Effective methods of enhancing law students' vocabulary related to Law Terminology

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ABSTRACT

Currently, teaching languages through fruitful methods and techniques in order to achieve really good results with the learners is stimulating members of the field to create and find out the most successful ones in the sphere. So that, teaching vocabulary of foreign languages as well as English is might be necessary topic for the people who deal with it every day as a duty of his/her job area. Besides that, if the theme belongs to teaching Legal English terminology to the learners who are studying at law faculties the matter seems twice interesting. This article is aimed at presenting and recommending effective methods of teaching Legal and Business English vocabulary to law students or to the learners who are eager to learn it because of their job or work demand.

Key words: *updated methods, Context-based approach, Legal English, Interactive approaches, interlocutor, Instructional context*

INTRODUCTION

Acquisition of a language naturally begins with memorizing its words or word combinations. It means before improving any language skills vocabulary should be developed much more. As Diana points out(2020) vocabulary of a language is bricks of a high building. Because, not knowing important verbs, nouns or adjectives improvement of grammar might be low, addition to this, learners are not able to explain themselves without using huge number of words in the talking area which is said speaking skill, listening skill also demands acquiring lots of words with their pronunciation. Proving these ideas Dr.Malik Behol and Dr.Hukam Dad (2010) claim that without vocabulary, speakers cannot convey meaning and communicate with each other in a certain language.

So, what about Legal English vocabulary? Is it the same with General English one?

Legal English is type of English specially designed for lawyers which intends to teach law terminology and vocabulary, legal writing and working with contracts in law and so forth. According to internet sources Legal English differs from standard international English in that it refers to the style of English used by legal professionals in their work. For example, the language used in international contracts and statutes, which can also be referred to as "legalese". Legal English has long been considered a necessary skill for lawyers in English-speaking countries however due to the emergence of English as the language of international business it fast becoming a necessary skill for all legal international professionals to consider acquiring.

Traditionally the law has always had its own "language" used and understood only by legal professionals internationally, whether this be Latin, English, French or a combination of other languages. This legal language has changed and adapted with the various conquering countries in the past. Each influence has contributed significantly to the international language we call Legal English

today and forms the basis of its distinctive style. When explored further it is clearly possible to see how common terms in international Legal English today such as "Will and Testament" have developed from a combination of the languages that exist only in the Legal world.

There are a number of differences between Legal English and standard international English.

Firstly, some words in standard international English have entirely different meanings when used in a legal context. One example of this is the use of the word "battery" which means a kind of energy source for some gadgets such as mobile phones or mp3 players in standard international English, but when used with regard to harm and damage by physically to other people which can be base for Trespass to the person that is one of the heads of tort in UK legal system.

Secondly, there are the words that are only used in an international legal context and would not be used or understood in everyday life by persons without legal training such as "tort" and "tortfeasor".

There is also the distinct lack of punctuation in legal documents and differing word order. This would cause great confusion to a person who has only taken a standard international English course and had no understanding of Legal English.

Context based approach.

As O'zkan and Nurlu (2019) mention there are plenty of methods for teaching vocabulary and one of them which is effective context-based approach. Duran and Bitir (2017) inform that "Context based vocabulary teaching is a technique that the meaning of a word is derived from the context in which it is used .While using the context based vocabulary teaching method, it is aimed to teach and understand the words through context"

While teaching words in a foreign language ,one of the essential tools is text (O'zkan and Nurlu, 2019). Go'cer (2015) states that context based vocabulary teaching is conducted through text which is being handled or according to the place and function of the words that the students say that encounter for the first time. It means that words are memorized successfully if their context is familiar and memorable for the students.

Therefore, Legal English vocabulary is acquired well by learners through the texts devoted to legal context. Let's look how the idea is implemented. The following text which is taken from the book" The Lawyers' English language " by Catherine Mason and Rosemary Atkins 2007 can be a good example for covering the matter.

