

# The Effects of Learning Style and Learning Strategies in Vocabulary Learning

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**Abstract:** Vocabulary is the most difficult and biggest task for second language learners. Everyone has his own learning style and strategies in second language learning. For second language learners, it is necessary to clarify their own learning styles and choose suitable and effective vocabulary learning strategies. This paper aims to analyze the effects of learning style and strategies in L2 learners' vocabulary acquisition.

**Keywords:** Vocabulary Learning style; Learning Strategy ;English Learning

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## 1. The importance of vocabulary in English learning

The teaching of vocabulary has been a crucial part in second language acquisition. Pronunciation, vocabulary and grammar are three main elements of English language. Vocabulary is an important part for second language learners to master and hold. Many students put attention on grammar, but little attention on vocabulary. One cannot express sentences correctly without grammar, but one cannot express anything without vocabulary. Vocabulary is a cornerstone in English learning. Vocabulary teaching runs through the whole process of English teaching.

Nation concludes that there are four dimensions of lexical knowledge to acquire for English learners: form (spoken written), position (grammatical patterns and collocations), function (frequency and appropriateness) and meaning (concept and associations). It can be seen that for English learners vocabulary learning has an important position in the language learning process than grammar learning. Even if there is a grammatical error, native English speakers can understand the meaning, but if there is a vocabulary mistake, it will greatly impede communication and understanding with native English speakers.<sup>[1]</sup>

## 2. The definition of learning style

In the Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English, the term "style" is defined as one's particular way of doing something or one's particular way behaving. The particular way of behaving includes the particular way that someone behaves, works, or deals with other people. Frankly, there is no clear definition of learning style up to now. Many researchers and scholars have proposed their own definitions of learning styles in different ways, including the perspectives of elements, cognition and learning strategy.

Keefe stressed that learning style is not a one-dimensional concept, but a multi-dimensional concept including cognitive, emotional and physiological factors. He also proposes that learning style interacts with the environments and stated that learning style is stable and not easy to change.<sup>[2]</sup> Kinsella stated that learning style as the preferred way in which learners adopt natural habits in accepting, processing, storing new information and mastering new skills. These preferences are consistent and they do not change easily with the changes of teaching method and teaching contents.<sup>[3]</sup>

In addition, some scholars analyze learning style from the cognitive perspective, which is the aspect of information processing. Kolb stated that learning styles are the way in which individuals prefer to perceive and process information. According to Ehrman and Oxford, learning style is the habitual modes, which learners prefer to use when their brains process new information, could affects the way learners understand, remember and think.<sup>[4]</sup>

Pask argues that learning style is the tendency of students to adopt a particular strategy most often used during the learning process. learning style can also be defined as a unique combination of learning strategies and learning processes that students are used to choose when learning new materials.<sup>[5]</sup>

In general, the researchers and scholars have very similar definitions of learning styles except for some slight differences in expression. Therefore, it can be seen that learning style is the tendency of learners to adopt a certain way of learning in the learning process. the learners' choice of learners' learning strategies can be affected by one's learning style. Different learners have different learning styles, and they can influence the way learners learn but do not reflect the learner's level of language learning. Learning style is stable and rarely changes with the changes of learning content and learning conditions.

## 3. The definition of learning strategy

The term "strategy" is defined in the Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English as a series of planned actions to achieve

something. Learning strategy is a concept that is developed and improved by scholars in the field of cognitive psychology as the result of observation and study of learners' learning process and learning effects. There are some scholars argue that learning strategies refer to the learning methods or skills to achieve a certain and the learning situation. The learning methods and skills influenced by meta-cognition and the learning situation, can adjust and control the choice and use of they ways of learning as well as the whole learning process. However, different scholars have different views on the nature of learning strategies. There is not yet come up with a unified and cleared definition of language learning strategies.

Chamot stated that language-learning strategies are techniques, methods, or conscious actions taken by learners to recall language forms and contents so to improve their learning outcomes. According to Chamot, learning strategies are the specific behaviors which could directly involved in the learning process. Obviously, Chamot believe that learning strategies are external activities that directly affect the learners' learning process.<sup>[6]</sup>

Learning strategies are the conscious or semi-conscious thoughts and behaviors adopted by learners in order to facilitated the second language learning. Wen Qiufang maintains that strategy is a series of actions taken by students to learn English well, which can promote the internalization, storage, and usage of a second or foreign language, refer to the specific behaviors, steps or techniques uses by students to promote learning process in the development of second language or foreign language skills.<sup>[7]</sup>

#### **4. The positive effects of learning style and learning strategies in vocabulary learning**

According to the rapid development of society, more and more people are needed to have independent learning ability. Knowing how to learn efficiently is a big part for learners. In the vocabulary learning, using more effective strategies is much beneficial for second language learners expand and enlarge their vocabulary size. One of the effective vocabulary learning strategies is to learning English vocabulary in the learning context, which is not only conducive to English learning, but also effective in developing second language learners' autonomous learning ability. learning strategies have significant impacts on some aspects of second language learners learning outcomes. Such as, improving learning efficiency, reducing learning burden, and minimizing the degree of learning difficulties.

Vocabulary learning strategy is a branch of learning strategies. This paper consider the vocabulary learning strategies are language learning strategies for vocabulary knowledge, so it is important to clarify the content of vocabulary knowledge. Nation stated that vocabulary learning does not simply mean the understanding of the linguistic form and the meaning of a word. Vocabulary knowledge is not simply a correspondence between linguistic form and meaning; vocabulary knowledge is complicated and it is relevant to many different kinds of knowledge.<sup>[8]</sup>

With a specific and efficient learning style and learning strategy for second language learners. Firstly, The learners could be improving their learning efficiency in memorizing the vocabulary and expanding vocabulary size. L2 learners would choose like meta-cognitive learning strategy for them to master and recall their new learning vocabularies. Besides, with a good learning style, the learners would be more efficient in their classroom or learning environment. The learners would be feeling more confidence in learning new knowledge. Another point is the language learners could reduce their learning burden during the learning process. Good learning strategies could beneficial for the learners to remember vocabularies and has a long-time lasting memory in brains. Finally, when the language learners want to express with the others, they could easily to communicate when they find the appropriate style and strategy.

#### **5. Conclusion**

Vocabulary is the basic and important structure for language learning. With good usage of vocabulary, one could make his expression in a professional and native way. Learning style and learning strategies are the vital methods for the second language learners to master the second language. As a second language learner, pay more attention to how to find an appropriate learning style and strategy could make the second language learners learning in a more efficient way.

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