RESEARCH ARTICLE

TECHNOLOGY ENHANCED VOCABULARY DEVELOPMENT: SPECIAL FOCUS ON WORDSTEPS APPLICATION

J. JOSEPHIN VERONICA[1], Dr. MERCY GNANA GANDHI[2]
[1]josephinveronica.j@gmail.com, [2]drmerci2010@gmail.com
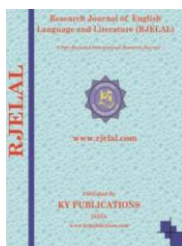
Abstract

English is an international language and it is used widely all in all the fields. Since the world is running behind competitions, it is very essential to speak fluently in English. To be very fluent, one must be enriched with vocabulary. It is difficult to learn words directly from books. Technology has been developed in a wide range of facilities and by using some of the tools from technology, people can learn new words with motivation and interest. This paper is about the study of using Wordsteps Applications by second year of Sathyabama Institute of Science and Technology. Wordsteps is an application which enables the English Language Learners to develop their vocabulary. Not only English, but also nine different languages. The results prove that the students are able to show a visible improvement in developing the vocabulary using the tool.

Key words: Vocabulary, Wordsteps, Application, Dictionary, Technology

INTRODUCTION

Vocabulary plays a vital role in understanding and conveying one's ideas and emotions. It is essential for each and everything in this world, right from arts and science to mathematics and social science. Children start using the vocabulary at the age of two. They observe and later try to convey their emotions. A person is very fluent in his mother tongue when compared to all other languages. This is because the person listens to the words only in his mother tongue wherever he goes in his or her particular community. People find it complex to learn vocabulary in other languages because they are not using other languages frequently and they hesitate to use other languages unless and until they are keen on learning. Always, people feel comfortable using their mother tongue to whomever they speak with.

Vocabulary and its Importance:

A Vocabulary is a lot of well-known words in an individual's language. A Vocabulary, generally created with age, fills in as a helpful and essential device for correspondence and procuring information. Securing a broad vocabulary is probably the biggest test in learning a subsequent language. The way to become familiar with a language is to think about the number of Lexis. It is easy to understand the content, when an individual knows loads of words. Understudies can be shown vocabulary legitimately or by implication. Improving vocabulary is critical for English Language Students. Local speakers of English typically get into kindergarten knowing 5000 words. However, English Language Students (ELL) and non-local speakers think that it's difficult to learn new words. There are various techniques to learn vocabulary. A few techniques help the educators in an

J. JOSEPHIN VERONICA, Dr. MERCY GNANA GANDHI

Research Journal of English Language and Literature (RJELAL)
A Peer Reviewed (Refereed) International Journal
Impact Factor 6.8992 (ICI) http://www.rjelal.com;
Email:editorrjelal@gmail.com ISSN:2395-2636 (P); 2321-3108(O)

**Vol.8.Issue 2. 2020
(April-June)**

extraordinary degree to fuse even muddled words inside the understudies.

Literature Review

According to Vijayakumar R (2016), "ICTs have changed the pace of teaching strategies to suit the goals of his materials and the needs of his students. On the other hand ICTs have given the students, any possibilities to practice English inside and out of the classroom. With the assist of the modern technologies they've time and freedom to understand, mirror and analyze what have been uncovered to. Moreover, the ICTs recommend an influential base for efficient education. Now, we want the modern technology for a better blended technique of shipping to create apt teaching techniques to enhance the technique of gaining knowledge of English language". Sophia Mavridi (2018) states that "Carrier, Damerow and Bailey's book offers wide-ranging perspective on digital learning, highlighting cutting-edge research and recent developments in the use of learning technologies in Language schooling each in terms of theory and practice. In fact, one of the particular strengths of the book is how well the pedagogy and technology are orchestrated to reflect the essence of digital learning". Dr. Mercy Gnana Gandhi says that "No change can be brought without a change in the teaching methodology. " Garima Sharma (2010) expresses that "Advanced information technologies such as virtual reality, visualization, digital modeling, digitization, simulation, games, virtual worlds and intelligent one-on-one tutoring systems dramatically enhance teaching and learning of elusive concepts by translating abstractions into real-world contexts and imparting customized training and individualized assessments". Solanki D (2012) declares that "There are many greater opportunities for college students to gain self belief exercise and increase themselves, mainly for ESL students who examine the language for more than simply fun. For them to hold pace with ELT and advantage extra self belief they ought to stride into the world of multimedia technology". Vishwanath Bhanu (2011) expresses that "The Internet is the most exciting, unlimite English resource that anyone could imagine and it is right at our finger tips. The potential of the internet as a

teaching tool is a especially new idea however more and more people recognize that it may certainly foster a dynamic getting to know environment". Catherine Elizabeth Crum (2017) discloses that "Researchers have shown that vocabulary development is a challenge for English "Language Learners (ELLs) as they are less prepared to use contextual and linguistic clues to decode unfamiliar vocabulary".

Wordsteps Application: Wordsteps Application is a collection of thematic dictionaries, each is offered in nine different languages such as English, Spanish, Russian, French, Chinese, German, Japanese, Italian and Portuguese. It is interesting that each user can create his or her own collection of new words and make it as a dictionary. And the best dictionaries which are voted by the majority of users will be shown to other users. The users can prefer their favorite dictionary. In order to start learning new words, users must choose a dictionary and then do some exercises such as reading, choosing the correct translation, writing a word etc.

Main focus and the features of Wordsteps Application: The main focus of this application is to develop the vocabulary by using many new words. They set a target to read at least twenty new words per day. If we learn twenty words per day, at the end of a year, we can able to learn seven thousand new words. If we continue to learn many new words, we can improve our vocabulary and can speak fluently without any mistakes.

