



Teaching Vocabularies Through Idioms

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ABSTRACT

It is undeniable that language plays the most important role in global communication. Because English is the universal language, it is essential to master it. Pronunciation, vocabulary, and grammar are the three most important aspects of learning English. Learning vocabulary entails expanding one's vocabulary. Word relations, multiple meanings, register, collocations, multi-word expressions, grammatical features of words, and cross-linguistic variances are the seven dimensions of knowing a word, according to scientists. If we wish to master vocabulary, we must learn every dimension. The most common issue that EFL students have is learning idiom as part of multi-word expressions. A multi-word phrase is made up of two or more words, and the meaning may often be deduced from the individual words alone. In this article discusses about teaching vocabularies through idioms and so on.

Keywords:

English, teaching, learning, vocabularies, idioms, speech, improving, methods

Most native speakers nowadays choose to speak in idioms, so their conversations will be less formal and more flexible. As a result, EFL students must acquire multi-word expressions, particularly idioms, in order to recognize or grasp what native speakers have said. Unfortunately, EFL students have a difficult time learning idioms because they learn vocabulary by memorizing words one at a time. The goal of this study is to discuss a solution to the difficulty of EFL students acquiring idioms. A method shall be stated as simply as possible so that the readers, particularly foreign language students, may understand it.

A phrase or a fixed statement with a figurative or occasionally literal meaning is known as an idiom. It is difficult for EFL students to learn about idioms because idioms have quite different meanings when translated word for word. Most foreign language students, in fact, prefer to literally translate English as the source language into their own language as the target language. It can sometimes undermine the meaning of an idiom because the meanings

are not the same. Misunderstandings in communication are a result of this particular difficulty. Consider the following scenario:

Idiom (figurative meaning) Meaning Idiom (literally meaning):

1. A piece of cake. Very easy.
2. All of a sudden. Suddenly.
3. Break a leg! Good luck!
4. After one's own heart. As what heart wants.
5. A man of the world. Keep the promise.
6. Easier said than done. It's easy to say, but hard to do.
7. On leave. Out of duty.
8. Man proposes, God disposes. Man plans, God decides.

The example of an idiom with both figurative and literal meaning is shown in the table above. The idiom and the figurative meaning are extremely distinct, although the literal meaning can be known directly because the idiom and the meaning are nearly identical. This is also why EFL students have a difficult time learning idioms. The repetitions should be spaced out such that the time between learning

sessions gets longer and longer. Use a mnemonic device, such as the keyword strategy, to help you remember things. Putting the chunk into a sentence, picturing the meaning of the chunk examples, and examining its components are all steps in the process. It will improve the quality of brain processes and aid learning.

Learning chunks with similar words or meanings together is not a good idea. They'll get in each other's way. To avoid serial learning, keep shifting the sequence of the word cards. In addition to implementing the Nation's advice, this study will demonstrate some idiomatic learning problem solving by delving into the meaning of participants' responses to the questionnaire. Some problems will be fully described so that EFL students can avoid them and acquire idiomatic speech. The first question is how crucial it is to learn language. It is critical to master vocabulary skills in order to become fluent in English. As we all know, vocabulary is the foundation of English. We need to expand our vocabulary if we wish to know English and speak it fluently. The more vocabulary we have, the better we can communicate in English. The majority of the participants in this study agreed that learning vocabulary is critical because it is utilized to develop our English expertise.

Students who have a class on a regular basis will immediately learn new terminology. They learn a lot of language that they wouldn't have learned otherwise from their instructor or from educational materials like books, journals, and the internet. Because the intensity of learning in class is nearly constant, it's not surprising that most EFL students enhance their vocabulary in class. Given that the method of learning vocabulary appears to be uninteresting, the fourth question attempts to demonstrate alternative methods of acquiring vocabulary. The way to improve English vocabulary can be applied in a fun way. The example is watching English movie. You will get many new vocabularies by watching movie.

Because it comprises everyday phrases, idioms, and colloquial expressions, the vocabulary in English movies is simple to acquire. Aside from that, we can learn

vocabulary directly from native English speakers. All of the samples agree that learning in such a fun method is more effective. They claimed that viewing a movie exposes them to a plethora of new words, and that they like expanding their vocabulary by doing so. The fifth question, on the other hand, seeks to indicate that most EFL students dislike reading books in order to improve their vocabulary skills. Ironically, 80% of the people in the study think reading is uninteresting, therefore enhancing vocabulary through reading a book isn't particularly appealing. Reading is, in fact, the best way to develop vocabulary. EFL students should understand the importance of reading books because they need to expand their vocabulary in order to reduce the risk of the country falling further behind.

It is necessary to create a movement that can be spread out and unstoppable in order to increase reading enthusiasm. It is the government's responsibility to facilitate this migration in order for the country to develop. Despite the fact that most samples stated that learning with native English speakers is the greatest way to improve vocabulary, the majority of samples stated that learning with native English speakers is the best way to develop vocabulary. When native speakers talk English fluently, it is easier for listeners, in this case EFL students, to understand and increase their vocabulary. In the sixth question, all of the samples provide answers. They believe that learning vocabulary directly from native English speakers is more beneficial and takes less time. We can also learn how to pronounce the words. Given Indonesia's geographical location and the fact that the country where native English speakers live is so far away, there are numerous ways to communicate with them. In this situation, the problem is overcome via technological advancement.

Many apps and social media platforms include room chat, voice calls, and even video calls. Skype, Azar, Whatsapp, Facebook, and other similar services are examples. Because EFL students can readily communicate with native English speakers, they have more opportunities to enhance their English skills. The likelihood of mastering English lexicon will

rise. The lack of this type of learning approach is due to the fact that native English speakers sometimes speak too quickly for EFL students to understand what they are saying. However, this type of situation has a positive effect on EFL students by motivating them to learn more vocabulary so that they can communicate effectively. The seventh question focuses on the central theme of this mini study, which is idiom. The majority of the samples stated that mastering idiom is critical to improving their English skills. One sample's answer even told that learning idiom is a must because the meaning sometimes different with the original word's meaning. Idiom can vary the words in speaking and also writing, so it will be not monotone.

The results of the survey back up what I said earlier regarding the necessity of learning idioms. Idiomatic words and phrases should be learned by EFL students in order to improve their English skills and become more similar to native English speakers. The final issue addresses whether EFL students are capable of speaking English as fluently as native speakers. Because native English speakers frequently employ idiom when speaking, it is linked to the use of idiomatic words and phrases. If EFL students wish to be as fluent in English as native speakers, they must study idioms in addition to vocabulary. Knowing only a limited vocabulary will make speaking or writing rigid and stiff.

Conclusion. Idioms are a lot of fun to learn because of the colorful vocabulary. It's critical to educate students not only the meaning of idioms, but also how to utilize them correctly and efficiently. The necessity of acquiring idiomatic expression for non-native English students, especially foreign learners, is further emphasized by the findings of the participants' responses. Despite the fact that many evidences demonstrate a negative reality about how EFL students acquire idiom, the majority of participants have already recognized the importance of learning idiom. When a non-native English speaker or EFL student appropriately uses an idiom, they will sound incredibly fluent and natural. When teaching EFL students how to learn idioms, there are

numerous ways that can be used. Even it can be fun to learn idiom as it has already explained in the discussion part. We have to match which method will be more appropriate to apply in teaching and learning process.

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