VOCABULARY: THE FOUNDATION OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING

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***Abstract**: This study explores the impact of vocabulary development on English language learning among fifth-grade students. It aims to identify effective approaches for improving learners' vocabulary acquisition. Data were gathered through classroom questionnaires and puzzle-based learning activities. The results show that students tend to develop vocabulary more effectively through practice and active participation in interactive lessons. Overall, the study suggests that vocabulary learning can be strengthened by using engaging and enjoyable classroom activities that increase students' motivation and involvement.*

Keywords: vocabulary acquisition, English language, young students, puzzle-based technique, practice-based learning.

Lug‘at boyligi: Ingliz tilini o‘rganishning asosi

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Annotatsiya: *Ushbu tadqiqot 5-sinf o‘quvchilari orasida ingliz tilini o‘rganishda lug‘at rivojlanishining ta’sirini o‘rganadi. Tadqiqotning maqsadi o‘quvchilarning lug‘at boyligini oshirish uchun samarali yondashuvlarni aniqlashdan iborat. Ma’lumotlar sinfdagi so‘rovnomalar va boshqotirma asosidagi o‘quv faoliyatlari orqali yig‘ildi. Natijalar shuni ko‘rsatdiki, o‘quvchilar amaliy mashqlar va interaktiv darslarda faol ishtirok etish orqali lug‘atni yanada samarali o‘zlashtiradilar. Umuman olganda, tadqiqot shuni ko‘rsatadiki, qiziqarli va jalb qiluvchi dars faoliyatlari yordamida lug‘at o‘rganishni mustahkamlash, o‘quvchilarning motivatsiyasi va ishtirokini oshirish mumkin.*

Kalit so‘zlar:lug‘at o‘zlashtirish, ingliz tili, kichik yoshdagi o‘quvchilar, topishmoq asosidagi metod, amaliy mashqlarga asoslangan o‘rganish.

Словарный запас: Основа изучения английского языка

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Аннотация.*В данном исследовании изучается влияние развития словарного запаса на изучение английского языка у учащихся 5-го класса. Цель исследования — выявить эффективные подходы к расширению словарного запаса учащихся. Данные были собраны с помощью классных анкет и учебных заданий на основе головоломок. Результаты показали, что учащиеся усваивают лексику более эффективно благодаря активному участию в практических упражнениях и интерактивных уроках. В целом, исследование предполагает, что использование интересных и увлекательных учебных заданий может укрепить усвоение лексики и повысить мотивацию и вовлеченность учащихся.*

Ключевые слова: развитие словарного запаса, английский язык, дети дошкольного возраста, обучение на основе головоломок, обучение на основе практических упражнений.

Introduction. Vocabulary forms the foundation of learning English because words are important for understanding and expressing ideas. A broad vocabulary enhances learners' comprehension, improves communication accuracy, and allows for clearer articulation of ideas. Additionally, strong vocabulary skills are vital for overall language proficiency and academic achievement.

Background. Vocabulary is widely considered a key element in learning a language and communicating effectively. [1]Research suggests that a small range of vocabulary can hinder learners from expressing their thoughts clearly, despite having only basic grammar knowledge. [2] This is why vocabulary learning is sometimes considered stressful for teachers as well as students in English teaching contexts.[3] Researchers emphasize the importance of developing vocabulary, highlighting its role in improving general language abilities and helping learners learn and remember new vocabulary. [4] In addition, vocabulary knowledge is considered essential for understanding spoken and written language, as learners need a sufficient number of words to comprehend texts and communicate effectively.[5]

[1] Nation, I. S. P. (2001). Learning Vocabulary in Another Language. Cambridge University Press. https://catdir.loc.gov/catdir/samples/cam031/2001269892.pdf

[2] Schmitt, N. (2000). Vocabulary in Language Teaching. Cambridge University Press. https://assets.cambridge.org/052166/0483/sample/0521660483ws n01.pdf

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This research aims to investigate the importance of vocabulary in learning English, highlighting its role in developing learners' language skills. Many students struggle with understanding and expressing ideas due to limited vocabulary knowledge. Additionally, vocabulary instruction is sometimes neglected in language classes. Therefore, this study discusses the importance of vocabulary, identifies common challenges faced by learners, and proposes effective strategies to enhance vocabulary learning and language proficiency.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES: This paper aims to address the following objectives:

1.Why is vocabulary considered essential for learning and developing English?

