

THE ROLE OF GAMES IN LEARNING VOCABULARY

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Abstract: Learning english as a English Foreign Language (EFL) is a trendy phenomenon in this century. Hence, in order to figure out the language effectively, it had to be instructed in creative as well as interesting methods and using games inside the classroom in one of these methods. Traditionally, in grammar method students are insisted to memorize a list of words related to a reading text. However, this method is too boring for students and so they come across many difficulties related to learning by heart, and, naturally, they have a little desire to learn new words. But recent studies demonstrates that games play an important role in learning vocabulary because they enhance students' ability to memorize words, encourage students' motivation, develop their communicative skill.

Key words: EFL, creative and interesting methods, many difficulties, encourage motivation, develop communicative skill.

Discussions

Vocabulary is the primary part of language. Vocabulary learning is often boring for languages learners, especially for those who grew up in the digital age. Among foreign languages techniques, educational games are seen as appropriate and powerful for every student and children because they include interaction, physical and cognitive activity, socialization, competition and cooperation. The purpose of games in the learning process is to reinforce what has already been taught. During the game, learners are engaged in an enjoyable and challenging activity with a clear goal. Games can make the

students more focus in learning because they are not forced to learn. These games lower anxiety and can give shy students more opportunity to express their options and feelings. They also enable learners to acquire new experiences within a foreign language which are not always possible during a typical lesson. Games can be media that will give many advantages for teacher and the students as well. The use of games attract the students to learn English because it is fun and make them want to have experiment, discover and interact with their environment. These games as a teaching strategy may suit students with interpersonal intelligence because they provide an excellent setting for interaction between students. By playing different games, students together with teacher can decrease their depression, stress which affects their learning process negatively. Yudinseva (2015) states that "game-enhanced learning provides a set of effective strategies such as language repetitions, contextual clues, interaction with native speakers and peers, and imagery to practice and use second language vocabulary in the authentic context. Even though there are many benefits of games for foreign language learner, students may only play for fun, not for learning. Thus language teachers should be aware of when to use the games and how to connect them with the course content. The success of games in learning vocabulary depends on the teachers' responsibility to use cooperative activities and lessening students' stress together with bringing pleasure to the class.

Vocabulary learning games: There are some of the games used for teaching vocabulary like The Sims, Hangman, Semantic Boggle.

The Sims: The Sims is a play which consists of daily vocabulary, it is used for teaching different subjects. In addition, it can create motivation and provide players with action vocabulary doing daily, like cooking, cleaning, building, eating and etc.

Hangman: This is game which can be played with all students regardless of their levels and with few things. The players should predict the word and if they cannot answer

truly, they will be hanged in a pole.

Conclusion: By using vocabulary games, learning process is going to be more valuable, so it can help students to retain target words more quickly. Educational games are used frequently due to their benefits. They give students responsibility and the opportunity of being active physically and mentally. In addition, students gain or develop many skills such as taking turns, working individually and working with others as a team toward a common goal.

Resources

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