

The Effects of Antonym on English Vocabulary Teaching and Learning

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Vocabulary plays a significant role in listening, speaking, reading and writing. Rich, multifaceted, and encompassing English vocabulary teaching activities should be implemented in our schooling. Incorporating antonym into vocabulary teaching activities can effectively enhance students' vocabulary knowledge. However, there has been a paucity of experimental studies on antonymy. The purpose of this study is to add to the limited information in this field. The experimental design for this study was a 2×2 factorial structure for repeated measures (the within-subject design). The two factors in this design were sentence completion and display of antonyms. The independent variable was the teaching method and the dependent variable was the score on the posttest, containing exactly the same words taught in the experiment. There were four methods in this experiment: the traditional method, the traditional method plus sentence completion, the traditional method plus display of antonyms and the traditional method plus sentence completion plus display of antonyms (called Janusian thinking method). The results indicated that the main effect of display of antonyms was statistically significant. How antonym helped students learn vocabulary was also discussed.

Keywords: antonyms, oxymoron, paradox, vocabulary teaching methods, Janusian thinking

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