

WORD OF THE DAY ON DICTIONARY.COM

How Future Teachers Help Students' in Vocabulary Learning?

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Abstract

As future teachers they need some methods to help learners to improve and increase their vocabulary. Besides currently future teachers will face 21st century learners. It deals with today we live in modern era. Through using of technology it could help learners on learning process. This paper studies on future teachers' perception in order to use technology in learning process. The technology that will use is word of the day on dictionary.com application. By using the method learners will get new words every day.

Keywords: vocabulary, technology, word of the day, dictionary.com application, teachers' perception.

Introduction

Recently the future teachers will face the 21st learners. Mostly those use technology in their daily life. They cannot avoid themselves from their cell phone. From there a lot of applications could be downloaded free. However not all learners use technology to help them to learn something as well.

Technology is one of media to help people in order to learn. The future teachers are certainty will use it in order to help them and make the learning process to be easy. Moreover in English subject which has a lot of applications that could be downloaded. Nevertheless not all application could help whether English teachers or learners.

Even though currently is the 21st learners but there are so many learners who have lack of vocabulary. In order to help them surely they need an application to learn and improve it. Because one of the most important language tools in learning English language is vocabulary (Cameron, 2001; Hidayat, 2016). Thus it is needed an application to help them.

One of application which could help learners is dictionary.com. From there, whether teachers or learners will get many benefits, moreover for learners. There is a feature named word of the day which will help them truly. Thus, this paper highlights

on the use of word of the day on dictionary.com to improve vocabulary learning.

Vocabulary is quite important in learning language whether in ancient or not. Vocabulary has a great role, particularly for those who use the language as second language even foreign language. They have to mastery some vocabulary so that they could understand it. Besides that, mastery vocabulary could make them success in communicating to others who speak the language fluently [1].

In order to understand to the language and mastery some vocabulary, people who learn it, here they are learners need to develop their vocabulary. So that they could understand what they read and hear fluently and easily (Mubeen et al., 2014). Besides that one method to help learners is through using an application to develop their vocabulary.

Through using an application because one reason that currently future teacher will face the 21st century learners. We call them like that besides we live in 21st century, recently most learners always bring their own smartphone wherever they go. Thus through using an application, which a lot of them are in smartphone, is effective enough. Abbasi & Hashemi (2013) stated that the

impact of using smartphone on learners to improve their vocabulary learning.

The free application that learners will use is called dictionary.com. From that application, learners will get some features in. Eventhough if we want to use fully we have to pay it, but there are some features which we can use free. One of them named word of the day. Through that feature learners will get new word every day which most of them are strange or unfamiliar words or have different meaning whether in previous years or now. Further the teacher or future teacher will also give them some instructions to learn and improve those vocabulary (Mubeen et al., 2014). So that they are not only know the words but also they will understand it.

Besides, the teachers or future teachers will know how effective the application is. They strongly could implement this method through using a feature called word of the day on dictionary.com. Because this feature is a part of technology that easy to be used. By introducing and explaining first they will have some idea to develop the strategy to teach vocabulary through the word of the day. It could be combining those words or ask the learners to match or connect them with their life. In other words, it will be effective to teach recently learners.

Methodology

1. The Respondents

This research is studied how future teachers perception and think the use of technology in learning activity, moreover by using dictionary.com application. This application is strongly help the learners in order to improve their vocabulary and understanding of them. The feature that will use is called word of the day. It takes 33 respondents who all of them are undergraduate students in a state university in Magelang, Indonesia. The respondents consist of 27 female students and 6 male students. Most of them are joining a Teaching English Class as a Foreign Language (TEFL) class and apart had passed that subject and also there is a respondent who has not joined the class.

Furthermore all respondents are future teacher.

