



EFFECTIVE WAYS OF VOCABULARY LEARNING IN EFL CONTEXTS

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Abstract. *Vocabulary acquisition plays a central role in successful foreign language learning, as it directly influences learners' ability to understand, communicate, and express ideas effectively. Without sufficient vocabulary knowledge, learners face difficulties in all four language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Therefore, selecting effective vocabulary learning strategies is essential for EFL learners. This article explores several widely used and effective ways of learning vocabulary, including Write, Look, Cover, Repeat (WLCR), social interaction, the use of digital devices and media, contextual learning, and flashcards. Both traditional and modern approaches are analyzed in terms of their benefits, learning styles they address, and their impact on vocabulary retention and practical usage. The study highlights that combining multiple strategies can significantly enhance vocabulary acquisition and learner motivation in EFL contexts.*

Keywords: *vocabulary learning, EFL learners, WLCR method, contextual learning, digital tools*

Annotatsiya. *Lug'at boyligi chet tilini o'rganishda muhim ahamiyatga ega bo'lib, u o'rganuvchilarning tilni tushunishi va undan samarali foydalanishiga bevosita ta'sir ko'rsatadi. Yetarli lug'at zaxirasisiz o'quvchilar tinglash, gapirish, o'qish va yozish ko'nikmalarida qiyinchiliklarga duch keladilar. Shu sababli, so'z o'rganishning samarali usullarini tanlash muhim hisoblanadi. Ushbu maqolada lug'at o'rganishning bir qancha samarali usullari, jumladan Write, Look, Cover, Repeat (WLCR), ijtimoiy o'zaro ta'sir, raqamli qurilmalar va media vositalari, kontekst orqali o'rganish hamda flashkartalar tahlil qilinadi. Tadqiqot natijalari*



shuni ko'rsatadiki, turli usullarni uyg'unlashtirib qo'llash lug'atni eslab qolish va amaliy qo'llashni sezilarli darajada yaxshilaydi.

Kalit so'zlar: *lug'at o'rganish, EFL, WLCR usuli, kontekstual o'rganish, raqamli texnologiyalar*

Аннотация. *Лексика является одним из ключевых компонентов изучения иностранного языка, поскольку она напрямую влияет на способность учащихся понимать и использовать язык в реальном общении. Недостаточный словарный запас затрудняет развитие всех языковых навыков. В данной статье рассматриваются эффективные способы изучения лексики, такие как метод Write, Look, Cover, Repeat (WLCR), социальное взаимодействие, использование цифровых устройств и медиа, обучение в контексте и флеш-карты. Анализируются преимущества каждого метода и их влияние на запоминание и практическое использование слов. Результаты показывают, что сочетание традиционных и современных методов способствует более успешному овладению лексикой у изучающих английский язык как иностранный.*

Ключевые слова: *изучение лексики, EFL, метод WLCR, контекстуальное обучение, цифровые технологии.*

Introduction

Vocabulary is a fundamental component of language learning and serves as the foundation for effective communication. In the context of English as a Foreign Language (EFL), learners often struggle to express their thoughts due to limited vocabulary knowledge. While grammar provides structure, vocabulary supplies meaning, making it a crucial element in language proficiency. Over the years, various strategies have been developed to improve vocabulary learning, ranging from traditional memorization techniques to modern, technology-based approaches. This article examines five effective ways of learning vocabulary and discusses how each method contributes to vocabulary development and retention.

Main body

1. Write, Look, Cover, Repeat (WLCR) Method



The Write, Look, Cover, Repeat (WLCR) method is one of the most traditional and widely used vocabulary learning techniques. It involves writing new words, looking at them carefully, covering one side, and recalling the meaning before repeating the process. This method is especially effective for learners who benefit from physical engagement, as the act of writing helps reinforce memory through motor activity. WLCR allows learners to organize vocabulary systematically by dividing a page into two columns: one for the native language and the other for the target language. Repetition strengthens memory, while self-testing encourages active recall. The method can be further enhanced by rewriting difficult words, using color coding to distinguish word types, and incorporating pronunciation practice by reading words aloud or listening to recordings. Although WLCR focuses mainly on memorization, it remains a strong foundation for building initial vocabulary knowledge (1).

2. Social Interaction as a Vocabulary Learning Strategy

Social interaction plays a significant role in vocabulary acquisition by enabling learners to use language in meaningful communication. According to Anselin (2006), social interaction models emphasize learning through cooperation and shared experiences. In this approach, students work together in group discussions, projects, and cooperative tasks, allowing them to negotiate meaning and learn from one another.

This learner-centered strategy encourages students to actively participate, ask questions, and reflect on their understanding. Vocabulary learned through interaction is often better retained because it is connected to real communication. Additionally, social interaction helps learners develop confidence, fluency, and communicative competence. With the support of digital platforms, such interaction is no longer limited to face-to-face communication and can occur through online discussions and collaborative tools (2).

3. Digital Devices and Media in Vocabulary Learning

In recent years, digital media has become an essential tool in language education. Digital platforms and applications provide interactive, engaging, and



flexible environments for vocabulary learning. Tools such as mobile applications, messaging platforms, and online quizzes allow learners to practice vocabulary anytime and anywhere.

Research shows that digital media enhances vocabulary acquisition through multimodal input, including images, audio, and videos. These tools cater to different learning styles and increase learner motivation. For example, applications like WhatsApp and Quizlet encourage repetition, collaboration, and gamification, making vocabulary learning more enjoyable. Studies indicate that learners generally respond positively to media-based vocabulary instruction, reporting higher levels of engagement and satisfaction (3).

4. Learning Vocabulary through Context

Contextual learning involves acquiring vocabulary through meaningful texts, such as stories, dialogues, and authentic materials. Unlike isolated word lists, this method allows learners to understand how words function in real situations. Researchers such as Nation (2001) and Schmitt (2008) emphasize that contextual learning leads to deeper processing and better long-term retention. Studies comparing contextual and isolated learning methods show that learners exposed to vocabulary in context demonstrate higher retention rates and better application of words in speaking and writing tasks. Contextual learning helps learners build semantic connections, improve comprehension, and develop communicative competence. This approach is particularly effective for EFL learners who aim to use English in real-life communication (4).

5. Flashcards as a Visual Learning Tool

Flashcards are an effective vocabulary learning tool, especially for visual learners. They can include words, translations, images, or example sentences. Unlike WLCR, flashcards present words in random order, which prevents reliance on sequence memorization and promotes flexible recall.

Both physical and digital flashcards allow learners to review vocabulary efficiently and repeatedly. The use of colors, images, and spaced repetition enhances memory and prepares learners for real-life language use, where words appear



unpredictably. Although flashcards may not suit all learners, they remain a powerful tool for reinforcing vocabulary knowledge (1).

Conclusion

Vocabulary learning is a complex process that requires a combination of effective strategies to address different learning styles and goals. This article has examined five major approaches to vocabulary acquisition: WLCR, social interaction, digital media, contextual learning, and flashcards. Each method offers unique advantages, from strengthening memory through repetition to promoting communicative competence through interaction and context. The findings suggest that no single method is sufficient on its own; instead, integrating traditional and modern approaches leads to better vocabulary retention, increased motivation, and more effective language use. EFL learners and teachers are encouraged to adopt a flexible and balanced approach to vocabulary instruction to achieve optimal learning outcomes.

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