

THE ROLE OF VOCABULARY BASE IN READING

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Introduction

Reading comprehension is an important skill for navigating the textual world around us. It is a dynamic process that involves making predictions, summarizing the main idea, questioning one's predictions, and clarifying unclear concepts. This paper will give emphasis on to what extent vocabulary base has significance in reading comprehension and mostly, to boost reading score.

Key words: vocabulary base, reading comprehension, paraphrased form, academic relationship

Strong vocabulary foundation is most crucial part that requires serious consideration in reading, clearly, vocabulary is a key to open the reading door. Because, readers cannot get the exact meaning without knowing what most of the words mean. Reading vocabulary refers to the words we need to know to understand what we read. A student's level of reading comprehension is related to the vocabulary range that the student has. Also, vocabulary plays an essential role in learning to read. Consider, for example, what happens when a beginning reader comes to the word "dig" and "dog" in a book. If a reader knows meanings of words, he/she feels watching some view as they continue reading because, they can image actions and appearances of the words. For instance, by the words mentioned above, they may imagine a digging dog. Curtis (1987) provides a convincing rationale for measuring learner's vocabulary size. She states that research has shown that reader's knowledge base may affect their success in comprehension. She further adds that:

With the exception of students who have rich knowledge bases but experience difficulty in word recognition, students with low vocabulary scores are those who are missing information that can affect their comprehension and their ability to use reading as a means for acquiring new knowledge. Vocabulary testing can tell us which students need instruction in the kinds of knowledge they have been unable to acquire on their own.

Although these are interesting issues, what we are interested in examining is the role of vocabulary in reading comprehension. So, as I confirmed above "vocabulary size is important for what the reading comprehension and student's score in it, we have a small research again to test this phenomenon. There are two students who one knows elementary and common words while another has a good vocabulary base with the same text given to get information. This is the text:

Penguins breed by producing eggs. Both parents take turns in incubating the eggs, which typically lasts for eight weeks, although larger eggs from larger birds might take a little longer. When the chick is fully developed, it carefully chisels its way out of the egg using a little notch at the end of its beak. Upon emerging, the chicks are dependent on their parents to protect them from the elements, from predators and for their daily supply of food.

After the time limit, the first student may have missed quite much key information about birth of penguins in the text that come in academic or complex words or phrases like *take turns in incubating, typically, lasts for, chisels its way out, a notch, upon emerging, predators, daily supply of food.*

However, the second student must have already acquired full information about birth of penguins by grasping the text.

Additionally, having strong vocabulary base is of importance even when during reading test, because almost most words in the text change in form but not meaning when they come again in questions, I mean, they are paraphrased. Mark this text with activity for the clear example for the rule.

The environment is everything that surrounds us: plants, animals, buildings, country, air, water – literally anything that can affect us in any way. The environment of a town, with its buildings and traffic and its noise and smells, where everyone is on top of everyone else, is a cry from that of the countryside, with its fields and crops, its wild and domestic animals and its feeling of spaciousness. And the environment differs in the different parts of the world. Where an environment is undisturbed, the ecology of an area is in balance, but if a creature is exterminated or an alien species introduced, then the ecology of the district will be upset.

Exercise: find words or phrases in the text which mean the same as:

- A) Actually, truly
- B) Very different (phrase)
- C) The state of having a lot of room
- D) Kill and make extinct
- E) Foreign; coming from a different area

On this occasion, especially the one requires synonyms, to understand what is asked in questions or what information needs to be found, a reader should have more and more words familiar.

In a nutshell, I highlight the relationship between vocabulary base and reading comprehension. This study recognized vocabulary knowledge as predicting factors to reading comprehension in students studying English.