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**STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT OF THE STEPS TO IMPROVE  
GRAMMAR AND VOCABULARY IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

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**ABSTRACT**

*This study was to examine the strategic assessment of the steps to improve grammar and vocabulary in English Language. English language is the most common language in the world. Grammar and vocabulary are the soul of any language. A large number of native and second-language speakers use English on a global scale. English is the main language of communication in international diplomatic relations. The study concluded that improving grammar and vocabulary in English language is an important strategy for beginning and intermediate language learners because it allows them to use the language for comprehension or production despite their lack of grammar and vocabulary knowledge. However, grammar and vocabulary instruction are the major elements of both literacy and disciplinary area instruction. Grammar and vocabulary are just as difficult, relative, and complex to teach as the English language itself. One of the recommendations made was that student should adopt the strategies of improving their grammar and vocabulary in English language*

**KEYWORDS: Grammar, Vocabulary, and English Language**

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**Introduction**

English language is the most common language in the world. Grammar and vocabulary are complex but crucial processes in the course of an educational and epistemological programme for learning any language, especially English. It is all but mandatory for a teacher of English to teach vocabulary and grammar so that the learner can develop the basic strategy of learning the English language (Azam, 2014). Grammar and vocabulary are the soul of any language. Moreover, its teaching procedures could be interesting enough. It is universally acknowledged that the more words a learner learns, the more proficient he will be and the more he will be able to use the language in diverse contexts. Thus, the teaching of grammar and vocabulary cannot be overlooked. According to Jeremy (2008), Grammar is often used as a generic way of referring to any aspect of English that people object to. The formal study of grammar is an important part of children's

schooling from a young age through advanced learning, though the rules taught in schools are not "grammar" in the sense that most linguists use, particularly as they are prescriptive in intent rather than descriptive.

Alshahrani (2019) stated that among the thousands of languages spoken around the world, English has become the primary global language of the 21st century. A large number of native and second-language speakers use English on a global scale. English is the main language of communication in international diplomatic relations (Crystal, 2003). Two of the most important components of learning English are grammar and vocabulary. Öztürk, (2018) believes that grammar was the dominant teaching element in English language until the beginning of the 21st century. It was observed that in the classical language teaching methods, particular attention is paid to including grammatical rules in the instructional materials. Based on these rules, various types of drills are designed in the instructional materials. Harmon, Wood, Hedrick, Vintinner, and Willeford (2009) suggest that vocabulary is a continual process of encountering new words in meaningful and comprehensible contexts. He further explains that a strong base of vocabulary knowledge is indispensable for fostering the language skills, which are the four pillars of English language.

### **Concept of Grammar**

Grammar refers to the ways in which the sentences of a language are constructed using morphology and syntax. It is also an account of features that sets a rule of accounting for these constructions. According to Richards, (2021), Grammar can therefore be understood as a resource people make use to create discourse that is grammatically appropriate at both the level of the sentence and the text. In linguistics, the grammar of a natural language is its set of structural constraints on speakers' or writers' composition of clauses, phrases, and words (Wikipedia 2021). The term can also refer to the study of such constraints, a field that includes domains such as phonology, morphology, and syntax, often complemented by phonetics, semantics, and pragmatics. There are currently two different approaches to the study of grammar, traditional grammar and theoretical grammar. The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica (2020) stated that grammar is the rules of a language governing the sounds, words, sentences, and other elements, as well as their combination and interpretation. The word grammar also denotes the study of these abstract features or a book presenting these rules. In a restricted sense, the term refers only to the study of sentence and word structure (syntax and morphology), excluding vocabulary and pronunciation. Grammar is the set of structural constraints on speakers' or writers' composition of clauses, phrases, and words. The term can also refer

to the study of such constraints, a field that includes domains such as phonology, morphology, and syntax, often complemented by phonetics, semantics, and pragmatics. There are currently two different approaches to the study of grammar, traditional grammar and theoretical grammar. According to Holmes (2001), the term "grammar" can also describe the linguistic behavior of groups of speakers and writers, rather than individuals. Differences in scales are important to this sense of the word: for example, the term "English grammar" could refer to the whole of English grammar (that is, to the grammars of all the speakers of the language), in which case the term encompasses a great deal of variation.

