

Importance of General Academic Vocabulary in Improving Writing Skills for Higher Secondary Students

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Abstract

Vocabulary plays a major role in English language teaching. It is the important tool to acquire four language skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. General academic vocabulary is referred as high frequency words that are appears regularly in written text across the multiple subjects but not frequently used in conversational language. Language learners must be familiar with the academic words because of their academic purposes. Writing skills are the kind of skills used to communicate human thoughts and ideas in various written forms. The research points out some basic ways to improve writing skills of higher secondary students based on their writing practices in school: letter writing, paragraph writing, dialogue writing, essay writing, precise writing, developing hints, road map, describe the picture and note making, listing the vocabularies repeatedly used in writing skills in school level of writing. The results of the research find out general academic vocabulary as one of the important tool to improving higher secondary students writing skills in academic level.

Keywords: General Academic Vocabulary, Secondary Students, Writing Skills, ESL Learners, Importance of Vocabulary.

Introduction

The aim of the study is to show how general academic vocabulary is important when the higher secondary students are going to improve their writing skills. Vocabulary plays a major role in English language teaching, without vocabulary there is no way to sharing our ideas and communicate with others. Vocabulary is an important tool to acquire four language skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. Academic vocabulary refers to list of words that are used in academic context. That words are used in academic dialogues and textbooks but they do not appear in day to day conversation. Academic vocabulary is divided into two types there are general academic vocabulary and technical academic vocabulary. General academic vocabulary is referred as high frequency words appearing regularly in written text across the multiple subjects but not frequently used in conversational language. General academic vocabulary is a list of words that are commonly used in academic context. Some words are more general but some general academic vocabulary has a particular style of tone in writing and speaking, and shows in its formal and academic writing. For example the phrases “aims of this report is to...” In this phrase “aims” and “report” are general academic vocabulary words. The words used in academic context are also known the academic transition words.

The general academic vocabulary is a list of words that are having meaning of both in general and academic context too. The words like general and control the words meaning in: **1.Discipline:** General meaning: train the people to obey Academic meaning: its means a subject of study, another word is **2.Control:** General meaning: power of something or somebody, Academic meaning: the group used in an experiment to test results.

All the students especially English language learners get risk to acquire the four language skills and understand to instruction from others, general academic vocabulary fulfils their needs for this kind of acquisitions. Writing skills are the kind of skills to use to write effective and brief manner. The research points out the major writings skills of higher secondary students are letter writing, paragraph writing, dialogue writing, and essay writing, precise writing, developing hints, note making, road map, and describe the picture. The research reveals importance of general academic vocabulary when the higher secondary students improve their writing skills.

Importance of General Academic Vocabulary

Learning vocabulary is one of the main tricks to use to students manage in both written and spoken. General academic vocabulary is referred as high frequency words that appear regularly in written text across the multiple subjects but not frequently used in conversational language. All the language learners must be familiar with the academic words because of their academic purposes.

General academic vocabulary comes across among all the subjects. When learner want to be stronger in pronunciation, communication, spelling, meaning, grammar, sentence pattern, they must be academic words. General academic vocabulary provides kind of confidence to the students. The research points out the importance of general academic vocabulary:

- General academic vocabulary increases the quality of writing and speaking.
- Students must be familiar with new academic words.

- To develop interest on communicate with others.
- To familiar all the subject words.
- Easily understand a simple sentences.
- To make interest to know new academic words.
- To make interest to read an academic text books.
- To create knowledge about new writing styles.

For higher secondary students, the general academic vocabulary is an important aspect such as: spelling and pronunciation, meaning, collocations, grammar, and connotation.

1. **Spelling and pronunciation:** In any vocabulary learning spelling and pronunciation of the words are the starting point and then the learner is became needs to be familiar with forms (verb, noun, plural forms etc....).
2. **Meaning:** we all know very much in academic context meaning and words are having a special link in language learning. The listener able to manage the major problems of communication general academic words is used to understand the meaning of easy words.
3. **Collocation:** The students learn academic words productively together of collocation words depending on different preposition and phases.
4. **Grammar:** The learners understand the grammar meaning of the academic words.
5. **Connotation:** connotations are used to differentiate the formal and informal meaning of the sentences in academic context.

Improving Writing Skills

Writing skills are the kind of skills used to communicate human thoughts and ideas in various written forms. The important part of writing abilities is having knowledge about writing protocols, styles, and formats. Writing skills are most important because it communicates people without physically present. Here, the research uses general academic vocabulary to improve writing skills of higher secondary students. Effective writing skills for higher secondary students include using a right words, creating sentences, learn rich vocabulary, and convey message in accurately. Writing skills are essential for students in their day to day life, professional and academic also because writing skills are used to express their ideas to others through mails, text, essays reports etc.... Why writing skills are important to the students because of their communication, academic success, critical thinking, professional opportunities, self-expression, and better reading.

The common ways to improve writing skills to the students are regular writing, learning more vocabulary, planning for writing, language essentials, exploring various type of writing, and setting writing goal. Here, the research points out some basic ways to improve writing skills of higher secondary students based on their writing practices in school: letter writing, paragraph writing, dialogue writing, essay writing, precise writing, developing hints, road map, describe the picture and note making. And also the researcher giving below a list, what are the vocabularies repeatedly used in writing skills in school level of writing with their related word forms.