2. How does a limited vocabulary affect learners' ability to understand, express ideas, and communicate effectively?

3. How do effective vocabulary instruction techniques support overall language skill development?

The paper begins by emphasizing the importance of vocabulary in learning English and its role in skill development. It then explores the main challenges faced when vocabulary knowledge is limited. Finally, it presents several effective vocabulary teaching strategies aimed at improving overall language proficiency.

METHOD. This study investigates vocabulary learning among fifth-grade students using approaches outlined by Nation (2001), who stresses the importance of assessing students' vocabulary knowledge and understanding how they learn and use new words in context. Traditionally, vocabulary assessment focuses on students' ability to recognize, understand, and apply new words (Nation, 2001). Building on this, the study employs a classroom-based survey and an interactive puzzle activity to gather data directly from students.

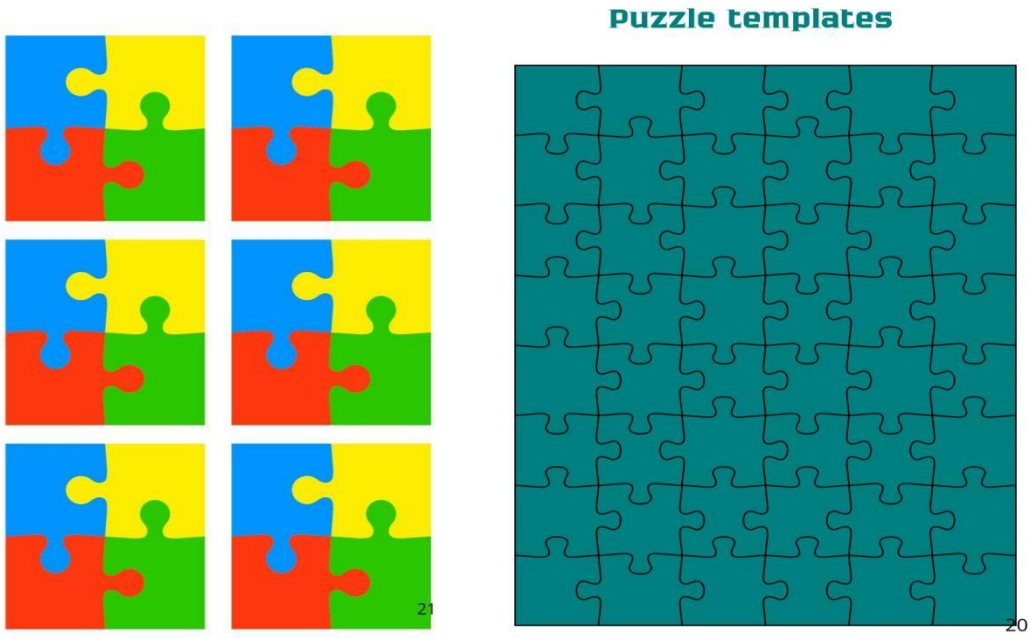


Figure 1: Jigsaw Puzzle Template for Group Work

To examine the challenges, methods, and effectiveness of learning vocabulary , a survey was conducted during regular English lessons. The questionnaire gathered organized data about students' vocabulary knowledge and learning strategies. Additionally, a puzzle activity was used to reinforce vocabulary acquisition. Colored paper cards were cut into segments, each containing parts of a word—for example, "window" was divided into "win" and "dow," "pencil" into "pen" and "cil," "picture" into "pic" and "ture," among others like garden, basket, market, letter, water, computer, library, family, holiday, teacher, student, classroom, bedroom, schoolbag, football, sunflower, and toothpaste. Students matched segments to form complete words, promoting active engagement, recognition of word structures, and memory retention. This interactive activity provided a fun, visual way for students to practice vocabulary. The survey and puzzle activity took place in a natural classroom environment at School No. 5 in the Balikchi district of Andijan region during regular English lessons, reflecting typical learning conditions. The participants were 15 fifth grade students, aged 11–12, representing a typical classroom learning strategies and related difficulties.



