



## THE ROLE OF VOCABULARY IN LEARNING ENGLISH

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**Abstract.** *This thesis highlights the role of vocabulary in the process of learning English, the importance of developing vocabulary knowledge, and the function of lexical competence in communicative activities. Furthermore, it analyzes the effectiveness of modern teaching methods in developing lexical skills in English language education. Particular attention is paid to the function of lexical units in speech production, methods of teaching vocabulary, and their practical application.*

**Keywords:** *vocabulary, English language, vocabulary knowledge, communicative competence, language teaching, lexical unit, methodology, speech activity.*

**INTRODUCTION.** In today's era of globalization, English occupies an important position as an international means of communication. This language is widely used in many countries around the world in the fields of science, technology, business, diplomacy, and culture. Therefore, effective English language learning has become one of the main priorities of modern education systems.

Although skills such as grammar, phonetics, listening comprehension, and writing are important in foreign language learning, vocabulary is considered the fundamental semantic basis of language. People primarily use words to express their thoughts. A learner with insufficient vocabulary knowledge cannot express ideas fluently even if they possess a strong understanding of grammatical rules. From this perspective, developing lexical competence is one of the key priorities in mastering English.

In linguistics, vocabulary is interpreted as the most dynamic layer of language because the lexical structure of a language continuously develops as a result of social progress, technological advancement, and cultural exchange. New words, abbreviations, and terms frequently emerge in English and become actively used in everyday communication. This requires learners to continuously acquire new lexical units.

### **MAIN PART. The Importance of Vocabulary in Language Learning**

Vocabulary forms the semantic foundation of language. During the process of language learning, learners first acquire words and use them to engage in simple communication. As vocabulary expands, the content and quality of speech also improve.

According to many language teaching specialists, possessing sufficient vocabulary knowledge is essential for successful communication in a foreign language. The more words a learner knows, the more developed their listening, reading, writing, and



speaking skills become. In particular, learning collocations, phraseological expressions, and idioms in English contributes to the development of natural speech.

For example, expressions such as:

- **make a decision**
- **take a break**
- **pay attention**

are commonly used in English. If learners acquire these expressions as complete units, their speech becomes more natural and less influenced by direct translation.

### **Lexical Competence and Communicative Activity.**

Today, the communicative approach occupies an important place in language teaching methodology. According to this approach, the main goal of language learning is to develop the ability to communicate freely and effectively. In this regard, lexical competence plays a decisive role.

Lexical competence refers to a learner's ability to know words, understand their meanings, and use them appropriately in speech. Incorrect use of words may lead to various misunderstandings in communication. Therefore, vocabulary teaching should focus not only on translation but also on context.

For example, the English words big and large are considered synonyms. However, their usage is not always identical. In some cases, large amount sounds natural, while big amount may sound unnatural. Such differences require learners to understand the stylistic characteristics of language as well.

### **Modern Methods of Teaching Vocabulary**

Nowadays, innovative technologies are widely applied in English language teaching. Modern methods help learners acquire lexical units quickly and effectively.

**Context-Based Teaching.** Memorizing words separately is often considered ineffective because learners may forget them over time. Learning words within sentences or texts ensures better retention in long-term memory.

For example, the verb run may have different meanings in different contexts:

- run fast – to move quickly on foot;
- run a company – to manage a company;
- run out of time – to have no time left.

Through this method, learners naturally acquire multiple meanings of a word.

**The Use of Multimedia Tools.** Audio and video materials are effective tools for developing lexical skills. Through films, podcasts, and songs, learners encounter new vocabulary in natural speech situations. This also contributes to the development of pronunciation and listening comprehension skills.

**Interactive Methods.** Role plays, debates, question-and-answer activities, and group tasks ensure active learner participation. In particular, dialogue-based activities provide opportunities to use newly learned lexical units in practical communication.



**Digital Applications and Platforms.** Today, learning English through mobile applications and online platforms has become widespread. Applications such as Quizlet, Duolingo, and Memrise help learners expand their vocabulary through game-based elements. These platforms also promote independent learning skills.

**The Role of Reading in Lexical Development.** Reading is considered one of the most effective tools for language learning. Regular reading of literary works, articles, and academic texts enriches learners' vocabulary knowledge. In particular, reading original English-language literature helps learners understand the natural style of the language.

During the reading process, learners acquire new expressions, synonyms, and stylistic devices. As a result, both written and spoken language skills become richer. Moreover, grammatical structures are often acquired naturally through reading.

**Lexical Errors and Their Causes.** One of the major challenges in learning English is lexical errors. Such mistakes frequently occur due to the influence of the mother tongue. Learners often attempt to translate expressions directly from their native language into English.

For example, some learners may use the expression strong rain. However, the correct expression in English is heavy rain. Such mistakes occur because of insufficient knowledge of collocations.

To reduce lexical errors, teachers should engage learners in more practical activities. In addition, regular revision of new vocabulary and using words in real communication are essential.

**CONCLUSION.** In conclusion, vocabulary plays a crucial role in learning English. A rich vocabulary base develops all language skills and increases the effectiveness of communicative activities. Learners with limited vocabulary knowledge cannot communicate fluently even if they know grammatical rules well.

Therefore, special attention should be given to developing lexical competence in the process of teaching English. The use of modern pedagogical technologies, interactive methods, and multimedia tools serves as an important factor in strengthening learners' lexical knowledge. Furthermore, regular reading, listening activities, and practical communication are effective means of developing lexical skills.

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