2. Data Collection

The researcher uses a qualitative research. The researcher spread a questionnaire to many people but only those number who give the questionnaire back and answer it. The questionnaire consists of five questions. Each question has a certain answered which the respondents must answer yes or no only. It let them to answer those questions honestly. Even though there are some respondents answer both of them and said that neutral. Afterwards they choose the answer, they must give a specific reason why he/she argued yes/no. However not all respondents give their reason why and some of them often are confused to give the reason. Also they do not give a certain reason.

This method is influenced by (Cam & Tran, 2017) and (Kusumaningrum, 2018). It is adapted and combination both of them. After the data have collected, it will be analysed and recognised. Like what Cam & Tran stated that questionnaire is quite useful collection method because researchers can reach many participants and respondents in a short time and it does not need cost so much (2017).

Besides that the questions which given are in English language although some reason that respondents answered are in Indonesian. Even though it does not impact the research. Besides, they could express their feeling easily and free. Not only that the questionnaire does not let the respondents to write their real name. They could write their real name or the initial. Then the researcher will name them as respondent one, two, and so on and it does not impact the data that have collected.

Finding and Discussion

1. Vocabulary is Important

The using of word of the day on dictionary.com application actually is a combination of using technology and teaching vocabulary. The researcher has 33

respondents in this research. All of respondents who they all are future teachers meaning that 100% respondents agree with the question that vocabulary is highly important in learning language.

Teaching vocabulary in learning process especially in learning language is strongly important. Without vocabulary we could not know what shall and will we say. Vocabulary has a great role in learning language. Even for some people it is main role.

It is shown that all respondents agree with it. Through learning vocabulary, learners will mastery language that they learn, in this case is English language, stated respondent 25.

It is true because when learners want to mastery of language that they learn they must have a lot of vocabulary. Moreover in English which has a lot of vocabulary. In English, this language has a lot of borrowing words from many languages in this world. Thus it is very clear that vocabulary has a great role in learning language, moreover English.

“Learning vocabulary could develop students’ intelligence to choose appropriate words in the right context,” said respondent 8.

It occurs because in English there are so many words that have more than one even two part of speech. Like book for example. It could be noun as something that contains so many sentences and contains information or something that used by people to write. It also could be verb as it has order or reserve from previous days before.

It is clear that the mistakes possibility in order of words putting will decrease even null if learners have a lot of vocabulary. If learners have will understood it, they will not be confused what time they must use book as noun or as verb.

2. Method to Help Leaners in Mastering Vocabulary

In order to attract learners to improve their vocabulary the future teachers have to

have some methods to attract their interest. It could be conventional or modern method. However for conventional method it will be difficult to attract them.

Memorizing through dictionary for instance. Learners will get easy bored through this way. It has shown. They are too lazy to open it. Even though through this method will make them remember in a long time, but this is for those who wants to read carefully. It has small number of learners who use this method.

Therefore, all respondents strongly agree that they must have a method or some methods to attract students’ interest. Because currently we face 21st century learners and today we live in modern era which demands us to think creative.

Respondent 5 also agree with the researcher that using method will attract students’ interest. The reason is also strengthened that the using of method will attract students’ interest in learning vocabulary and also evade students’ boring, argued respondent 12.

Besides it is written that through memorizing from dictionary is not effective. “Some students do not interest to memorize vocabulary through dictionary,” said respondent 33. Not only like that, but also there is a respondent called respondent 16 who said that through traditional or conventional teaching can make students are bored. It is shown that through memorizing especially from dictionary such as a boring and conventional thing which make students get bored easily. Thus the teachers and future teachers really need a method or some methods to attract them and make learning language process to be fun.

3. The Using of Technology in the Learning Process

The method that could help learners is the using of technology in the classroom. As we know that modern era and 21st century learners are definitely related. Thus the using of technology in the classroom is needed by learners.

The using of technology in learning language process moreover is important. Most respondents agree with that. There are 88% or 29 respondents agree with that and the rest do not agree. Most of those who agree with the using of technology could help learners in learning process because it makes learning process to be easy. Besides that today we live in modern era and we face 21st learners.