Selected Vocabulary List for Writing in Higher Secondary Level

Letter Writing

Letter writing is a written message that is in hand written or printed paper. With help of letter writing practice higher secondary students improves their writing skills. The research gives below some common vocabularies are used in letter writing:

- Subject – subjective, subjected, subjectively, subjectivity, subjectivism.
- Respected – respect, respectable, respectful, respectfully, respecting, respectively, respectiveness, respective, respectively, respects.
- Regarding – regarded, regardful, regard, regardfully, regardless, regards, regardful, regardable, regarder.
- Request - requested, requester, requesters, requesting, requests.
- Kindly – kindness, kind, kindless, kinding.

Paragraph Writing

A paragraph is a collection of sentence about a particular topic. Paragraph writing is to give more new information to the students as well as improving their writing skills also. The common vocabularies used in paragraph writing are given below:

- Furthermore – further, further some, furtherance, furthered, furthering, futherly, furthestmost.
- Contrast – contrastable, contrasted, contrasting, contrastive.
- Similarly – similar, similarities, similarity.
- Demonstrate - Demonstrated, demonstrating, demonstrative, demonstrator, demonstrates, demonstrational.
- Explicate – explicated, explicating, explication, explicator, explicatory.

Dialogue Writing

A dialogue writing is a written form in communication between two or more persons. Dialogue writing is improving the pattern of the sentence and writing skill also. Below given are some common vocabularies used in dialogue writings:

- Shouted – shout, shouting, shouts
- Whispered - whisper, whispering, whispers.
- Murmured – murmur, murmuring, murmurous, murmurs.
- Observed – observe, observer, observes, observing.
- Argued – argue, arguer, arguers, argues.

Essay Writing

Prose is the type of written form of communication improving words, forms, grammar, and vocabulary. The main aim of using prose in the English language classroom is to develop the writing abilities of the students.

- Likewise – like, likeness, likening, likens, likes, liking, likings, likens, likeness, likened, liken, liked, likely, likeable.
- In order to – in order, on order, in regard to, refer to.
- Furthermore – further, furtherance, furtherances, furthered, furthering, furthestmost, furthers, furthest.
- Yet - no related words.
- However – no related words

Precise Writing

Precise writing is to summarize a comprehension in limited words, covering all the important aspects and details of the passage.

- Rough – roughage, roughen, roughening, rougher, roughest.
- Fair – fairly, fairing, fairish, fairly, fairly.
- Draft – drafted, drafter, drafting, draftable, dreafter.
- Because – because of
- Further – furtherance, furthered, furtherer, furthering, furthermore, furthestmost, further some, further to, furthest.

Developing Hints

The development of the word and phrases into the complete sentence and making a coherent paragraph is called the hints development.

- Realized – realize, realizer, realizing, realizable, realizably, realization.
- Winning – win, winner, winningest, winningness, winning over.
- Thought – thoughtful, thoughtfully, thoughtless, thoughtfulness, thoughtlessness.
- Long ago – long, long ball, long bill.
- Started – start, starter, starting.

Road Map

A road map helps learners to achieve a plan and includes the major steps needed to reach it.

- Opposite – oppositely, appositively, opposition, oppositionary, oppositionist,
- Observed – observe, observability, observable, observably.
- Expanded – expand, expanding, expandable, expandability.
- Highway – highway bond, highway engineer, highway man.
- Develop – developed, developing, developer, development, developmental.

Describe the Picture

Describing the picture helps learners to write own sentences about a given picture. Through this practice, students improve their own vocabulary and writing skill too.

- Looks – look, looking, looked, looker.
- Meaningful – meaning, meaningless, meaningfulness, meaningfully, meaningless, meaninglessness.
- Message – messaging, messaged.
- Ideas – idea, idealess, idealism, idealistic, ideal, idealises, idealizer, idealizing, idealization, idealness, ideology.
- Natural – nature, naturally, naturalism, naturalist, naturalistic, naturalise, naturality.

Note Making

Note making is not just to write about what students hear or read, it is about reviewing and connecting the ideas from the lecture or reading.

- Subheading - heading, subhead.
- Analysis – analyse, analyses, analytic, analytical, analytically.
- Confidential – confident, confidentially, confidentiality, confidently.

- Documents – document, documental, documentaries, documentary.
- Critical – critic, critically, criticalness, criticality.

Conclusion

Vocabulary is one of the important tools to improve their writing and speaking skills. English language learners must be familiar with the general academic vocabularies because of their academic purposes. When the learners become stronger in their pronunciation, communication, spelling, and writing, general academic vocabulary is one of the reasons for it. One of the most important aspects of general academic vocabulary is its availability in all the subjects so learners easily understand the text books. Writing skill is one of the important aspects to be learned by higher secondary students facing all the challenges in examination levels. Hence, the research finds out general academic vocabulary as one of the important tools to improve higher secondary students writing skills in academic level.

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