# The application of vocabulary learning strategies in college English teaching 

Xue Meiwei<br>Lyceum of the Philippines University, Capitol Site, Batangas, 4200, Philippines


#### Abstract

With the continuous improvement of China's international status, the importance of English has become increasingly prominent, and it has become a compulsory course in universities, especially for English majors in universities. In modern society, English is an extremely important tool for information exchange. Therefore, it is particularly important to learn English well. While teaching students' vocabulary, college English teachers should also improve their research on vocabulary learning strategies and methods. Vocabulary is the basis of language learning. In the process of learning, only by learning vocabulary well can they better learn listening, speaking, reading, writing and other aspects. However, in the current college English teaching, there are many problems, such as students' lack of correct understanding of vocabulary, students' lack of vocabulary, and the poor effect of vocabulary teaching in class. Therefore, how to train students to use vocabulary learning strategies scientifically and effectively in college English teaching is an urgent problem for teachers to solve.


Keywords: vocabulary learning strategies; Colleges and universities; English teaching; application

## 1. Introduction

The development of English is inseparable from vocabulary. Therefore, in English teaching, the use of vocabulary is an important means to improve students' English listening, speaking, reading, writing and translating ability. Without words, people cannot express emotions and communicate information, but words are a weak link in the learning process of many English learners. A small vocabulary will directly lead to poor application ability, which will have a serious impact on the input and output of English, thus causing a great blow to learning enthusiasm. Therefore, in the process of English teaching, the learning of words is very important, which requires teachers to strengthen the education of words, guide students to use a scientific method to remember, understand and use words, and cultivate students to use learning strategies independently, so as to improve the learning efficiency of students.

## 2. Problems in current college English teaching

At present, with the deepening of college education reform, college English teaching has entered a new development period, and college students have encountered many problems and difficulties in the process of English learning. First, most students lack correct understanding of vocabulary. Now students all think that vocabulary is a word, not a carrier of language knowledge. So some students will not do a lot of reading and listening training on their own. It is very difficult for them to write through English vocabulary. Second, college students do not pay enough attention to vocabulary learning strategies. According to the survey and research, most college English majors in China have major problems in vocabulary learning strategies. These problems are mainly manifested in the following aspects: students pay insufficient attention to vocabulary size; The students did not master scientific and effective vocabulary learning strategies; Lack of scientific and effective vocabulary learning strategies; Teachers lack guidance and supervision on students' use of vocabulary learning strategies. Thirdly, there is still a phenomenon of "emphasizing language knowledge and neglecting language ability cultivation" in English teaching in colleges and universities in China, which leads to students' failure to achieve the effect of attaching equal importance to language ability and knowledge learning. Fourth, college English teaching lacks attention to grammar and reading skills training. Most English majors in China's universities use the courses of "English Intensive Reading" and "English Extensive Reading" for teaching. Therefore, the syllabus of both courses requires students to master a large number of words and phrases, but this method makes students lack understanding and memory of words and phrases in practical use ${ }^{[1]}$. In the course of "intensive reading", teachers often only explain the words and phrases in the text, while
teachers often do not check whether students understand the meaning of the text when students read. This makes students lack the understanding of the content and structure of the article when reading, and the sentences provided by teachers are often difficult to meet the students' reading needs, making students unable to master the required words and phrases in a relatively short time. The "extensive reading" course is mainly to improve students' ability to understand the culture and language of English-speaking countries and understand some practical reading skills. However, most teachers in this course only focus on the explanation of the content and structure of the text, but do not have too much requirements for vocabulary, phrases and syntax. Students often encounter difficulties in understanding, which makes students unable to grasp the central idea of the article when reading.

## 3. The role of vocabulary learning strategies in improving English performance

Vocabulary is one of the important factors to measure a person's English level. Vocabulary learning strategy is an effective learning method, which means that learners improve their vocabulary and increase their vocabulary through certain methods, skills and strategies. It includes two aspects: one is the strategy of enhancing memory, and the other is the strategy of enhancing understanding. Among them, memory enhancement strategies include associative memory, classified memory, etc. Mastering and learning vocabulary through certain methods, skills and strategies plays a great role in improving language expression ability and improving students' learning efficiency. The strategy of increasing comprehension includes reading, listening, writing, etc. It also plays an important role in improving students' comprehensive ability to use English. In the English test, students can get twice the result with half the effort if they can skillfully use vocabulary learning strategies. Because if students can skillfully apply vocabulary learning strategies in the exam, they can make flexible use of the vocabulary they have learned in the exam, and analyze and think about the knowledge, which can greatly improve their English scores.

The newly revised English Curriculum Standard of China points out that "when teaching language knowledge, teachers should flexibly use various methods according to students' cognitive characteristics and psychological development rules to stimulate students' interest and enthusiasm in learning English. Students should be encouraged to learn independently under the guidance of teachers to enhance their English learning ability." It can be seen that college English teachers should pay attention to the application of vocabulary learning strategies in teaching practice, Enhance students' interest and enthusiasm in learning vocabulary.

Most of the traditional English teaching is teacher-centered, which will lead to students' lack of confidence in listening, speaking, reading, writing and other aspects and become timid. Vocabulary learning strategies can improve students' self-confidence, courage and language expression ability. Students who do well in vocabulary learning strategies are often able to communicate confidently and boldly in English in various situations, which will improve their confidence in language expression ability. At the same time, they can also understand that vocabulary learning is a very interesting thing, so they are happy to learn vocabulary, and will also be willing to take the initiative to learn vocabulary.

