



## **Graduation Project**

### **Final Draft**

# **The Impact of Active Learning in Developing Learning English Vocabulary for First Year Intermediate School Students in Dammam**

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## Table of Content

1.Abstract .....	2
2.Introduction .....	2-3
3.Literature Review.....	3
4.Significance of Research.....	4
5.Research Question.....	5
6.Research Methodology .....	5
7.Ethical Considerations .....	6
8.Limitations of the Study.....	6
9.Expected Result.....	6
10.Reference List .....	7
11.Appendix .....	8-9

## Abstract

This study has highlighted the importance of recognizing the effect of active learning technique in teaching and its effect on the students' acquisition of the new English vocabulary easily and enriching their linguistic outcomes for a quite understanding of what's spoken and written and assimilate the sentence's meaning. Therefore, the researcher has user many means for getting the outcomes of this research on both students and teachers. The students' means for implementing two plans for the same sample in two different times and examining each lesson, then distributing questionnaires to 10 students at the end of this stage. Actually, the researcher has done an interview with 6 teachers. The outcome has shown that the positive result has come to those who accepted that method and helped them for better acquisition of the vocabularies. According to the outcomes of this study, the active learning technique has a positive effect on the acquisition of new vocabularies and making it a certified teaching technique at schools. Finally, this study targeted to study the Impact of active learning in developing the learning English vocabulary for first-year intermediate school students in Dammam.

## Introduction

The English language is an international one, as it is spoken in most countries as a second language "target language" besides their mother tongue. Otherwise, learning this language opens the doors for a broad education and work opportunities. Moreover, it is the studying language for the majority of universities even in the Arabian universities, so they had to interest in teaching it at all grades and using the best techniques for having it. However, many modern educational theories have appeared as a result of education sciences and methodology development, calling for making the learner as the center of the education process, the teacher as the guider and director. Hence, it was important to focus on the active learning to make the learner active and crucial at the educational situation. This field has played a crucial role in developing the English learning and acquiring new vocabularies in an amazing method with students.

So, what does active learning mean?

Learning comes from work , research, experiment and the self-dependent of the learner in getting information, acquiring skills and forming values as it does not focus on memorization and indoctrination. The student's excess in memorization and repetition leads to less use of the mind than the active learning which focus on the ability of solving problems, acquiring many vocabularies without boredom and both the group and the co-operative work.

At this point, PRINCE (2004), said that: "active learning is generally defined as any instructional method that engages students in the learning process. In short, active learning requires students to do meaningful learning activities and think about what they are doing" In my special opinion, I Agree with the researcher in his opinion.

### Literature Review

There are a lot of opinions that support teaching vocabulary using active learning methods, such as:

According to Davis (2003), "some suggested active learning methods for developing vocabulary include:

- Writing – For example, getting students to write answers to questions. This involves higher order thinking and the production of information.
- Brainstorming – also involves higher order thinking and analysis.
- Games – interactive, fun, and involves analysis.
- Use of case studies – applies word meanings to real life examples."

I have the same opinion with the researcher in his view.

According to University of Minnesota (2008)," improving vocabulary through active learning can also involve activities where:

- Existing knowledge is actively connected to newly learned content.
- Focused listing which involves writing down a list of terms and ideas that students connect to a particular topic.
- Brainstorming is similar to the focused listing but involves more than just developing a list of terms and ideas."

I have the similar opinion with the researcher in his observation.

University of Melbourne (2005), states: "other suggested strategies for vocabulary development using active learning techniques can include repetition; using the word in a different way so that a dissimilar meaning is produced; changing the format of the word usage (such as putting it into a different sentence), and discussing the word and its usage with others (this involves production)."

## Significance of Research

Words are the base of the language as we can't practice it without having vocabularies, understanding their meanings and using it effectively and this happens in the English language. The more words you know, the more you will be able to understand what you hear and read. This would give the learner better ability and higher performance during the speaking and the writing as well. Vocabulary learning is an indispensable process for English as a Second Language learner to acquire proficiency and competence in a target language. This significant process, much more than grammar, is the key to your children for better understanding what they hear and reads in school; and to communicate effectively with other people. For this reason, it is very important for the learners to gain a sufficient amount of words in a short-term period. Furthermore, research studies have shown that strong link between having a wide range of vocabulary and achieving school success. If we need to acquire and develop our skills we have to acquire the biggest amount of English vocabularies.

We had to think of the research, and emphasize on the helping methods and finding the best technique of teaching in achieving our objectives easily and to suit the recent generation. The technique of active learning has achieved its objective and suitable for all students grades. Moreover, helping in getting a better education especially in acquiring new vocabularies. So, the importance of this technology is that it has referred to the impact of active learning in acquiring new English vocabularies with a comfortable method for students.

