

## SECTION X. PHILOLOGIE

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### LEARNING SYNONYMS: BASIC TECHNIQUES TO ENRICH THE VOCABULARY

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Studying synonyms is a great way of improving vocabulary that can make one's writing and speaking more exciting or interesting. Knowing synonyms can help to express yourself more clearly. A synonym is a word or phrase that means exactly or nearly the same as another word or phrase in the same language [1]. If you know different words that describe the same thing, but in a slightly different way, you can choose the best word to use. This makes you being able to deliver the exact message you intend to communicate.

Much attention has long been paid to the importance of synonyms [2; 3; 4; 5; 6]. Hence, the aim of the research is to consider the main techniques of learning synonyms for enriching the language vocabulary.

*A couple of synonyms for a word.* There is no necessity to learn a lot of synonyms for every single word. The sheer number of words that you do not know will simply overwhelm you and make you feel as if you are a useless learner. You do not need to learn hundreds of synonyms for various English words. All that you need is to know how to use a number of words comfortably in your speech, in your writing and then you build upon it overtime. Provided that you constantly deal with the English language and get exposed to plenty of English content, your vocabulary will naturally grow. Thus, when studying synonyms, it is better to do in a manageable way, learning a couple of words here and there.

*A few synonyms at the same time.* Each synonym normally goes in a different context, so never learn a number of synonyms at the same time. It will serve no purpose to write them in a single line and then learn them all because they will get mixed up. It is better to differentiate that knowledge and learn each individual word as part of a different context, because all English words normally go together with other words, forming phrases and word collocations. It is good to take the word and learn in what context it is used. See what sentences the word comes up with and

then learn how to use it without associating with other synonyms.

*One contextual meaning at a time.* Only learn each word individually in its relevant context. So do not learn multiple synonyms at the same time and do not learn multiple meanings of the same word at once. Only one meaning, one word at any given time. There has to be an individual compartment in your brain for each word. Obviously, they would go together with other words but you cannot just mix them all up with other synonyms in different meanings. Therefore, do not try to learn a huge number of them because it will happen over time anyway that you will pick up different words here and there and build your vocabulary quite naturally.

*No word pairs with antonyms.* It is definitely advisable not to learn synonyms and antonyms like word pairs, the synonym and the antonym. Never memorize the word pairs because it is going to create the so-called unnatural vocabulary associations in your head. If you learn a word string from the synonym and antonym perspective, you learn those words and then they will all go together in your brain. When you speak and try to pick one of the words in those non-natural word strings, antonyms start getting mixed up with the synonyms. Thus, you have to make sure that you never learn them grouped basically.

Summing up, it may be concluded on the necessity to perceive each word the way it is, it is just a new word. Take one word at a time and learn it within the context, in its relevant context, in a phrase, collocation or an idiomatic expression. It is better to learn relevant phrases and collocations containing that word but forget about the whole connection between that word and some other word. Because the more connections you create, the more difficult it is going to be for you to speak fluently. The real connection that you want to learn is how that word acts in a sentence or a phrase. That is the only connection you want to build in your brain because when you speak, one word will lead to another word and that is how fluent speech happens. Therefore, key methods mentioned above will serve good for the purpose to enrich the language vocabulary.

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