Therefore, in order to improve English performance, first of all, students should build up confidence and courage to actively contact with vocabulary, use vocabulary and speak actively when communicating with classmates; Secondly, teachers can properly lead students to practice more words, phrases, sentence patterns, reading materials and writing exercises in class; Finally, teachers should properly guide students to review words. Teachers can help students consciously remember words in daily life by assigning afterclass tasks and classroom tests to students. College English teachers should improve their attention to the application of vocabulary learning strategies in classroom teaching practice, and cultivate and train them [2].

## 4. How to cultivate students' vocabulary learning strategies in college English teaching

### 4.1 Scenario creation

College English teachers should use various teaching means and methods to help students improve their vocabulary learning efficiency. They can teach students how to memorize vocabulary through teacher's explanation, improve students' interest in learning through situation creation, and also use modern educational technology and equipment to help students review and consolidate learned vocabulary. In short, teachers should do their best to help students master learning strategies. For students,
the methods of vocabulary teaching are different. For junior students, it is mainly to train in the use of learning and other aspects, and use games, stories, competitions and other forms to stimulate learning interest. In vocabulary teaching, there are many ways to improve learning interest and efficiency. For example, when teaching English words, teachers can tell some stories and tips about memorizing words to help students remember words. In addition, it is also very important to adopt teaching forms that students like, such as multimedia teaching, network teaching, discussion teaching, etc., so that students can better integrate into the English learning atmosphere and expand the number of students' vocabulary in communication.

### 4.2 Use association

College English teachers should pay attention to applying vocabulary learning strategies to students' daily life. For example, when teaching students to talk in English, they can use some difficult words to let students answer and let them play freely. In our daily life, we can teach students more ways and skills to remember words, such as association, contrast, etc. There are certain rules in vocabulary itself, and we should pay attention to observation, discovery, induction and summary in the process of learning. Use the method of association to build an intuitive image in the mind, combine new and old knowledge together, form a meaningful information network, let students remember it in the process of growth, thus forming a complete learning process. English learning is actually a process of connection. It uses multiple associative methods to memorize words, comprehensively stimulate visual, auditory, tactile and other sensory organs, so that the brain can be fully stimulated, see a word, think of a series of words, and bring together "distant relatives and close neighbors" related to it, such as sound, homograph, homograph, antonym, synonym, etc., to form a "group". In the process of teaching, the "group" continues to expand and the number of members continues to increase, which makes the vocabulary no longer isolated, but interconnected and responsive to each other ${ }^{[3]}$.

### 4.3 Infiltration culture

College English teachers should combine vocabulary learning strategies with college English teaching. If they can combine vocabulary learning strategies with college English teaching in actual teaching, it will improve the efficiency of college English class and be more conducive to students' learning English and mastering vocabulary. There are great differences between Chinese and English languages. In terms of their forms of expression, Chinese is comprehensive, while English is analytical; From the perspective of thinking mode, oriental people emphasize intuition, understanding and parataxis. while western people emphasize rationality, logic and hypotaxis. Without a different understanding of the two languages, it is impossible to have a profound understanding of the meaning contained in the language. Therefore, in learning English words, in addition to mastering pronunciation, spelling, meaning, collocation, style and color, it is more important to understand its cultural meaning. In different cultures, words have different meanings, which are related to local customs, social experience, religious beliefs, ideas and values. Learn to use the meaning of words properly under appropriate circumstances.

Vocabulary is the basis of language learning and an important tool for people to communicate. Therefore, learning vocabulary well is the key to learning English well. For most college students, it is very good to master the commonly used vocabulary. However, according to the problems existing in college students' learning English, we should pay attention to the following points: college students are not good at using English for communication; College students' vocabulary is insufficient; The effect of vocabulary teaching is poor; College English teachers pay little attention to vocabulary learning strategies. To solve these problems, scientific and reasonable teaching methods and means must be guaranteed ${ }^{[4]}$. Therefore, in the process of college English teaching, teachers should make full use of various teaching methods to help students learn vocabulary, use vocabulary and expand vocabulary. Only in this way can we cultivate high-level talents with rich connotation and high quality.

## 5. Conclusions

To sum up, English vocabulary is the basis of English learning, the basic tool for English communication, and one of the important factors for learning English well. In the process of learning, students must master certain vocabulary learning strategies in order to better understand and use the vocabulary they have learned, improve their learning efficiency, and improve their English level. To learn and master vocabulary learning strategies, they must have certain language knowledge as the basis. But at present, there are still some problems in foreign language teaching in China's colleges and

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universities, such as: teachers attach importance to grammar and ignore vocabulary learning strategies; Students have insufficient knowledge of vocabulary learning strategies; Students' ability to use vocabulary strategies to solve problems and deal with affairs is poor. In response to these problems, teachers should strive to improve teaching methods and encourage students to learn independently. Teachers can focus on how to guide and guide students to use vocabulary learning strategies reasonably and effectively in English class. In short, teachers can use different methods and means to guide students to use vocabulary learning strategies correctly and reasonably according to their different situations, and improve students' ability to use vocabulary learning strategies in English classes.

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