

LOCATING MEANING IN LANGUAGE

by:

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With the rapid phasing of technology in this era, learners experience many reading comprehension problems caused by different factors. Several learners experience this kind of frustration that evidently affects their learning.

One possible factor why learner have reading comprehension problems is their poor vocabulary. According to Kufaishi in 1988, vocabulary is one of the most important components of English. It is considered as the most important one for students in learning English as a foreign language. Students with limited vocabulary cannot communicate well with the ideas conveyed to them.

Having this difficulty, ESL teachers take part in reducing this kind of learners' frustration. ESL teachers, with the use of various teaching strategies, must provide many opportunities that can help improve learners' vocabulary for better comprehension.

Further, ESL teachers can guide their learners through the following:

- Define words through context- students must be guided in identifying the meaning of a difficult term by analyzing how the word is used in the context.
- Use context clues- inform students that most of the writers use words which are in the sentence or in any part of the selection which serve as a hint for the readers to define a difficult term.
- Sketch the words- some research said that drawing or sketching makes sense and helps learners connect with the meaning of the word.

- Apply target words- learners can use the difficult term based on their experiences that can help them process its meaning.
- Know word parts- learners must know the meaning of root words and affixes to lead them with the possible definitions of the difficult term.

These are just some of the vocabulary learning strategies an ESL teacher and learners can use to easily comprehend texts with unfamiliar words.

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