



THE IMPACT OF VISUAL AIDS ON TEACHING VOCABULARY TO YOUNG LEARNERS

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Abstract:

This article describes how using visual aids are beneficial in teaching vocabulary to young learners. The use of visual aids in teaching can result in varied responses and expressions from young learners due to their diverse educational and cultural background. Nowadays, organizing lesson process effectively, utilizing contemporary methods, especially displaying how visual aids has attracted the attention of young generation and other subjects are placed in first stage. In this regard, several activities are being carried out not only in schools, but also in kindergartens. It is more important to teach foreign language with the help of various visual resources such as picture, cards, diagrams, graphics, postcards, videos, word calendars to boost vocabulary than all of them.

Keywords: Young learners, visual aids, language skills

Introduction

There are four aspects and skills in English that must be known by English learners. These are spelling, pronunciation, vocabulary and grammar. According to the improvement of these aspects, one can develop the four essential skills in English: listening, reading, writing, and speaking. Boosting one's vocabulary is crucial because limited knowledge of words in English can make it difficult for learners to express themselves effectively. Knowing a wide range of words can give opportunity to learners to express their thoughts clearly through the language. Additionally, As Wilkins noted, "Without grammar very little can be conveyed; without vocabulary, nothing can be conveyed." [10] A strong vocabulary is essential for reading comprehension. The ability to understand and interpret texts, whether for academic or leisure purposes, relies on the recognition and understanding of words. [7] Studies like Nation emphasize the strong correlation



between vocabulary size and reading proficiency. In writing, vocabulary is a crucial component. Learners need a varied and precise vocabulary to compose essays, reports, emails, and other written communication. [9] An extensive vocabulary allows for greater expressiveness and coherence in writing, as suggested by Schmitt. [1] Ellis and Beaven highlighted the importance of vocabulary knowledge in both listening and speaking skills. Visual aids play a crucial role in language teaching; enhancing the learning process and helping learners acquire and retain new language skills. Visual aids, such as images, diagrams, and charts, help learners grasp complex concepts by providing a visual representation. These aids are particularly beneficial when teaching abstract or challenging language structures. As Mayer highlights in his work on multimedia learning, visual aids improve comprehension and facilitate the transfer of knowledge. Visual aids are powerful tools for introducing and reinforcing vocabulary. They provide a visual context for words and phrases, making it easier for learners to associate the target language with real-world objects or concepts.[4]

Methodology

In order to measure the effectiveness of utilising visual aids on vocabulary acquisition, an experimental design is the best choice. Experimental design with a pre-test and post-test is a common research methodology used to investigate the effectiveness of interventions, treatments, or manipulations. This design allows researchers to assess the impact of a treatment by measuring changes in the dependent variable (e.g., knowledge, skills, behavior) before and after the treatment. In experimental design, participants are assessed twice: once before the treatment (pre-test) and once after the treatment (post-test). This allows researchers to determine the change or improvement in the dependent variable as a result of the treatment.

Vocabulary is, according to Hatch & Brown, a list of words that speakers of a language use [2]. Many other scholars state the importance of vocabulary.

Underlines the importance of vocabulary by saying: “No matter how well the students learn grammar, no matter how successfully the sounds of L2 are mastered, without words to express a wide range of meanings, communication in an L2 just cannot happen in any meaningful way”.[5]



Jeremy Harmer states the importance of vocabulary by saying: “If language structure makes up the skeleton of the language, then it is vocabulary that provides the vital organs and the flesh”. [3] Harmer further states that an ability to manipulate grammatical structure does not have any potential for expressing meaning unless words are used. Visual materials help YL to motivate them to speak, to create a context with which their speech will have meaning. Porter and Margaret assert that using visual materials not only make what you have to say more comprehensive to YL, they can make it more interesting as well. [7] Most of what we learn we get through visual medium, so that is why the use of visual materials is very important in teaching English as they commit information to long-term memory.

