

## EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES FOR TEACHING KOREAN VOCABULARY TO FOREIGN LEARNERS

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**Annotation:** *This paper discusses effective strategies for teaching Korean vocabulary to foreign learners. Vocabulary learning is an essential part of language acquisition, but many students find it difficult due to the unique features of the Korean language, such as honorifics, loanwords, and word endings. The article presents several methods that can make vocabulary study easier and more enjoyable. These include learning words in context, using visual aids, grouping words by theme, applying repetition and practice, and focusing on culture-related vocabulary. The paper also includes personal experience as a foreign learner to show how these strategies work in practice. The conclusion emphasizes that teaching vocabulary should be active and meaningful, not just memorization.*

**Keywords:** *Korean language, vocabulary learning, teaching strategies, foreign learners, context learning, repetition, cultural vocabulary*

**Introduction:** Vocabulary is one of the most important parts of language learning. Without enough words, communication is not possible. For Korean learners, vocabulary study is sometimes difficult because Korean has special endings, honorific expressions, and many loanwords from Chinese and English. Therefore, teachers need to find good strategies to help students remember and use Korean words and to help them to communicate like a native, get closer to the language and culture. This article introduces several simple but effective strategies for teaching Korean vocabulary to foreign learners to make their learning journey easier.

First suggestion would be – Learning in Context. Vocabulary should not be taught as single, isolated words. It is easier for students to learn words inside a sentence or situation. For example, instead of only teaching the verb 먹다 (to eat), the teacher can give the phrase 밥을 먹다 (to eat rice/meal). This way, the student understands how the word is used in real life. Learning in context also helps students use the word correctly when they speak or write. When they learn nouns they must learn it with its verb. If they r learning adjective then it Is better to learn it with its noun, trying to learn verb? Then it is good to learn it with

its noun. It gives double benefit: remembering 2 words at the same time, and knowing what noun should be used with what verb.

Next efficient method would be – Using Visual Aids. Pictures, flashcards, and multimedia are very useful in vocabulary teaching. When students see an image together with the new word, they can remember it more quickly. For example, showing a picture of 김치 (kimchi) while teaching the word helps learners connect the word with the object. That’s why it is more efficient to publish dictionaries and vocabulary books with its picture to make it easier to learn. In today’s world, teachers can also use videos, K-pop lyrics, or short clips from dramas to make vocabulary study more interesting and enjoyable.

Another efficient solution would be Grouping Words by Theme. Another helpful method is learning vocabulary by topic. When words are taught in groups, students can build networks of meaning in their mind. For example, a teacher can present food words together (김치, 밥, 고기, 라면) or family words (어머니, 아버지, 형, 누나). This thematic grouping makes it easier for learners to organize and memorize the vocabulary. If they remember couple of words from a certain topic then like a chain they start to remember other words along way.

Let’s move on to another method which is Repetition and Practice. Repetition is one of the oldest and most effective learning strategies. If students see a word only once, they will quickly forget it. But if they review the word several times, the word will stay in their memory longer. Short daily quizzes, games, or flashcard review are simple ways to repeat vocabulary. Many learners also use mobile applications with spaced repetition systems, which remind students of the right word at the right time. Or language learning apps where they learn words and do daily review.

Next method is Culture-based Vocabulary. Learning culture-related words can also motivate students. Korean language is closely connected to Korean culture, so when students learn words such as 한복 (traditional dress), 설날 (New Year’s Day), 효 (filial piety), they also learn about Korean traditions and values. This makes the learning process more meaningful and enjoyable. Also helps students to get closer with Korean culture and history.

And finally – Personal Experience. As a foreign learner of Korean, I also experienced these strategies. For example, daily word tests in class helped me to review words regularly, even if it was difficult. Every time we finish current chapter of vocabulary, our teachers have weekly vocabulary test. If we did answer wrong, after giving us the results we are given to write whole sentence that we made mistake in vocabulary 10 times. If we did write the correct one wrong too, we have to write it all over again. Moreover my friends by

Watching Korean dramas gave them many modern words and slang that textbooks did not teach. It is useful for talking like a native and easier to memorize by the important scenes on dramas. Using apps like Quizlet also made vocabulary study more fun and interactive. Also Duolingo. It had weekly reviews of whole chapters that we learned before jumping to another chapter. If learners stop learning language for a long like months or more, it has review test before they can dive back into learning. The most efficient method I'd say is me looking at that particular word and repeat it in my head while looking at it. Then repeat it without looking at it. After that writing it 20 times while pronouncing them along with their translation. Then stick its note to wall so I'd remember of that word every time I pass by. These methods helped me remember words better than simple memorization.

**Conclusion:** In conclusion, teaching and learning vocabulary is not only about memorizing lists of words. Teachers should combine different strategies such as learning in context, using visuals, grouping words by theme, practicing with repetition, and including cultural vocabulary. These strategies make vocabulary learning more active, effective, and enjoyable. By using these methods, foreign learners of Korean can build a stronger vocabulary and improve their communication skills in the Korean language.

#### **Resources:**

1. TOPIK (Test of Proficiency in Korean) official materials.
2. Nation, I.S.P. (2001). Learning Vocabulary in Another Language. Cambridge University Press.
3. Korean Language Education Clearinghouse (한국어교육학회)