Grammar refers to the rules that govern the way sentences are formed and words are used to make meaning. Grammar refers to the use of a number of different senses. The grammar of a language may be understood to be a full description of the form and meaning of the sentences of the language, or else it may cover only certain, variously delimited, parts of such a description (Huddleston, 2012). Grammar is the foundation for all of our writing and speaking in English. Having a solid foundation makes it easier to achieve fluency (Grammarly 2021). Native speakers can benefit from a refresher on English grammar basics, which they may have forgotten over time. Refreshing the basics is one way to help break bad habits in writing. Grammar is part of the study of language, which deals with the forms and structures of words (morphology), with their customary arrangement in phrases and sentences (syntax), and now often with language sounds (phonology) and word meanings (semantics). A common contemporary definition of grammar is the underlying structure of a language that any native speaker of that language knows intuitively. The systematic description of the features of a language is also a grammar (Editors of Encyclopaedia 2020). These features are the phonology (sound), morphology (system of word formation), syntax (patterns of word arrangement), and semantics (meaning). Depending on the grammarian's approach, a grammar can be prescriptive (i.e., provide rules for correct usage), descriptive (i.e., describe how a language is actually used), or generative (i.e., provide instructions for the production of an infinite number of sentences in a language). The traditional focus of inquiry has been on morphology and syntax, and for some contemporary linguists (and many traditional grammarians) this is the only proper domain of the subject.

### **Concept of Vocabulary**

Vocabulary is a set of familiar words within a person's language. A vocabulary, usually developed with age, serves as a useful and fundamental tool for communication and acquiring knowledge. Acquiring an extensive

vocabulary is one of the largest challenges in learning a second language (Wikipedia 2019). Vocabulary can be defined as a set of words used in a specific language. It includes all of the words you understand when you read, write, or listen to someone speak. That is, our vocabulary consists of all the words that we understand, feel, or comprehend in the correct context (Toppr 2020). Vocabulary is commonly defined as "all the words known and used by a particular person." Vocabulary is a vital part of lingual expression. A good knowledge of words helps in the effective presentation of ideas, oral or written (WizIQ 2017). It creates an impact on the listeners or readers of the communicator as being a learned and erudite person. Enhancing the word power is sought after by students and professionals alike, as it lends fluidity to words and conveys the most appropriate idea that is in one's mind. Stahl, (2005) Vocabulary is the knowledge of a word that not only implies a definition, but also implies how that word fits into the world. Vocabulary is an important focus of literacy teaching and refers to the knowledge of words, including their structure (morphology), use (grammar), meanings (semantics), and links to other words (word/semantic relationships). WETA's (2021) stated that vocabulary refers to the words we must understand to communicate effectively. Educators often consider four types of vocabulary: listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

Vocabulary definition is the group and collection of words that are known and used by a particular person. It can also be defined as a list or collection of words or phrases that are normally alphabetically arranged and defined or explained (Vedantu 2020). During its infancy, a child instinctively builds a vocabulary. Infants imitate words that they hear and then associate those words with objects and actions. This is the listening vocabulary. The speaking vocabulary follows, as a child's thoughts become more reliant on his/her ability to self-express without relying on gestures or babbling. Once the reading and writing vocabulary start to develop, through questions and education, the child starts to discover the anomalies and irregularities of language. According to Brysbaert, Stevens, Mandera, & Keuleers (2016), vocabulary grows throughout one's life. Between the ages of 20 and 60, people learn about 6,000 more lemmas, or one every other day. People expand their vocabulary by, e.g., reading, playing word games, and participating in vocabulary related programs. Exposure to traditional print media teaches correct spelling and vocabulary, while exposure to text messaging leads to more relaxed word acceptability constraints.

### **Concept of English Language**

English language refers to the system of production of meaning for the expression of living by English people who were originally from Germany,

but the language has spread to many parts of the world where it is used as a second, third, or foreign language (Sanuvickybless 2021). English is a language that was originally the language of the people of England. Today, English is the main language in the United Kingdom, Ireland, the United States of America, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and more than fifty other countries. English language is a West Germanic language of the Indo-European language family that is closely related to the Frisian, German, and Dutch (in Belgium, called Flemish) languages. English originated in England and is the dominant language of the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, Ireland, New Zealand, and various island nations in the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean (Potter, 2020). It is also an official language of India, the Philippines, Singapore, and many countries in sub-Saharan Africa, including South Africa. English is the first choice of foreign language in most other countries in the world, and it is that status that has given it the position of a global lingua franca. It is estimated that about a third of the world's population, some two billion people, now use English. English is a West Germanic Indo-European language that was originally spoken by the people of early medieval England (Wardhaugh, 2010). It is named after Anglia, a peninsula on the Baltic Sea (not to be confused with East Anglia), and the Angles, one of the ancient Germanic peoples that migrated to the area of Great Britain that later took their name: England. Living languages most closely related to English include the Low Saxon and Frisian languages, while English's vocabulary has been significantly influenced by Old Norman French and Latin, as well as by other Germanic languages, particularly Old Norse (a North Germanic language) (Svartvik, & Leech, 2006). English language is an Indo-European language belonging to the West Germanic branch, and is the official language of Britain, the United States, and most of the commonwealth countries.

