



EFFECTIVE METHODS OF TEACHING ENGLISH VOCABULARY

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Abstract. *This paper discusses effective methods of teaching English vocabulary to EFL learners. It analyzes traditional and modern techniques, including context-based learning, communicative tasks, and digital tools, and shows how these methods improve vocabulary retention and practical usage.*

Keywords: *vocabulary teaching, methodology, language learning*

Annotatsiya. *Ushbu maqolada ingliz tili lug'atini o'rgatishning samarali usullari yoritiladi. Unda an'anaviy va zamonaviy metodlar — kontekst asosidagi o'rganish, kommunikativ topshiriqlar va raqamli vositalar orqali so'z boyligini mustahkamlash yondashuvlari tahlil qilinadi.*

Kalit so'zlar: *lug'at o'rgatish, metodologiya, til o'rganish*

Аннотация. *В статье рассматриваются эффективные методы преподавания английской лексики. Анализируются традиционные и современные подходы — контекстное обучение, коммуникативные задания и цифровые инструменты, которые способствуют лучшему усвоению и использованию слов.*

Ключевые слова: *преподавание лексики, методика, изучение языка*

Introduction

Vocabulary is one of the most important components of language learning. Without sufficient vocabulary, learners cannot express their thoughts effectively or understand others in communication. Therefore, teachers must choose appropriate and effective techniques to help students build a strong and active vocabulary base. As Nation points out, vocabulary is “the heart of language” and should be taught through both explicit and implicit learning activities [1, 15].

One of the most effective approaches is context-based learning, which emphasizes teaching words within sentences, dialogues, or real-life situations rather than as isolated items. For instance, instead of simply teaching the word bank, teachers can show its meaning through context: I need to go to the bank to withdraw money. This helps learners understand the word's function and collocations, improving both comprehension and memory [2, 42]. Contextualized learning enables students to associate words with meaning, making them easier to recall and use correctly.

Another method is the communicative approach, where vocabulary is learned through interaction, discussion, and problem-solving. Learners use target words in meaningful communication, such as role-plays, debates, or group projects [3, 28]. Communicative



activities encourage students to move from passive recognition to active use, strengthening long-term retention. According to Richards and Rodgers, communicative practice increases learners' motivation and confidence in speaking because vocabulary is acquired naturally while focusing on meaning [3, 30].

Visual aids and mnemonic techniques also play a significant role. Pictures, flashcards, diagrams, and videos help learners connect new words with visual images. Mnemonics such as associating the word generous with a mental image of someone giving gifts improve recall by linking verbal and visual memory [4, 25]. These methods are particularly effective for beginners and visual learners, as they reduce abstractness and increase engagement.

With the rapid development of technology, digital tools have become essential in modern vocabulary teaching. Mobile apps, online dictionaries, and language-learning platforms like Quizlet, Duolingo, and Memrise provide interactive exercises and spaced-repetition systems that help reinforce words over time [5, 13]. Teachers can also use digital storytelling or online games to make vocabulary practice more motivating and personalized. Studies show that technology-based methods improve retention because they allow immediate feedback and self-paced learning [6, 51].

Task-based learning (TBL) integrates vocabulary instruction into tasks where learners must use words to achieve a specific goal — for example, planning a trip, creating a menu, or describing a picture. Through such tasks, vocabulary becomes meaningful and purposeful rather than mechanical memorization [7, 63]. TBL encourages learners to use new words repeatedly in realistic contexts, helping to transfer them from short-term to long-term memory.

Repetition and recycling are also crucial in vocabulary instruction. According to Nation, learners need to meet a new word at least 6–10 times in different contexts to remember it permanently [1, 37]. Teachers can organize review sessions, vocabulary journals, or quizzes to reinforce previously learned words. Similarly, using reading and listening materials that recycle familiar vocabulary ensures deeper understanding and automaticity [2, 49].

In traditional methods, vocabulary was often taught through translation, memorization, and lists. While these techniques can help at the initial stage, they often lead to passive knowledge that does not transfer to real communication. Modern methodologies, by contrast, focus on meaningful use and learner engagement. Learners should not only know the definition but also how to use the word correctly, understand its collocations, and recognize its connotations [4, 27]. Teachers can combine approaches — such as using digital tools to introduce words and communicative tasks to practice them — for best results.

Another important factor is learner autonomy. Students who actively manage their vocabulary learning through note-taking, self-testing, and goal setting tend to achieve better outcomes [5, 22]. Encouraging learners to create mind maps, categorize words, or use them in sentences promotes deeper processing and retention. Teachers can guide learners to





TANQIDIY NAZAR, TAHLILY TAFAKKUR VA INNOVATSION G'OYALAR



develop personal strategies that suit their learning style, whether visual, auditory, or kinesthetic [6, 57].

Conclusion

In conclusion, effective vocabulary teaching requires a balance between traditional and modern methods. Contextualized instruction, communicative activities, technology integration, and active recycling all contribute to successful vocabulary acquisition. Teachers should adapt their techniques to learners' needs, levels, and motivations, ensuring that vocabulary learning becomes both practical and enjoyable. Ultimately, the goal of vocabulary teaching is not only to expand word knowledge but also to enable learners to use words naturally and effectively in real communication [1, 37; 6, 51].

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