There is a difference between teaching young learners and teaching adult. It leads to absolutely more difficult actions. Due to their young age, children may struggle to engage in learning. To address this, teachers should focus on increasing their motivation to participate in the learning process. As stated by M. Williams, “children learn better if they have a positive attitude towards what they are doing and if they are motivated or want to do it.” (Williams, 1991:207). Therefore, the teacher is suggested that he makes an interesting learning activity to the student in order that they can understand fully and the learning process can run well. Hence, the use of visual aids in EFL (English as a Foreign Language) classrooms can be very effective in supporting and enhancing language learning. Here are some ways visual aids can be used at schools in Uzbekistan:

- a) We discuss a free website designed for teaching English that offers a variety of engaging resources for ESL teachers, including games, worksheets, flashcards, and themed quizzes to make lessons more effective and enjoyable for students. The site also provides example lesson plans for those needing guidance with lesson planning. Here you can get it: www.games4esl.com
- b) Next site is too useful for young learners including visual aids. It is usually offered to too young students and beneficial to boost vocabulary and grammar: gamestolearnenglish.com
- c) Absolutely free templates for vocabulary and grammar from coleso fortuna: wordwall.net
- d) Jeopardylabs.com – is suit for both adults and young children to raise knowledge in grammar and speaking.

e) Turtlediary.com- is used for primary students and if ESL teachers want to use interactive games to attract learners, this site can affect to general English and other subject such as geography, math, science and etc.

Above the all websites have efficient impacts in order to enhance teaching vocabulary with a way that visual aids. All of them have been used in practical way during the lesson and positive results have been obtained.

In other side, The Role of Visual Aids in Teaching English as a Foreign Language (EFL) and [8] Kurbonova Surrayyo said that Real -life objects related to the lesson's topic can be brought to the classroom to support learning and provide a context for students.

1. Realia: According to Gower (1995, p149), there are several ways that can be used in teaching English namely realia, mime and gesture, give example, give explanation or definition, translation, and concept question. In this case the researcher uses realia to overcome the students' problems. For instance, if the lesson is about food bring in actual fruits and vegetables.

2. Pictures and Images: Visual representations, such as posters, flashcards, and PowerPoint slides, can help students grasp new concepts and vocabulary more effectively. Teachers can use these tools to illustrate lesson topics, making them easier to understand.

3. Videos: Short video clips can enhance listening skills, improve comprehension, and introduce students to various cultural contexts. For instance, watching videos about traditions, customs, and celebrations from different countries can be an engaging way to expose learners to the English language.

4. Infographics: These visually appealing tools present information or data in a clear and engaging way. EFL teachers can use infographics to build vocabulary and reinforce listening and reading comprehension.

5. Mind Maps and Graphic Organizers: These tools help students structure their thoughts and ideas. EFL teachers can utilize them to explain grammar rules, sentence structures, and new vocabulary. Different types of graphic organizers serve various purposes: Venn Diagrams compare and contrast multiple concepts or



groups. KWL Charts allow students to record what they know, want to learn, and have learned about a topic. Story Maps help analyze story elements such as characters, setting, plot, conflict, and resolution. Concept Maps illustrate the relationships between ideas, showing categories and subcategories. Flow Charts depict steps, stages, or processes in a sequence. Mind Maps assist in brainstorming and organizing ideas around a central topic.

Results and Discussion

When teaching English to young learners, incorporating visual aids is essential, as they enhance comprehension and information retention. Below are some key benefits of using visual aids in elementary-level education:

1. Increased Engagement: Visual aids capture students' attention, making lessons more interesting. By incorporating images, videos, and other visual tools, learners can better connect with the subject matter and remain focused throughout the lesson.

2. Improving Memory Retention: Visual aids help students remember information more effectively by providing concrete representations of mathematical processes, scientific theories, grammar rules, and other subjects. These visuals reinforce learning by creating strong mental associations.

3. Establishing Context: Using visual tools enables young learners to link different pieces of information, helping them see connections between concepts that might initially seem unrelated.

4. Enhancing Accessibility: Visual aids are highly beneficial for students with learning challenges such as dyslexia or attention deficit disorders. Incorporating visual elements into lessons not only supports their learning but also boosts their confidence and self-esteem.

Conclusion

Integrating visual aids into vocabulary instruction for young learners offers several advantages. They improve memory retention, foster engagement, enhance comprehension, accommodate diverse learning styles, and support language



acquisition. By making lessons more engaging and interactive, visual tools help simplify complex concepts, making learning both effective and enjoyable. Since young learners are still developing their ability to process and retain new information, visual aids play a crucial role in helping them understand and recall concepts more efficiently. Therefore, their use in elementary education is essential for building a strong language foundation.

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