"*Conduct that causes harm to another person is referred to as a **tort**. We can describe a person's conduct by saying that he or she is guilty of a **civil wrong**. We can also say that he or she has committed a tort. Several different types of tort exist in English law. Lawyers refer to the different types of tort as categories of tort or as the **heads of tort.** If someone harms me I can **bring an action** in tort. This means that I can sue that person on the **grounds** that I Have suffered harm. If I am successful in this action, I will receive a remedy from him or her. **A remedy** is something that compensates me for my loss or that stops the harm from happening again. The usual remedy for a tort is a **damages.** The person who is guilty of harming another person is referred to as a **tortfeasor**"*

If you look the words in bold up the dictionaries you may find out totally different meanings of them. Because the usage of those words just refer to this context. The sample informs us about the case that someone's careless actions can be reason to claim to the court in order to get some legal action. Without reading and comprehending that extract learners are not able to understand what is a "conduct", " heads of tort", "remedy" "bring an action" or who is a " tortfeasor". So, it can be said

without doubt that Context based method is a great aid for teachers who teach Legal English in any sphere with any level of learners.

According to   Dr.Malik Behol and Dr.Hukam Dad (2010) Context based approach is divided into two types Pedagogical context or Instructional context and Natural context. The instructional context belongs to the sentences specifically designed to explain the meanings of new words. The natural context include the sentences which are written to communicate ideas. So, our above analyzed text is real example for Instructional context.

Interactive approaches

About the usefulness of the interactive approaches, Chin Lin(2009) provides the ideas that English teachers should consider to use interactive approaches to teach vocabulary to their learners as they are entering real international societies , where comprehensible and fluently communication must be created through sufficient vocabularies.

Additionally to others one of the professors who is interested in interactive method River (2000) says that "...Linguistic interaction is a collaborative activity involving the establishment of a triangular relationship between the sender, receiver and the context of a situation".

Besides River suggests that small group work and pair works are good type of activities which encourage participants to interact automatically. Role-playing is also useful way for making students to communicate with each other.

So, in order to bring the interactive methods to teach Legal English vocabulary, teacher should choose a topic refer to the sphere and ask students to do them.

Small group or pair work

Students are divided into three or four groups and asked to discuss the themes and find out solutions coming up the legality point of view. Of course, topic or case is chosen according to the main theme of the lesson.   For instance, the following case which is taken from the book The Lawyers' English language " by Catherine Mason and Rosemary Atkins 2007 might be given to discuss:

- " *Mr Bellerby is opening a new factory. He needs to visit a lawyer to get a contract for all of his employees to sign*"

The following questions will be added to discuss

Is it a criminal matter or civil matter? To what area of law do lawyer solve the matter? Does the matter relate to employment law or contract law?

Analyzing the method, we conclude that, While discussing the issue, interactants need to use the words or phrases belong to the criminal law, employment law or civil law. As a result, interaction cause to exchange both ideas and words which are unfamiliar to some participants, to learn both the meaning and pronunciation and usage of those vocabulary items.

Role-playing

Role playing is also one of the interactive methods which makes learner to use necessary words or collocations for expressing themselves in certain situations coming up their role demand. It is clear that, while playing a role in legal case actors have to consider legal word choice.

About the benefit of using role playing in teaching languages Esmira (2020) points out that "...Role playing is very important in teaching English because it gives students the opportunity to practice communicating in different social contexts and in different social roles".

On the other hand, Role playing might be helpful tool for revising and remembering the words which have already forgot by the learners. Especially, this belongs to Legal English. Because, the word choice is limited in it, which means nearly all words should be used in their place as there are no any synonyms of them comparing it with general English is full of them.

Conclusion

To sum up, at the end of our article, we claim that hence the organizing successful language teaching is the demand of our global world, career and curious learners, teachers of the sphere shouldn't stop searching and creating effective ways or methods. Then the our results become visible and needful to the society.

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