USING GAMES IN TEACHING VOCABULARY IN CLT

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Annotation:
Learning vocabulary is essential in any language learning. Many students find the traditional vocabulary training method tiresome and unproductive since it frequently focuses on rote memorization and isolated word definitions.   This article suggests that incorporating games into vocabulary instruction can revolutionize the learning process.

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There is a special method in language teaching, called CLT.
Communicative Language Teaching (CLT) is an approach to language teaching that focuses on communicative competence: the ability to use the language effectively in real-life situations. [5]
In CLT, language learning is seen as a means of communication rather than simply as a set of grammar rules and vocabulary. Examples of language learning games that align with CLT principles include role-plays, information gap activities, communicative board games, and language learning apps that encourage interaction and communication among students.
Vocabulary is a crucial part of language proficiency, containing the lexical resource used in communication. There are two types of vocabulary: active and passive. [1]. They are also known as productive and perceptive vocabulary.[2]
Active vocabulary includes all the common words that a student can easily comprehend and use while speaking.
Passive vocabulary indicates words that a learner can understand but can not use in their writing or speech. Passive vocabulary is usually broader than active. [3]
An average adult's passive vocabulary ranges from 80–85 thousand lexical units, whereas their active vocabulary is at least 30 thousand. [4]

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Some examples of vocabulary games that can be used in the classroom include:

- Vocabulary bingo
- Word association
- Charades
- Scrabble or Boggle
- Vocabulary relay races
- Vocabulary battleships
- Vocabulary scavenger hunts

Students learning a foreign language often focus on grammar structures, paying less attention to lexical resources, thus they have difficulties communicating with teachers or peers. But, if vocabulary serves as language's vital organs and flesh, language structure functions as the language's skeleton.[6]

One effective instructional strategy to overcome the problem may be using games, which can make learning new words and their meanings more engaging, interactive, and memorable for students.

There are several ways how integrating games into the learning process may be beneficial:

1. **Increased motivation and pupil engagement.** Games stimulate pupils' natural desire to compete in playing. This can assist in boosting their motivation and remembering new words. Learners are more likely to remain focused and involved in the process when they are actively participating and enjoying it.

2. **Contextual learning**. A lot of vocabulary games introduce new words in the context of a narrative, scene, or topic. Rather than merely learning definitions by heart, pupils can understand the proper usage of the words with minute details.

3. **Repetition**. Playing vocabulary games frequently involves using and being exposed to the target terms repeatedly. Students' long-term memory is strengthened by this repetition, increasing their likelihood of remembering and using the words in the future.

4. **Collaborative learning.** Several word games promote cooperative learning and collaborative problem-solving. As they interact to learn and use the new phrases, children develop a feeling of community and teamwork.

It's very crucial to select vocabulary games for students' language proficiency levels and particular learning objectives when using them in the classroom. Improved

language games should be well-integrated into the larger curriculum, offer relevant practice, and reinforce important ideas.

By incorporating these types of engaging and interactive games into vocabulary instruction, teachers can create a more dynamic and effective learning environment for their students.

In conclusion, integrating games into vocabulary instruction can significantly enhance the learning experience for students. By tapping into students' natural tendency to play, and providing meaningful contextual learning, vocabulary games offer an effective approach to language acquisition. As educators continue to explore innovative instructional methods, the power of games in teaching vocabulary remains a promising method for improving student outcomes.

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