''Problems Facing Students in learning English vocabulary''

Case study: Al-majd Private school in Riyadh

Student name: Ahmad Alfhedi

Academic number: 211559824

Dr name: Abdalkrim Allababnh

I certify that all the articles in this special search of my effort, but do not have any work prior to this work, but I quoted some words of scientists.

Signature

Ahmad Alfhedi

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Abstract:

It is known that most of the graduated students are not able to use English as a language in communicating with other people. That is because both the teachers who teach English classes and the students who study English face lots of problems and difficulties. This research will attempt to investigate the Problems of learning English which is faced by both of them especially those related to teaching and learning the language's vocabulary. The study aimed at exploring the difficulties that face the students of Al-majd Private school in Riyadh .The researcher attempted to find suitable solutions for these difficulties and problems that these students experienced. It will use the questionnaire and the interviews so that we can determine more precisely these Problems. This research's results will help both the community and those teachers who are teaching the English language and thus remove these causes. Since, this paper will explore the different errors done by the participated students in relation with learning vocabulary, it will help knowing what are the problems and what are the reasons.

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Introduction :

As Lyytinen (1985) pointed out, "man uses language to express feelings and attitudes and to establish, coordinate, and control relationship with others". Due to this English is considered as an international language around the whole world. That is why the one who wants to speak English should memorize lots words .The words that are really hard to memorize are frequently the small, common words, whose meaning depends on context. Besides, the native language of a learner is connected to some particular difficulties in learning and using the English language and the sort of mistakes a student makes in English, whatever this mistake is. On the other hand when the student is supposed to speak in English for communications that occur daily he /she must remember the words and use them properly with their correct pronunciation. This research paper critically investigates the problems faced by students in the language classroom at Al-majd Private school in Riyadh. Also it cites remedial measures for the successful rectification of these problems too.

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Literature review:

In previous studies, there are many researchers wrote about my subject:

*In studies on Saudi students, it was disclosed that most English learners blundered in their writing skills making most of their English teachers to complain of deteriorating mastery in learning English language. In yet another study, Zughoul (1984) affirmed those conclusions.

Decarrico (2001) states that:words should not be learnt separately or by memorization without understanding. Moreover, "learning new words is a cumulative process, with words enriched and established as they are met again"

Nation (2000, p.6).Therefore, the "look and remember" way of vocabulary learning seems to be not very effective for learners of the English language.

Newton (2001) refers to this approach as a way that can enable learners to manage their vocabulary meaning and develop their communicative skills at the same time. Many experts of language teaching methodology also agree that playing games is a good way to learn vocabulary.

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Mukattash (1983) divides the problems that Arab learners of English face into two types. First, University students continue to make some basic errors in pronunciation, spelling, and morphology and syntax. Secondly, they continue to be unable to express themselves "comfortably and efficiently either when dealing with 'academic topics' or 'common everyday topics' (1983:169).

Significance of Research:

The research is expected to help enhancing the methods of teaching/learning EFL in the schools of Saudi Arabia in general and improving the language learning level for the students who are engaged in this study and the whole school in particular. Also it will give more recommendations about helping the students and the teachers at Al-majd Private school in Riyadh to handle and solve the problems related to learning the English language vocabulary. As a result the students who are participating in the study will face their problems related to learning the vocabulary in English language .Moreover, they will know the reasons for these problems and with the help of the study they can have some solutions for their problems. Even more, they can express their own ideas about how they can encounter these problems.

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Research Questions:

- What are the problems of the English language among the students for this school?

- What are the problems related to learning the new vocabulary among the students for this school?

Research Methodology:

To assess the problems of learning vocabulary in the classroom, we want to know how are the students' experiences .To achieves our goal; we focused on the perception and attitudes of our students as well as the teachers. This study is a qualitative case study to enable the researchers to understand the problems in learning English vocabulary among the students for the fore mentioned school. The researcher will use semi-structured interviews, questionnaires and the researcher`s own experiences and opinion .Finally, the researcher will draw on previous studies and researches by Saudi and Western researchers to collect the data which will be used to check out some reliable references add to the process of the questionnaire and interviews.

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Ethical Consideration:

- The research will take into account the consent of the participants whowill answer the questionnaire or those who will be in the interviews when there is a need to put their names in the study or giving any information about them. The researcher will avoid causing any psychological, financial or social harm for the participants. The participants of the research can feel free while they are having the questionnaire ore answering the researcher's questions during the interviews since the research paper will be honest and fair.

Limitations of the study:

First of all, I want to say that I tried to conduct an accurate research and I did my best for that but the research was conducted with a slice of the citizens of the community within AL-majd Private School in Riyadh during the English periods and it lasted for one week. This period is not enough for the researcher to observe all of the students' problems especially those problems related to learning the English language vocabulary during their English language classes. That is why; I think that if I had more time I might observe more problems.

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Second, the sample is small, some of the school students with the teachers of the English language and a few number of parents which may be is not a representing sample since it is not representing all or even the majority of the students and their teachers or parents.

The sample consists of:

*Students of Al-majd Private School in Riyadh.

* Parents for students in Al-majd Private School in Riyadh.

* In addition to some of the teachers working Al-majd Private School in Riyadh

(Especially the English language teachers)

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Expected Results:

There are diverse problems that are affecting the learning process at the classes of English language among the students in the Arab countries. These problems vary from one student to another. According to the data I collected in my research expect that the problems connected to the learning of the English language vocabulary among the students of Al-majd Private school in Riyadh are:

- There is a huge social distance between the English culture and the Arabic culture.

- The traditional methods in teaching are used most of the time inside the classes.

- Students do not understand or use properly the English difficult vocabulary.

- Parents feel afraid about their daughters' and sons' proficiency of English.

- Students experienced problems with English spelling.

- The students failed in using English as a tool of self-expression to achieve their communicative goals to study plans and methods of teaching.

  In conclusion, Students in Saudi Arabian schools need to be thoroughly self-guided. However, teachers also have to keep in their minds the worth of independency; even when the national environment and educational system do not effectively enhance the English language learning process, teachers should put the things right.

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Appendices: Appendix # 1 the QUESTIONNAIRE

I.   # QUESTIONNAIRE

PERSONAL (OPTIONAL)

NAME: DATE:

EMAIL: MOBILE:

II. Choose the appropriate choice for you.

NO	Questionnaire items	Agree	do not know	disagree
1	I think that learning English is important.			
2	I face problems in learning English.			
3	I find it difficult to memorize the vocabulary.			
4	It is non-sense that I should memorize lots of words.			
5	Most of the words I study I do not use in daily life			
6	I can read the new words in English.			
7	I can use any word I study.			
8	I need to translate the words I am studying.			
9	I can use a dictionary.			
10	I love to memorize words.			

Thank you very much for your cooperation

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- **Interview**

- ✓ What are the problems faced by the students learning the English language in this school especially in learning the vocabulary?

- ✓ What are the solutions that may be developed to remove the causes of these problems in English in Saudi society?

The answers for the questions were collected and analyzed to find out what are the problems facing learning English in the school and how to solve them.

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