. While listening, if he finds some difficult or unknown words, he should write them on the paper; and if he finds difficulty in writing the word due to lack of knowledge of spelling of the words, he can write them phonetically; and still he is unable to

write phonetically, he can write the pronunciations of the words in their mother tongue or can find the words going through a dictionary!

The learner must use the **Oxford English Dictionary** or the online dictionary at **Oxforddictionaries.com**. While using dictionaries, he should use English to English dictionary. Bilingual dictionary is also useful but learning English to English increases the word power of the learner. Suppose, you are going through a dictionary to find meaning of a word, it will assist you in finding its definition, synonyms, different uses, and examples in English only.

For getting exposure to the spoken English in view of learning words, the learners can watch various videos on internet. There are so many English news channels - **BBC, CNN, IBN, India Today, NDTV 24x7, NDTV Profit, Times Now**, etc. - which can be helpful for Indian learners. Besides this, some good channels like **HBO, BBC**, etc. are available for assistance. Various sites like **www.ted.com** also are available on internet that can be helpful to develop the learners' skills for increasing their vocabulary. Besides these, there are some good videos from **EFL University, Hyderabad** or **ETNL, Kerala**. You Tube is also one of the best sources for listening to various videos in English. Just listen to the videos and speeches carefully and note down unknown and difficult words and use them in sentences.

Learners should take into consideration that a dictionary is just a guide to assist them. However, the meaning of a word relies on the situation in which it is utilised. Different words are used for different situations. A word can have multiple meanings in a variety of situations and circumstances. For example, the word 'take' can be used differently in different situations:

Word	Multiple meanings to be used in different situations
Take	'to carry or move somebody or something'; to go with somebody from one place to another'; to put your hand round something and hold it; to remove something from a place or a person, often without permission; to accept or receive something; to capture a place by force; to get control of somebody or something; to understand something or react to something in a particular way; to be able to deal with something difficult or unpleasant, to swallow something; etc.

This type of learning definitely is helpful in developing knowledge of words. These words can be learnt at a time differently. Just make an imaginary text and use the words in the text. It is very simple.

It is also observed that some people use electronic devices where different software are available for translation. Often a native learner uses this online translation method to find out meanings of words. However, some verification is necessary here; because the translation is bilingual. Suppose, a Marathi learner does not know meaning of a word, he will write the Marathi word in the dictionary and find out its meaning; however, the translation dictionaries are found to be terrible, because most of the time they misguide learners by defining wrong definitions or meanings of those words! So, some care should be taken.

Also, you can increase your vocabulary using cards, for example: write a word on the front side of the card and write its use or meanings (dictionary meanings only) on the other side. This technique is also proved to be effective.

Another way of studying and increasing your words effectively is to make some groups of words. Find out some words which have similar meanings or functions; for example the word 'increase' has some synonyms- extend, expand, accelerate, intensify, reinforce, etc. The words have some connection with the word 'increase'. So when you use the words, you will automatically remember other words.

Another way which is also an effective way to increase vocabulary is to use theme; for example, let us take the theme of technology. Using the theme the learner can write down words related to it: software, hardware, obsolete, update, cutting-edge, downgrade, state-of-the-art, upgrade, application, etc.

Visiting TS Madaan's videos on You Tube, the learner can find out a very interesting way of learning new words quickly. The speaker in the videos takes some situations and describes the situation by using English words. He uses objects directly. It is just like using direct method of teaching English. In this way, anyone can learn more than 30 words quickly.

Finally, this paper suggests some ways of how to teach and learn words effectively. Actually, there are many ways in which learners can use vocabulary: playing games of words, making the words personal and emotional, creating context and using different words, gathering frequency words together, using substitutes of words, studying words and using them in spoken English, etc. It is power of learning words that makes a learner strong and effective speaker.

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