

**Words For A Modern Age****Dr.S.K.Sheela**

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Abstract:

Words are the tools with which we think, we communicate and learn. The more words we know the better we think, communicate and absorb knowledge. The more limited our vocabulary, the harder survival is in our socio economic society. It is an indisputable fact that our chances for success increase with the size and applications of our vocabulary(Scheler, Manfred:1977). Good usage in English is based on a mastery of the meanings ,pronunciation and spellings of words and phrases. Good speaking and good writing depend on the knowledge of meanings of words and ways in which words are used. Good usage absolutely standardized but sometimes there are guides for rules that are based on the practices for those who are considered the writers and best speakers. This paper incites how enriching with English vocabulary builds up career for students in this competitive arena.

Key words: Evolved, origin, borrowed, universal language, various sectors, English vocabulary. `

1.Introduction

By the middle of the 17th century the language had more or less assumed its present form so far as grammar, spelling and pronunciation are concerned. There have been slight modifications in the succeeding three hundred years, more especially in pronunciation and spelling than in grammar, But on the restoration onwards the chief developments have been in the direction of an enlargement of the vocabulary on the one hand and changes in the meanings of words on the other. The oxford dictionary records over 400000 words, Johnson's dictionary(1775)about 48,000.The extent of individual vocabularies varies considerably from person to person. It has been estimated that Shakespear used about twenty thousand words and Milton eight thousand.

According to the Encyclopedia Britanica,it has been computed that a normally educated person has a vocabulary of about twenty five thousand though on the other hand majority of the people use not more than some four or five thousand words in our daily conversation and writing. For all ordinary purposes a person can express himself adequately in as few as eight hundred and fifty words. The fact is that English language is the richest and has the most extensive vocabulary of any language in the world.

2.How Vocabulary Is Being Coined

To know origin of words is to know how men think, how they have fashioned their civilisations. Word history traces the parts of human relationships, the bridge from mind to mind and from nation to nation. English language has evolved from other original languages like Latin and Greek. It is universal Language and it is being used by various sectors. English vocabulary derived from Latin and Greek. Latin and Greek have contributed thousands of words that have become integrated into English vocabulary Considering the immense number of words that English people have constantly borrowed from every Language with which they have been in contact and the people of present scenario owed a large volume of these words to the period that we call "Modern English", beginning with the 16th century. More than half the words we use in our daily talk come to us from Latin and the spelling of these words and their accurate use is immeasurably helped by the knowledge of their

Some of the words in English can be traced to a remote past. Some have history that began yesterday or even beginning today .Slow changes ,swift new coinages of science or slang ,ancient or recent borrowing from many tongues ,together they give flexibility, power and beauty to English, the richest and most wide spread language of all time.

Etymology deals with the origin or derivation of words. When we know the meaning of Latin or Greek root, prefix or suffix we can better understand and more easily remember all the vocabulary built on this Latin or Greek element that exist in English. Learning one root word and having the key that will unlock the meanings of up to ten, twenty or even hundred of English words in which Latin or Greek element appears.(Tammy Quoid:1994)For example if we take the word EGO (Latin),we will immediately have a grasp of the meanings of Ego centric, Ego maniac, Egoist, Egotist and in this way we can expand our vocabulary. In the 19th and 20th centuries,a few learned words and phrases were introduced using a more or less transliteration of ancient Greek. Finally with the growth of tourism some words mainly reflecting aspects of current Greek life have been introduced with orthography(Bryson,Bill:1996).It is believed by some scholars that major regulatory controlling influence on the language came from early dictionary makers. The first English dictionary in 1603 spelled and briefly defined a little more than 2000 words. Its compiler did what his predecessor had done when translating Latin words into English. He initiated the spellings of his predecessors. In the United states ,the great pioneer in making dictionaries was Noah Webster. His first work which was published in 1806.But his efforts at spelling reform were rejected by public. However his work was widely accepted and in 1828 his well known"An American Dictionary"of the English Language began to exert its lasting influence on English.(Merian Webster:1995)

3.Use Of Learning Vocabulary For Students In The Present Scenario

- English being universal Language ,it is being used by various sectors.
- Learning vocabulary is the overall literacy development. Readers vocabulary strongly relates to their understanding of text. The National Reading panel explained that vocabulary is an essential element of literacy programme. When students are taught key words before reading text, they will have greater comprehension than students who do not receive instructions.
- Today English is India's obsession number one. For many here education is synonymous with English and "Do you call him educated? He can't use even two lines of English with good vocabulary' is a refrain in India about people who may have a degree but lack in learning vocabulary.

- English enriched with good vocabulary is essential for a good job in India. Students have to face vocabulary tests in competitive examinations. To get through written tests as well as to face interviews student needs to use good English enriched with vocabulary which would be given the credibility.
- English language comes to aid in our commercial transactions throughout the globe. English is the language of the latest business management in the world and Indian proficiency in English has brought laurels to many Indian business managers .English is a means not only for international commerce it has become increasingly essential for interstate commerce and communication. Hence terminology related to specific branch should be taught to students for which a branch of English Language called ESP (English for Specific Purpose) has evolved to meet the target needs of various sectors.
- One of the skills required in workplace is writing which is the most laborious skill. The need to develop the skill stems from the rapid change and development of the job market that requires graduates to acquire certain level of writing skills. Consequently writing courses offered at University level should be based on skills related to job needs and job functions to ensure that learners are provided with the essential vocabulary to write and to perform at the workplace.

4.How To Acquire Good Command Over Vocabulary

- Learn vocabulary by reading standard newspapers, journals, by watching subtitle movies
- Learn vocabulary by listening to teachers so that they can know the terminology related to subjects.
- Play the vocabulary games and solve the vocabulary puzzles.
- Open dictionary. Learn words by using them in to own sentences.
- Learn words in a typical combination with other words and these words are to be used in regular routine life to get command over vocabulary.

5.Reference

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