Wordsteps helps to improve vocabulary. In simple words, Wordsteps is called a Personal online tutor. One can learn vocabulary by themselves. As Wordsteps has nine languages, we can able to learn many new languages. The specialty of this Wordsteps is that we can create our own dictionary. we can utilize a great deal of highlights without registration. Be that as it may, in the event that you register, you gain admittance to insights of scholarly words and learning history and can make our own profile. By using profile, we can send messages with different clients, and add them to our friend list. At the end of the day, WordSteps is a very easy to understand and advantageous online

J. JOSEPHIN VERONICA, Dr. MERCY GNANA GANDHI

assistance that gives incredible chances to learn new words simply while sparing individual time.

The features of this application is that there are nine different languages, people can learn history and self-progress, friendly interface in English and languages for users, users can create their own dictionaries and Flash card printing. Online courses are also available in Wordsteps application. They are categorized into eight different courses. They are 2000 most used English words, 2000-5000 most used English words, 5000-7000 most used words, Active Business vocabulary, Vocabulary for the successful completion of the Exam, Active everyday vocabulary and English for travelers. All are twelve month courses and each courses fees is 540 rub(589.98INR)

Result Methodology

Students of BA English from Sathyabama Institute of Science and Technology were instructed to open the Wordsteps Application in their Laptops. Students opened it and had been given basic instructions on what the application is about. On the first day students were taught twenty five random and new words which they don't know and their meanings in the classroom. Students had to learn those twenty five words and after an hour they were given a test for fifty marks. There were twenty five questions and each question carries two marks. They were given thirty minutes to complete the test. All the twenty five vocabularies which the students learned were given in the question paper. Then the students were made to write down the correct meaning of the word and an example sentence for each and every word. The test results are shown below.

Table 1 – Results of test-1 (CONTROL METHOD)

S.No	Name	Marks	Percentage
1	Angelin	36	72
2	Catherine	33	66
3	Getzia	31	62
4	Harish	37	74
5	Jenifer	38	76
6	Nandhini	35	70
7	Nithish	34	68
8	Pooja	39	78
9	Rupal	28	56
10	Subashini	30	60

Later, the students are asked to learn twenty five new words through Wordsteps Application. And again they were given twenty five words and asked to write the meaning and example for every word. The results are given below

J. JOSEPHIN VERONICA, Dr. MERCY GNANA GANDHI

Table 2 – Results of test-2 (EXPERIMENTAL METHOD

S.No	Name	Marks	Percentage
1	Angelin	40	80
2	Catherine	38	76
3	Getzia	39	78
4	Harish	42	84
5	Jenifer	45	90
6	Nandhini	41	82
7	Nithish	39	78
8	Pooja	44	88
9	Rupal	37	74
10	Subashini	39	78

Results and Discussion:

When the results are checked, the marks which are scored after using Wordsteps application are higher than the first test. In these tests, we can understand that learning vocabulary through Wordsteps application makes the students remember many new words than the normal teaching.
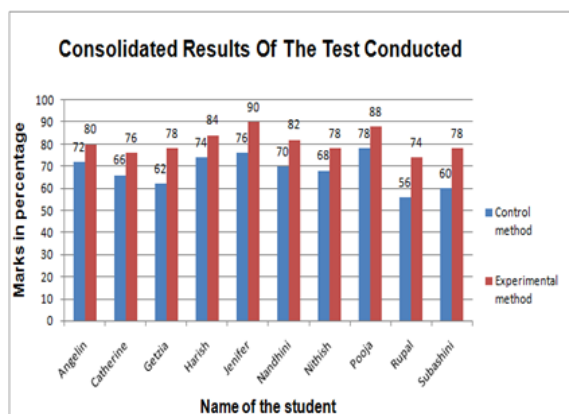

Fig:1- Consolidated Test Results – a comparison

Conclusion

Hence it is found that Wordsteps application is a motivating application to be used in our everyday lives. Learning twenty words every day from Wordsteps increases the user's confidence and makes them feel bold when communicating with the people they meet. It is one of the best application to learn new words and to develop the vocabulary. Many people have used this application and the feedback given by them shows how amazing the Wordsteps application is. Students can create their own dictionaries which is more interesting. Once the Wordsteps is used, we will use it regularly. Hence, Wordsteps is one of the amazing applications to improve the vocabulary and can be recommended to incorporate in the curriculum.

Reference

1.   Catherine Elizabeth Crum (2017) "Influence of Technology on English Language Learners' Vocabulary, Reading, and Comprehension"

2.   Garima Sharma (2010) "Acquisition of Vocabulary; Proficiency in Pronunciation through Language Laboratory"

3.   Mercy Gnana Gandhi (2011)https://eltweekly.com/2011/01/81-research-paper-teaching-english-language-to-engineering-students-and-the-problems-faced-by-the-language-teachers-solutions-through-computers-by-dr-s-mercy-gnana-gandhi/

J. JOSEPHIN VERONICA, Dr. MERCY GNANA GANDHI

4. Michael McCarthy, Felicity O'Dell (2016) "Academic Vocabulary in use" -

5. Solanki. D (2012) "Use of Technology in English Language Teaching and Learning": An Analysis"

6. Sophia Mavridi (2018, August 23) "Digital Language Learning and Teaching: Research, Theory, and Practice"

7. Vijayakumar. R (2016) "Use of ICT in English Language Teaching and Learning"

8. VishwanathBhanu (2011) "Web Tools and Resources for Vocabulary Development and Grammar"