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Using short stories to teach English vocabulary

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Abstract: This article analyzes the importance of short stories in teaching vocabulary in English classes. It also examines the challenges that the students face when improving their speaking, listening, reading and writing skills if they lack vocabulary.

Key words: short stories, speaking, listening, reading, writing.

Annotatsiya: Ushbu maqola ingliz tili darslarida lug'atni o'rgatishda qisqa hikoyalarning ahamiyatini tahlil qiladi. Shuningdek, u talabalarning so'zlashuv, tinglash, o'qish va yozish qobiliyatlarini yaxshilashda lug'at boyligi kam o'rganuvchilar duch keladigan qiyinchiliklarni o'rganadi.

Kalit so'zlar: qisqa hikoyalar, gapirish, tinglash, o'qish, yozish.

Аннотация: В статье анализируется важность коротких рассказов в обучении лексике на уроках английского языка. В нем также исследуются проблемы, с которыми студенты сталкиваются при улучшении своих навыков разговорной речи, аудирования, чтения и письма, если им не хватает словарного запаса.

Ключевые слова: рассказы, говорение, аудирование, чтение, письмо.

Short stories, help students, to learn the four skills-listening, speaking, reading and writing-more effectively because of the motivational benefit embedded in the stories. In addition, with short stories, instructors can teach literary, cultural, and higher-order thinking benefits.

Various studies have shown that using short stories in language teaching is very advantageous because it provides authentic material, cultural enrichment, language advancement, and personal growth. Among the various literary genres, a short story is one of the most appropriate to use in a language classroom.

Short stories are recommended to use to develop students' vocabulary. Vocabulary is the most important component of language teaching for young learners.

The teaching of English vocabulary, therefore, has a very essential role to enable English as a foreign language students to master English. Vocabulary is one of the important elements of language proficiency for it is the basis of how well learners speak, write, listen and read. Without a good mastery of vocabulary, learners may be discouraged in using the language being learned in daily activities [4]. Vocabulary holds a crucial position in English. Vocabulary are all the words in a particular language or "A list or collection of words and phrases usually alphabetically arranged and explained or defined" is the main element of language used to inform, to express ideas, to reveal desire and feeling, and to communicate with others [5]. As the main element of communication, vocabulary is an important aspect of English language learning. If the students do not have any vocabulary, it will be difficult for them to communicate with each other. Similarly,





Wallace believes that vocabulary has an important key in learning English [6]. Therefore, vocabulary acquisition is one of the central components of developing successful communication and literacy skills. Students can use vocabulary as they listen, speak, read and write. Students learn vocabulary directly and indirectly. They can reveal their ideas and comprehend other people's ideas if they have good vocabulary mastery. According to Thornbury, teaching vocabulary means conveying new information into the already existing system of the new mental lexicon [5].

Realizing the importance of vocabulary in communication and language learning as well, helping students to acquire a wide range of vocabulary is indispensable for any language teaching program. Furthermore, vocabulary learning is considered as a difficult task for foreign language learners recommended that teaching vocabulary should be made a part of language teaching.

The majority of EFL students suffer from a lack of sufficient vocabulary and get frustrated for not having enough words to express their ideas or not knowing the meaning of key vocabulary items in a passage. Accordingly, they find the task of speaking, writing or reading comprehension so tiresome, laborious and tedious so that they soon give up the task.

Since it is relatively short, a short story typically focuses on one central theme, one plot, and one major character, whereas a novel can include various plots and themes, with some prominent characters. They facilitate the readers to explore their minds of others, as sort of dress rehearsal for the future. This enables short stories to stimulate students to enthusiastically develop their vocabulary to understand the whole story. Learning vocabulary through short stories also helps the teachers create different contexts where student should use the language to communicate, exchange information and express their ideas. To summarize, short stories are teaching media that can facilitate the students to learn more about vocabulary.

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