Figure 2: Students Working in Groups Using the Puzzle Method

RESULTS. The first question asked students how difficult it is for them to learn new English words. Out of 15 students, 2 students (13.3%) said it is difficult because there are many words and they can be confusing. Five students (33.3%) said it is sometimes difficult, mentioning that they do not understand all words equally well. Eight students (53.4%) said it is easy, explaining that they can learn new words quickly. This shows that most fifth-grade students manage to learn vocabulary without much trouble, but some still find it challenging. The second question asked whether students can use the new words in sentences. Seven students (46.7%) said yes, noting that it is easy for them to remember and use the words. Three students (20%) said sometimes, explaining that they forget some words occasionally. Five students (33.3%) said no, saying they are not confident in forming sentences. This indicates that while many students are confident in using new words, some need more practice. The third question asked about the best way for students to learn new words. Twelve students (80%) said repetition works best, because seeing and reviewing words several times

helps them remember. One student (6.7%) said reading and writing help, as writing words down makes understanding easier. Two students (13.3%) said games or pictures are useful, because interactive or visual methods make words more memorable. This shows that repetition is the main strategy, but using games or visuals can also help. The fourth question asked whether students use the new words in daily life. Seven students (46.7%) said yes, explaining that they try to use new words when possible. Six students (40%) said sometimes, mentioning that they remember words only in certain situations. Two students (13.3%) said no, saying they rarely use new words outside the classroom.

This suggests that many students try to apply vocabulary in real-life situations, but some need more opportunities to do so. The fifth question asked how knowing more words helps in learning English. Nine students (60%) said it is very helpful, noting that knowing more words makes understanding texts easier. Four students (26.7%) said it is somewhat helpful, explaining that vocabulary is useful in some situations. Two students (13.3%) said it is not very helpful, saying they are not yet able to fully use the words. This shows that vocabulary knowledge is important for learning English, although some students still struggle to use it effectively.

Questions	A	B	C
1.question	13.3%	33.3%	53.3%
2.question	46.7%	20.0%	33.3%
3.question	80.0%	6.7%	13.3%
4.question	46.7%	40.0%	13.3%
5.question	60.0%	26.7%	13.3%

Overall, the survey gives a clear picture of how fifth grade students learn vocabulary. It highlights that repetition, practice in real-life contexts, and different learning strategies can help students feel more confident and improve their ability to

use new words.

Discussion. The results of this study indicate that vocabulary plays an important role in learning English, even at the primary school level. Most learners could learn new vocabulary quite easily, although some experienced challenges due to the large number of words and occasional difficulty remembering them. Students learned more effectively through the puzzle activity, as it increased their participation, visual engagement, and memory of vocabulary. This result supports previous studies which show that interactive and contextual vocabulary teaching is important (Nation, 2001; Schmitt, 2000; Richards & Renandya, 2002). According to students, repeating words was the best strategy for vocabulary learning. Reading, writing, and using games or pictures were also helpful. These methods show that seeing and using words many times helps students remember and understand them better. In addition, students who tried to use new words in their daily life felt more confident when making sentences. This means that using vocabulary in real situations is important for improving communication skills. The survey results also highlight that while many students manage vocabulary learning effectively, some require additional support to strengthen their knowledge. This shows that vocabulary teaching should match students' individual needs and include different methods such as interactive activities, visual materials, and learning through context. Moreover, the puzzle-based method provides a creative and enjoyable way to boost student participation, helping them stay motivated to learn and remember vocabulary more effectively.

Conclusion. In conclusion, vocabulary is a basic component of English language learning that directly impacts students' ability to understand, communicate, and express ideas effectively. The study demonstrates that fifth-grade students benefit from strategies that combine repetition, practical practice, and interactive methods such as puzzle based activities. These strategies not only improve vocabulary acquisition but also enhance learners' confidence and motivation. Educators should

therefore integrate different vocabulary teaching techniques into their classrooms, providing opportunities for repeated exposure, practical application, and interactive engagement. By focusing on learners' individual needs and creating fascinating learning environments, teachers can significantly improve students' vocabulary knowledge and overal language proficiency. Ultimately, effective vocabulary instruction is essential for developing strong communicative competence and supporting long-term success in English language learning.

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