For instance, the concept "English" represents various dimensions: for instance, English is the name of a European people, and it is also the language spoken by people in that country (as well as in several other countries, depending on the definition of other concepts such as "speaker" and "language"). English is also, for instance, the codification of a language in dictionaries and grammars, and in many contexts (particularly related to education), it also refers to literature written in English (Rindal, 2014). English is a universal language. When we meet people from other countries, at home or abroad, we need English for communication. When we want information on something of private or professional interest, we often search for it in English. In addition, English is increasingly used in education and as a working language in many companies. To succeed in a world where English is the language of international communication, it is necessary to be

able to use the English language and to have knowledge of how it is used in different contexts. (KD, 2013). English has ceased to be an English language in the sense of belonging only to people who are ethnically English. Use of English is growing country-by-country internally and for international communication. Most people learn English for practical rather than ideological reasons (Kachru, 2006). Many speakers of English in Africa have become part of an Afro-Saxon language community that unites Africans from different countries. Nordquist, (2020) affirmed that the term "English" is derived from "Anglisc," the language of the Angles, one of the three Germanic tribes that invaded England during the fifth century. The English language is the primary language of several countries, including Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and many of its former colonies, and the United States, and is the second language in a number of multilingual countries, including India, Singapore, and the Philippines.

### **Strategic Step to Improve Grammar and Vocabulary in English Language**

In English language, due to individual differences, some learners acquire a new language more quickly and effectively, while others may struggle and make slow progress (Dörnyei & Skehan, 2003). One of the factors attributed to individual differences is the learning strategies, which refers to specific actions taken by the learner to make learning easier, faster, enjoyable, self-directed, and more effective while improving their grammar and vocabulary in English language. Using learning strategies consciously helps learners learn English more quickly and effectively (Supakorn, Feng, & Limmun, 2018). Grammar and vocabulary are subjects that stress many students out, as they can be quite confusing and complicated. However, correct grammar and vocabulary are important for listening, speaking, reading, and writing both as a student and as a future employee (Tutors, 2014). It is thus crucial to know the strategic steps to improve grammar and vocabulary skills in English language.

**Listening to Improve Grammar and Vocabulary:** Listening is the process of receiving, constructing meaning from, and responding to spoken and/or non-verbal messages. Listening is an active, purposeful process of making sense of what we hear (Helgesen, 2003). Listening is one of the most important strategies in improving your learning of the English language. When students listen to English, they face a lot of listening difficulties. Students have critical difficulties in listening comprehension because universities and schools pay more attention to grammar and vocabulary (Gilakjani, & Sabouri, 2016). It is very important to teach listening strategies to students, and before doing this, teachers should increase learners' knowledge of grammar and vocabulary. The development of a strategy is

important for listening training since it allows students to lead and assess their own knowledge and improvement in developing grammar and vocabulary. The act of listening plays a vital part in our daily lives. Listening is the most frequently used strategy in our daily life compared to the other three skills. 45% corresponds to listening, 30% to speaking, 16% to reading, and 9% to writing. Language learners may encounter some difficulties in understanding the incoming speech. Hedge (2005) divides these difficulties into two categories: internal and external problems. Internal problems can be listed as a lack of motivation, a high level of anxiety, a lack of knowledge of the topic under discussion, and unknown grammar and vocabulary of what is being heard. On the other hand, external problems are related to listeners' failures to understand as a result of the speakers' characteristics and environmental noises.

