SELF LEARNING TECHNIQUES AND EXPLORATION OF IDEOLOGIES IN ACQUIRING VOCABULARY OF UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE – AN ANALYTICAL VIEW

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Abstract:

To learn or to know about any language, it is a must to be aware of the usage of words of that particular language. As the words construct sentences, sentences frame paragraphs and paragraphs will become essays and then they become novels and literature as well. Hence, to know about the words is the basic step to learn and grip in any language. The process of knowing various words of any language is called vocabulary. The dictionary defines vocabulary as the body of words used in a particular language. At present scenario, English being the Global language, it is a must to every cosmopolitan to learn this language for the livelihood. That is the only reason, there is a huge demand to English language to the non natives of English people, and everybody is looking for the techniques to improve and enhance the vocabulary in this language so as to showcase and explore this language officially for the survival of the existence in this internet driven society. Particularly to speak about the students, this language has become a nightmare as English vocabulary and Reading comprehension passages are taking lions share in any academic exam or in any competitive exams. Though the learners take English medium from their cradle, it is like a herculean task to major share of learners, as the reasons are many like they take English language as a subject to score marks. If they take language as a language and acquire this language instead of learning or rote up way, they will succeed in improving this language in the ways of listening, speaking, reading and writing as well. In y view, language is acquired rather than to be learnt, as a skill like swimming or driving, language also cannot be spoken unless the learner practices and experiences of the pros and cons like committing mistakes and rectifying.

Hence, this paper traces out various self learning techniques in acquiring English language vocabulary learning techniques which help the learner community to augment their language and get success in their select fields. I have applied the analytical way of narration with few identifies techniques through out my paper with few examples as case study examples.

Key words: Esca-talk, word family, ladder method, Roots, prefixes & suffixes, Word intensifiers, Words often confused, misused and unused, Synonyms & antonyms method, Contextual.

Introduction

Esc-talk method:

This is also called to be word building method. In this method, the last letter of a word must create another word with that letter. But the word must not be known or common or familiar to many of the audience. For instance, if the word is turbulence and the last letter is 'e' so the esc-talk method the person should find out the word on 'e'. for instance, I say, excavate which means dig. Hence the word dig is known to all but excavate is another term for excavate. Hence, in this manner, one can form as many number of as possible words with this technique, condition applied is those words must not be familiar or known.

Some other examples**:**1. Pilfe<u>r</u> – Rover (Itinerant/traveler) 2.Reverberat<u>e</u> – echo (resound/resonate)

Word family method:

In this method, the parts of speech of the word must be traced and the other words related to those parts of speech are to be brought forth into practice so as to enhance the vocabulary. For instance, the word, circular is known well as meaning which is circulated. Here the word circular is a noun and it some times acts as verb, adjective and if it is added with 'tion' it is used as noun. Hence, if any part of the word related to 'circu' one should not feel tough of identifying that meaning. First identification off the parts of speech and later finding out the meaning through this method is flexible and quite easy to guess the right meaning.

Some other examples: 1.Intervene – Intervention –Interval.

Ladder method:

This method is very close to word building or esc-talk method. Only the difference in between these two is in esc-talk, any sort of word can be framed with the the last letter. However, in this method, the word framed based on the last letter must be either a synonym or should be an antonym to the previous word. That is the difference between these two methods. The examples are mentioned below:

Ange<u>r</u> – Rage/ran<u>t</u> – Tirad<u>e</u> – Enrage<u>d</u>

Roots, prefixes & suffixes:

This method is commonly known to many of the non English learner community, where the words' roots, prefixes and suffixes are traced out and with the help of them meanings are learnt. But the most important thing one must know is all the words are not like that. All the time one may not find out the meaning blindly based on this. The reason behind this is some of the words are in built words and the roots, prefixes and suffixes method is not applicable to such words. So one must be very cautious while learning this method.

Some examples: The word Somnambulist, which has prefix (Somn-Sleep) root (amble-walk) suffix (ist-a person who does so) in it and based on this hint one can trace out the meaning of other words which heave the same roots or prefixes or suffixes. For instance, Somniloquest, as somn means sleep eloque means speak and ist/est means person hence, the meaning of Somniloquest means a person who talks in sleep.

Exceptional cases: As I have mentioned one should be very wise at deciding which is inbuilt and which is based on the roots , prefixes and suffixes. For example, A is used as negative prefix. For example: Amoral(not having morals) but the same rule cant be applied in the word Aside where the meaning is beside (but it should not be - not having sides based on the rule.) Like wise IM is used as negative prefix. But it is not applied as the same meaning to the

word important as it is an inbuilt word. So one should practice well these roots , prefixes and suffixes well so as to know the inbuilt words.

Word intensifiers:

This method, indicates the severity of the word and also it is used to explore the vocabulary power and grip of the speaker. The word itself indicates that the words are used according to the intensity of the situation. For example:

Anger -enraged-Rage-Furious-irate- annoyed-irritated -rash - angry –criticize-curse and so on.

Words often confused, misused and unused:

In this method, the words are used with confused spellings. For example the word confidant and confident has only one letter variation. In which where the meaning completely differed from one to another.

In the same manner, the words are misused like air as a plural used as airs by many of the students, where the meaning is completely different from the word air to airs. Like wise the word quarter and quarters, gean and geans, chain and chains so on and soforth. Hence, this method, students should go through such type of words and must bee known thoroughly about the usage so that to gain complete hold on the vocabulary as well as on language. There are such words which are left unused because of many reasons. For instance, the word cop, shall, may, perhaps and so on have disappeared from the usage. So if the learner community focus on such words, it would be very easy to add innumerable words in their brain for enriching their language skills in Universal language.

Synonyms & antonyms method:

The title itself suggests us that through this method, one can trace out as many synonyms and antonyms as possible and try to implement the new terms instead of the old terms so as to augment the new words in the mind bank. Say for instance, the word theft is known to all where as the synonym pilfer is not commonly used. Hence, these new synonyms must be used so as to increase the word power. In the same manner the antonyms also can be applied to improve the vocabulary power.

Contextual words:

In this method, the word is identified through the context or situation. So, one should be very particular and meticulous while understanding the text so as to guess the meaning of the unknown word in it. Say for instance, the sentence goes like this: Due to the corporate system the role of the parents has been curtailed. In this sentence, the underlined word is not known to the student(let us assume) then through the method of this Contextual words, the learner should analyze the sentence and follow the instinct (Which may not be all the time right but majority cases right) based on the situation. In the above mentioned sentence, the corporate

system in the education, where the semi-residential with tuitions and food are taken care by the education institutions, make everyone think that the system made parents job easy by reducing the burden of them. Hence, the word 'curtail' means to reduce which is the right answer here.

Hence, through this method, one can find out the meaning of the unknown word by understanding the context of the given text.

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