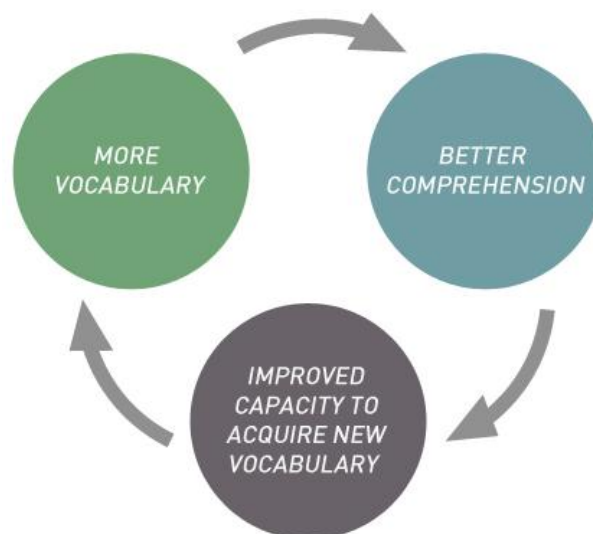


Figure 1. The more words you know, the more you will learn.  
Retrieved from <http://www.worddive.com>. Copyright 2013 by Word Dive Blog.

## **Research Question**

This research aims to provide answers to this question:

What is the impact of active learning in developing learning English vocabulary for first year intermediate school students in Dammam?

## **Research Methodology**

For getting clear and accurate answers, we have applied our research on two stages from the same sample of the first intermediate students, about ten students in two different periods, showing the difference in their levels among smart, intermediate and weak. However, they were selected to represent all levels at this grade. We have also used the same group in both experiments to ensure that they faced the same factors and effects for getting more precise outcomes with the help of English teachers.

In the first stage, the teachers give some new English vocabulary which differs among easy, intermediate and difficult by using a traditional teaching technique in explanation. The teachers make a simple test to assess students and know their range of understanding vocabulary at the end of that stage.

At the second stage, the teachers give students some different vocabulary by using active learning techniques, using the interaction between students and the teacher and negotiations, besides students' participation in the research and discovering new vocabulary with the help of their teachers. Actually, the teacher prepares a test to examine their level of understanding of this vocabulary. After finishing these two stages, we distributed questionnaires on students and got some answers, then we distributed presents for students for their cooperation and as a thinking way for them. In addition to making interviews with six teachers of English and ask them some questions upon them at that school.

### **Ethical Considerations**

At the beginning, there was a request to the school administration for getting permission to interview some teachers who wish to participate and asking them some questions. Furthermore, we also permitted some students to participate in preparing a test for our research without informing about personal information. The contents of the test must be beneficial and never waste their time. We also, have been seeking correct and actual outcomes with no fake ones for incredibility.

### **Limitations of the Study**

This study has been implemented in one school and in a limited number of pupils in the first intermediate level, which affects the outcomes of the research as it might not be precise. If it is implemented at a big number of students, the outcomes will be more accurate and precise. The study has also applied in a short time that might affect the outcomes.

### **Expected Result**

The researcher will be expected that this research will improve the students' language and their acquisition of the English vocabularies easily and break the ice of trying choral playing and participation by using active learning. This research will help in directing the light of using active learning and its techniques for teaching besides helping teachers in teaching and motivating them after watching the beneficent outcomes for improving students' language.

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## Appendix

Interview questions for teachers:

- 1) What is the effect of using active learning method in language development and help students acquire new vocabulary?
- 2) To what extent active learning helps to increase students' motivation and their enthusiasm to learn a new vocabulary?
- 3) Are the students who depend on the active learning method acquire vocabulary more than those who rely on traditional methods?
- 4) Are there any disadvantages in active learning when teaching new vocabulary for students?
- 5) Did you achieve the desired results of the Active Learning?
- 6) Do you encourage transforming the traditional educational system for active learning?
- 7) If you are asked to prefer between traditional methods and active learning in teaching what to choose?

Questions questionnaire for students:

- 1) If you have two methods to learn a new vocabulary (active learning - traditional) what will you prefer?
  - Traditional way
  - Active learning method
- 2) Do you find the method of active learning more enjoyable to learn new vocabulary than the traditional way?
  - Yes
  - No
  - Sometimes
- 3) Do you think active learning method will make you understand more vocabulary than traditional method?
  - Yes
  - No
  - Sometimes
- 4) What will be the rate of success if the teaching of the vocabulary is in a manner of active learning?
  - 100%
  - From 80% to 99 %

- From 60% to 79%
- From 0% to 59%

5) What are the difficulties that you may encounter in active learning method to learn new vocabulary?

- Active learning needs more time.
- Active learning needs more work.
- Active learning needs student has good English language skills.

6) What the effectiveness of active learning strategies to raise achievement motivation among students?

- Excellent
- Very good
- Good