**Speaking to Improve Grammar and Vocabulary:** Speaking is one of the four strategies to improve grammar and vocabulary in English language (reading, writing, listening, and speaking). It is the means through which learners can communicate with others to achieve certain goals or to express their opinions, intentions, hopes, and viewpoints. Akhyak and Indramawan (2013) stated that language is a means of communication or speaking. In this case, as a human being, it must be able to communicate or speak orally. Language has a main role in students' intellectual, social, and emotional development, and it is the key to successfully studying all of the subjects. In the curriculum, speaking is one of the basic competences that should be mastered by the students. Speaking is a speech production that becomes a part of our daily activities (Thornburry, 2005). Underwood (1997), as cited in Akhyak and Indramawan (2013), says that speaking means a creative process, an active interaction between speaker and listener that involves thought and emotion. Speaking involves three areas of knowledge. They are mechanics (pronunciation, grammar, and vocabulary). It is the ability to use the right words in the right order with the correct pronunciation and function (transaction and interaction): knowing when clarity of message is essential (transaction/information exchange) and when precise understanding is not required (interaction/relationship building) and also social cultural rules and norms. It consists of the knowledge of turn-taking, rate of speech, length of pauses between speakers, relative roles of participants. It is the ability to understand how to take into account who is speaking to whom, in what circumstances, about what and for what reason. Then Weir defines five aspects that have to be paid attention to in speaking; they are content, vocabulary, grammar, performance, and fluency.

**Reading to Improve Grammar and Vocabulary:** Reading is also a strategy to learn grammar and vocabulary in English language. Schmitt (2000) has a list of strategies to learn grammar and vocabulary. For example, the discovery of a new word's meaning: in this strategy, students need to read a text to analyze, check, guess the meaning, and use a dictionary of new words. Grammar and vocabulary are valuable resources for reading strategies. When the students learn more grammar and vocabulary, they will be able to read any type of text and understand almost all of it. Schmitt (2000), the percentage of known or unknown grammar and vocabulary is one of the most important factors that determine the difficulty of a text's comprehension. And this factor is seen in some students at the elementary level who only have a basic knowledge of grammar and vocabulary, which they have learned in their English classes at secondary school or high school. Sometimes students do not have the tools to improve their reading skills, grammar, and vocabulary. Regardless of the language to be learnt, successful reading comprehension is dependent on the grammar and vocabulary the reader knows. Grammar and vocabulary play a very important role in understanding texts, both for the first language (L1) and for the other languages (L2 or L3) acquired (Jeon & Yamashita, 2014). However, little is currently known about how grammar, vocabulary, and reading comprehension for English as a language develop and interact in a bilingual primary school context, especially with respect to minority language children who often have a migration background.

**Writing to Improve Grammar and Vocabulary:** Grammar and vocabulary are very important because they improve the quality of writing. Writing is a major language skill that should be the concern of teachers and students. Some first year English language students seem less interested in writing correct sentences and paragraphs because of the lack of grammar/vocabulary and writing practice in the classroom (MOURI, 2020). Writing is the productive skill that seems the most challenging, even for native speakers of a language, since it includes coherence, grammar, and vocabulary. Haghi & Pasand (2012) claimed that research on this issue indicates that creating a good piece of writing is considered a challenging skill, even in one's native language. Writing grammar and vocabulary are fundamental to consolidating what students learn. Khazaal (2019) affirms that without sufficient practice, students cannot develop their writing skills to a higher level. Grammar and vocabulary writing provide a selective overview of the key areas of English language that you need to master in order to express yourself correctly and appropriately in academic writing. Those areas include the basic distinctions of meaning in the verb tense system, the use of modal verbs to express degrees of certainty and



commitment, and alternative ways of grouping and ordering written information to highlight the flow of your argument (Lynch and Anderson, 2013). Each language has its own uniqueness and creativity. Grammar and vocabulary are regarded not as fundamentals of speaking a language or writing it with accuracy but as helpful tools that can be easily recalled for expressing views in spoken and written forms as well as for proficiency in reading and listening as well.

### **Conclusion**

The study concluded that improving grammar and vocabulary in English language is an important strategy for beginning and intermediate language learners because it allows them to use the language for comprehension or production despite their lack of grammar and vocabulary knowledge. However, grammar and vocabulary instruction are the major elements of both literacy and disciplinary area instruction. Grammar and vocabulary are just as difficult, relative, and complex to teach as the English language itself.

### **Recommendations**

1. Student should adopt the appropriate strategies of improving their grammar and vocabulary in English language in order to make them outstanding their daily speeches.
2. Grammar and vocabulary should be made a key instrument in listening, speaking, reading, and writing English language by school officials to help students enhance their ability to express themselves.
3. Student should develop a good reading habit to improve their grammar and vocabulary in English language.
4. School administrators should provide manual for students to improve their grammar and vocabulary in English language at all time.

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