EFFECTIVE VOCABULARY TEACHING STRATEGIES TO TEACH CONVERTED WORDS

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Abstract: Vocabulary development is an essential component of foreign language learning and communication. One of the most productive word-formation processes in English is conversion, which enables a word to change its grammatical category without any formal modification. This study examines effective strategies for teaching converted words in English as a Foreign Language (EFL) classrooms. The research focuses on raising learners' awareness of conversion patterns, semantic changes, and contextual usage. The findings indicate that communicative activities, contextualized learning, semantic analysis, and word-class identification exercises contribute significantly to vocabulary acquisition and lexical competence. The study concludes that systematic instruction of converted words improves learners' language proficiency and communicative performance.

Annotatsiya: Lug'at boyligini rivojlantirish chet tilini o'rganish va muloqotning muhim tarkibiy qismidir. Ingliz tilida so'z yasalishining eng samarali usullaridan biri konversiya bo'lib, u so'zning shaklini o'zgartirmagan holda grammatik kategoriyasini almashtirish imkonini beradi. Mazkur tadqiqot ingliz tilini chet tili sifatida o'qitish jarayonida konvertatsiyalangan so'zlarni o'rgatishning samarali strategiyalarini

o‘rganishga bag‘ishlangan. Tadqiqotda o‘quvchilarning konversiya modellari, semantik o‘zgarishlar va kontekstual qo‘llanish haqidagi bilimlarini rivojlantirish masalalari yoritilgan. Natijalar kommunikativ mashqlar, kontekstga asoslangan o‘qitish, semantik tahlil hamda so‘z turkumlarini aniqlashga qaratilgan topshiriqlar lug‘at boyligini rivojlantirishga ijobiy ta’sir ko‘rsatishini ko‘rsatdi. Tadqiqot konvertatsiyalangan so‘zlarni tizimli o‘qitish til kompetensiyasini oshirishga xizmat qilishini tasdiqlaydi.

Аннотация: Развитие словарного запаса является важной составляющей изучения иностранного языка и эффективного общения. Одним из наиболее продуктивных способов словообразования в английском языке является конверсия, которая позволяет слову изменять свою грамматическую категорию без изменения формы. Данное исследование посвящено эффективным стратегиям обучения конвертированным словам в условиях преподавания английского языка как иностранного. Особое внимание уделяется формированию у обучающихся знаний о моделях конверсии, семантических изменениях и контекстуальном употреблении слов. Результаты показывают, что коммуникативные задания, контекстное обучение, семантический анализ и упражнения на определение частей речи способствуют развитию словарного запаса и лексической компетенции. Исследование подтверждает, что систематическое обучение конверсии способствует повышению уровня владения английским языком.

Key words: vocabulary teaching, conversion, word formation, semantic change, lexical competence, word class, EFL learning, communicative competence.

Kalit so‘zlar: lug‘at o‘qitish, konversiya, so‘z yasalishi, semantik o‘zgarish, leksik kompetensiya, so‘z turkumi, EFL ta’limi, kommunikativ kompetensiya.

Ключевые слова: обучение лексике, конверсия, словообразование,

семантические изменения, лексическая компетенция, часть речи, обучение английскому языку, коммуникативная компетенция.

Vocabulary is one of the most important aspects of language learning because it enables learners to communicate effectively and understand authentic texts. The English language possesses a rich and constantly developing vocabulary system. One of the major sources of vocabulary expansion is conversion, also known as zero-derivation, whereby a word changes its grammatical category without undergoing any formal modification.

According to Plag (2003), conversion is a productive word-formation process that allows speakers to create new lexical units without adding derivational affixes. Bauer (2005) states that conversion is one of the most economical methods of vocabulary expansion because existing words can acquire new grammatical functions. Alqahtani (2015) emphasizes that vocabulary knowledge is fundamental to successful language learning and communicative competence. Similarly, Jovanović (2006) argues that teaching conversion in EFL classrooms helps learners understand grammatical relationships and use language more accurately in real-life communication.

Considering the increasing role of English in global communication, teaching converted words has become an important component of vocabulary instruction. Therefore, effective teaching strategies are required to help learners understand and apply conversion patterns successfully.

Conversion plays a significant role in enriching English vocabulary and increasing language flexibility. It enables speakers to create new lexical items without changing the form of the original word. Common examples include the transformation of nouns into verbs, such as *email*, *water*, and *phone*, as well as verbs into nouns, such as *answer*, *reply*, and *search*.

Plag (2003) notes that conversion demonstrates the dynamic nature of English morphology and contributes to lexical productivity. Bauer (2005) emphasizes that

conversion should be taught systematically because learners often experience difficulties in identifying grammatical categories of converted words. According to Jovanović (2006), classroom activities should focus on practical language use rather than isolated memorization. He recommends contextual exercises that help learners recognize converted words in authentic situations.

Another important aspect of teaching conversion is semantic analysis. Converted words often acquire additional meanings while maintaining a semantic relationship with the original word. Alqahtani (2015) highlights that vocabulary instruction becomes more effective when learners understand both the form and meaning of lexical items.

Effective strategies for teaching converted words include contextualized reading activities, communicative tasks, role-plays, semantic mapping, and word-class identification exercises. These methods encourage active participation and help learners retain vocabulary more successfully. Furthermore, teachers should introduce the most productive conversion types, including Noun-to-Verb, Verb-to-Noun, and Adjective-to-Noun conversions, because they occur frequently in modern English.

In conclusion, conversion represents one of the most productive and economical word-formation processes in the English language. It contributes significantly to vocabulary expansion by allowing words to change their grammatical functions without any formal modification. As English continues to develop and adapt to new communicative needs, conversion remains an important source of lexical innovation. The effective teaching of converted words can enhance learners' vocabulary knowledge, grammatical awareness, and communicative competence. By using contextualized activities, semantic analysis, and communicative tasks, teachers can help students recognize and apply conversion patterns more accurately in authentic language situations. Furthermore, systematic instruction of common conversion types enables learners to better understand the relationship between word classes and meanings. The

integration of conversion-focused vocabulary activities into EFL instruction can support more effective language learning and promote learners' ability to use English flexibly and confidently in both academic and everyday communication.

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