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World Applied Sciences Journal
Volume 21, Issue SPECIAL ISSUE4, 2013, Pages 44-49

Measuring the vocabulary size of Muslim pre-university students (Article)

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Abstract

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The last decade has seen an increased interest in the field of second language vocabulary acquisition (SLVA). The findings in SLVA research point to a need to identify learners' existing vocabulary size to ensure that they achieved the threshold level of vocabulary. The present study aims to measure the vocabulary size of pre-university students at a public university in Malaysia. The receptive and productive vocabulary size tests were administered to 190 students. The results indicate that these pre-university students have yet to achieve the recommended threshold level of vocabulary that is needed to enable them to successfully acquire vocabulary independently. It was also found that there was a strong relationship ($r=0.737$) between English language proficiency and vocabulary size, statistically significant at $p<0.01$ level. Students' performance in receptive and productive vocabulary was also found to be strongly related ($r=0.862$), statistically significant at $p<0.01$ level. This study provides the empirical evidence of the importance of guiding students to acquire the threshold level of vocabulary, thus facilitating them with the skills to further develop their vocabulary repertoire independently. © IDOSI Publications, 2013.

SciVal Topic Prominence ⓘ

Topic: Vocabulary | Reading | Incidental vocabulary

Prominence percentile: 94.581 ⓘ

Author keywords

- English language proficiency
- Muslim students
- Receptive and productive vocabulary
- Second language vocabulary acquisition
- Vocabulary size

ISSN: 18184952
Source Type: Journal
Original language: English

DOI: 10.5829/idosi.wasj.2013.21.s1t1.2136
Document Type: Article

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