Although more than a half respondents agree with that but also there are some respondents do not agree. “Actually I am not sure. However some of technology that is used make difficult instead of make easy,” argued respondent 10. That reason is also caused that not all people or learners in Indonesia could use and access it. It likes respondent 26 who said that most of technology nowadays are using internet quota. Meanwhile not all learners could access and use it and have much internet quota. Especially those are who live in remote area. It is impossible for them to use it because to make phone dialling is very difficult instead of accessing internet.

Thus it can be concluded that although less than 50% do not agree with it but also the using of technology should adjust the place. Like we teach in remote area or big city. They need different treatment.

4. Word of the Day on Dictionary.com App Helps Students in Mastering Vocabulary

It is clear that learners and also teacher and future teachers need technology during learning process. It could help them, make it easy or attracts learners. Here researcher introduces a technology application called dictionary.com. Inside of application there is a feature named word of the day which it will and could help learners. Through this feature they will know and understand different words every day. Most of the words are very unpopular or have very different meaning.

From the questionnaire that have been spread shows that 91% or 30 respondents agree that word of the day on dictionary.com

application could help learners to improve their vocabulary. Today we have already known that we cannot evade technology.

Based on the researched those future teachers agree with that because word of the day on dictionary.com could help learners to improve their vocabulary because its feature serves different words every day. It will increase learners’ vocabulary mastery.

“The words which is in Word of the day on dictionary.com appears in different words. Not only like that but also the words have another meaning moreover in previous years ago.” Respondent 17 argued it.

Most people only know that Benedict is a male name but in word of the day, it is told with different meaning. Word of the day on dictionary.com tells that benedict is a newly married man. Particularly who has been long a bachelor. Benedict as common noun entered English in the 19th century. Their part of speech are noun but they have different meaning. Furthermore is also show that it common use in previous years ago.

Respondent 11 also argued that because of learners get new words every day, they will remember and understand those words indirectly. In a result they are able to apply those words that they know for communication.

Meanwhile 9% of 33 respondents do not agree with that because the two said that they only see what they receive in their cell phone. “Most learners will only see that and do not write or try to remember it. It makes them forget easily to what they see. Again, they only see not read,” respondents 18 argued. Besides that sometimes they are difficult to focus on what they face, so it makes them forget easily.

5. The Applying Word of the Day on Dictionary.com App in Learning Process

When the respondents were asked whether they will implement this method or not when they teach, the number shows that 85% or 28 English future teachers will

implement it. It reveals that the method could be chosen.

Like respondent 7 and 24 argued that word of the day on dictionary application is an interesting tools to teach and also it is easy to use and affordable. Respondent 15 also stated that he will try to implement the method because through this method the learners and the respondents will know the strange and unpopular word.

However those four respondents or 15% do not agree with that. Those respondents have different reason why. Respondent 28 for example has a reason that he will not use if there is a better application. The reason is also supported by respondent 13 that he also will not use this method through the application if there is easiest application and it is fully free.

“Actually the using of certain method or application is depends on the situation. Moreover about the area and pace. Because this method and application need internet quota, so if there is no internet access, I will not use it.” Respondent 14 give long reason why he will not use it.

6. Discussion

From Cameron [2] said that the role of vocabulary for young learners' language is quite great. Furthermore, vocabulary consists of various dimensions which define the words' meaning, [3] states that. Thus having a lot of vocabulary in learning English language is quite important.

Because of that all respondents who have given their answer agree with that. No one doubt that vocabulary has a great and main role for learners. Therefore vocabulary will help learner in order to learn language.

To understand the language exactly, vocabulary is very crucial to be mastered by learners. Vocabulary mastery is needed to be able to understand other people's talk about and to express our ideas. Currently there are many ways and methods to improve and increase vocabulary. In previous years learners and teachers used conventional method such as memorizing words from dictionary. This method is effective but sometimes it makes learners getting bored.

