

VOCABULARY MINIMA OF YOUNG LEARNERS

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ABSTRACT

Vocabulary considered to be the core elements of any language as well as in English language. Lexicon is a collection of often used terms. A vocabulary is a helpful and important instrument for communication and information acquisition. The minimum size of vocabulary of children who are native and non-native differs. All children develop at different rates so it is difficult how many words they should know at certain age however, approximate size can be provided. Lexicminim as can be divided into 3 types, namely active, passive and potential lexicons. This paper aims to provide a review of researches in lexic minima of young learners, specifically first grade students, who are learning English as a foreign language (EFL).

KEYWORDS: *Lexic Minima, Young Learners, Frequent-Words, Vocabulary.*

INTRODUCTION

One of the most important language changes in early life of children is the formation of vocabulary. Vocabulary is a collection of words and phrases that are generally alphabetized and defined or translated. Merriam-Wenster online dictionary defines word as a speech sound or set of speech sounds that represent and express a message without being divided into smaller components that may be used independently, cosequently vocabulary defined as a list or collection of words and phrases usually alphabetically arranged and explained. According to scholars, "knowing a word" entails understanding phonology, spelling, syntactic constructs, and semantic representations, among other things (Richards 1976; Nation 1990, 2001; Meara 1996 cited in He Sun and et.). People utilize language to communicate and express meaning, and vocabulary is primarily responsible for this meaning. As a result, vocabulary is essential for all language usage and must be learnt in some way for learners to become communicative in a new language. Most languages, on the other hand, have extensive lexicons. The idea of vocabulary knowledge should be viewed as a continuum going from zero to full, with gradual learning (Nagy and Scott 2000 cited in He Sun and et.). Vocabulary is needed to understand the text, any listening activities.

In each period of life children have an approximate number of vocabulary minima that should be acquired by the students. Minima are the least quantity or the smallest value of something. A vocabulary minimum is the least quantity of words that each language speaker or language learner should know to use the language to communicate with people, to read some newspaper or journal, or comprehend the language. Vocabulary minima are varied according to the age of the learner. Young children's vocabulary develops through of the expansion of words they learn. While teaching the type of vocabulary also taakes into consideration. There are mainly 3 types of lexicon, namely active, passive and potential, which will be discussed further in this research paper.

Additionally, Hanna Kaczmarek provided with the criterias vocabulary should be selected according to communicative value, frequency, stylistic neutrality, word-formation efficiencyto

beginner young learners, who are learning English as a foreign language (2009).

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

What is a lexic minimum?

Lexicon is a list of words used in a particular language or subject, or a dictionary according to Cambridge dictionary while wikipedia The vocabulary of a language or body of study is called a lexicon (such as nautical or medical). A lexicon is a language's inventory of lexemes in linguistics. The word lexicon comes from the Greek word *lexikon*, neuter of *lexikos*, which means 'of or for words.' The word 'lexical minimum' is most commonly used in the educational (glottodidactic) setting, and refers to an adequate selection of vocabulary that a learner should know at a certain language skill level (Lukasik, 2017).

Lukasik (2017) provides with a definition from the Dictionary of Lexicography, which exemplifies the common understanding of the term in question:

A lexical minimum is those words chosen using frequency counts and other similar methods. are regarded necessary for linguistic communication and consequently for the purposes of studying that language This option (also known as 'core,' 'elementary,' or 'basic') 'Basic' or 'Minimum' vocabulary) focuses on statistically significant terms. Representative, stylistically neutral, and semantically strong while also assisting learners in dealing with everyday communication circumstances (R.R.K. Hartmann/G. James 2002: 13, M.à. deleted cross-references.)

Consequently, vocabulary minima are the least quantity of words that each language speaker or language learner should know to communicate, understand or read the language. Furthermore, lexicon is one of the most pertinent knowledge in learning not only English but also any language.

Because lexical competence is one of the essential abilities for L2 and foreign language literacy, vocabulary learning is receiving more attention in the ESL/EFL research agenda (Astika, 1993; Laufer, 1994, 1995; Nation, 2001 cited in Moghadam et al 2012). In other words, language knowledge influences how much control learners have over their environment. According to the study of Moghadam et al., who tested the significance of vocabulary in language learning concluded that in reading examinations, vocabulary knowledge is extremely important, and reading research has consistently shown a word knowledge component on which vocabulary tests load favorably. Because lexical mistakes are the most common and, at the same time, they are the most costly, vocabulary knowledge is essential (2012).

Teaching English as a foreign language in school, especially the lexic is also essential in our country. There are several purposes to educate children, as teaching EFL have been started in recent years; (1) practical purpose, (2) general educational purpose, (3) educational purpose and (4) is taught for developmental purposes. Each grade in a school year students must acquire the lexic minima which is provided in students' book.

Types of Lexic Minima

Lexicon classified into three types, namely active, passive and potential. The vocabulary, when children utilize while expressing their own opinion, called as active vocabulary. These words are the greetings, asking for the request and daily expressions. These lexica are provided with the beginning of the English lessons at school or even when parents start to teach English.

Second type is passive ; passive vocabulary is the words that are intended to understand and think to use it actively or the passive vocabulary refers to the lexica that students comprehend but not able to use it yet. Lastly, potential lexicon is a term defined as any word form that can be formed by a language's creation rules. These words are not taught by the teacher but these lexics are easy to understand because of the similarity the form of the words. For instance, kiwi which is

translated into russian “киви” and uzbek language “kivi”.

To select the active vocabulary we must take into consideration several criterias, such as frequency of the word. The first word frequency lists were established for the purpose of teaching second languages. E.L. Thorndike's, for example, It quickly proved to be insufficient, and It became obvious that other steps, such as "the utility of a word in a certain stage in the learning of a language must also be considered into account" (C.P. Verghese 2007: 58). In his book Michael West (1953. cited in Lukasik 2017), The General Service List offers this. Other 'qualitative' requirements such as: the simplicity of learning, necessity, cover, stylistic and affective neutrality. Scholars are currently advocating a mix of quantitative and qualitative proposals. Hanna Kaczmarek has compiled the following list. Lexical minimal criteria vocabulary choice: frequency; neutrality in style; communication value, word-formation, efficiency (2006, cited in Lukasik, 2017).

CONCLUSION

Lexicon is a list of words used in a particular language or subject, or a dictionary according to Cambridge dictionary. The word 'lexical minimum' is most commonly used in the educational setting and refers to an adequate selection of vocabulary that a learner should know at a certain language skill level. Each grade in a school year students must acquire the lexicminima which is provided in students' book. Lexica are also divided into 3 types, namely active, passive .and potential. These words are the greetings, asking for the request and daily expressions. There are several purposes to educate children, as teaching EFL have been started in recent years; practical purpose, general educational purpose, educational purpose and is taught for developmental purposes.

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