[4]stated that using strategies in language learning are highly important because learners are a device for active and self-responsible learning.

The respondents also totally agree that as future teacher they need methods to help their learners. The methods will also attract students' interest. Moreover a fun method does not make learners get bored easily and it fits to the reason why the researcher makes this research.

The 21st century learners need something fresh and something fun to learn. Through technology future teachers could help them in learning language process. The technology have a reciprocal relationship with teaching, (Klopfer et al., 2009) said it. Many applications especially dictionary application are provided but only a small half which is trusted and useful. These small half are not only provide the words but also others. (Cameron, 2001; Alqahtani, 2015) argues that kinds of developing vocabulary such as learning phrases, finding words inside them and learning even more than those words.

However not all respondents agree with the using of technology in the learning process. It happens because some technology will make difficult instead of easy. Besides most technology that used are using internet quota whereas not all people could have and access it. Moreover in the remote area. The data shows that 12% respondents will not use technology. Although the number is great enough but also the using of technology in learning process is fits with the theory why

Then English learners need to develop to be large and functional vocabularies quickly (Mubeen et al., 2014). From word of the day on dictionary.com application provides different words every day with different part of speech and meaning. Actually some of the words which provide have same meanings in daily life and daily conversation. However it delivers with other words. Then according to (Pal et al., 2013) said that the system could predict the meaning of ambiguous words using a few sentences.

When learners have got the words, they will comprehend and try to understand them.

The feature also provides the meaning of the words, so learners could be easy to understand it. It is strengthened with the data that more than 90% or 30 future teachers agree that word of the day on dictionary.com could help learners to improve and increase their vocabulary. It is also supported by the background of the research.

Afterwards more than 80% will try to implement this method in learning process. Future teachers could improve the strategy so that it is not only memorizing but also doing. Like making sentences from those words for instance. It is effective enough because learners can learn and write sentences again which might be too complex for a reader so it makes easily understand through the process of making [5]. Therefore, guessing context as a way of dealing with unfamiliar vocabulary in unedited selections had been suggested (Dubin, 1993; Alqahtani, 2015).

It relates to the reason because word of the day on dictionary.com is easy to use. Besides it is free download although users must pay if they want to get pro version. However to this feature is totally free.

When teachers employ effective vocabulary learning and teaching strategies which are the objectives is the growth of vocabulary knowledge could be one of the essential pre-requisites for language acquisition and only be possible [3]. It is clear that employing something effective and fresh are really needed. Then stressing that knowing the meaning of a word is growth. The synonym and word meaning should be included on testing in current vocabulary tests although those are limited enough (Dolch, 1992; Mukoroli, 2011). Thus vocabulary is totally not allowed to be ignored by anyone who learns a language [6].

Conclusion

The 21st century learning process through using technology is strongly important particularly through an application. By knowing word of the day from dictionary.com application is totally help

learners to improve their vocabulary. That is one of some ways which could help learners. Besides from those vocabulary learners also make something from teachers' or learners' idea. It is effective enough because it is easy and learners just open their own gadget to access it. Thus learning vocabulary is totally important because it could help students in learning English and help them in mastering.

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Appendix

Questionnaire of Word of the Day on Dictionary.com: How Future Teachers Help Students' in Vocabulary Learning?

Dictionary.com is one of some applications that can be accessed through smart phone or personal computer. One of features inside is called word of the day. The feature is always update with different words every day. Most of them are strange and unfamiliar words and some of them are commonly used in previous years.



1. As English future teacher, do you think that vocabulary is important?
(Y/N)
Reason:
2. Do you think that you need a method or some to attract students' interest to improve their vocabulary?
(Y/N)

Reason:

3. Do you think that using technology in the classroom is help them?

(Y/N)

Reason:

4. Through word of the day on dictionary.com, do you think it is help them to improve their vocabulary?

(Y/N)

Reason:

5. Do you think that probably you will use it when you teach?

(Y/N)

Reason: