Owning Words: Vocabulary Acquisition at the ESL Institute

11th Annual UW-L Conference on Teaching & Learning
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10:00 am - 11:00 am

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This poster paper asks the participants through a ten-day program of vocabulary acquisition and demonstrates how the necessary language skills can be taught in the classroom. Students can understand the process of newly acquired vocabulary and how to use it in context. This is accomplished by allowing students to be their own tutor at acquiring new lexical items.

"Words, words, words." —Shakespeare: Hamlet

8 Steps of Vocabulary Acquisition

- Perception
- Recognition
- Use
- Understanding
- Knowing
- Feeling
- Loving
- Being (Ownership)

The Universe of a Word

1. Parts of Speech
2. Positive or Negative
3. Affixes
4. Formal or Informal
5. Standard or Nonstandard
6. Location of Use: News, Meetings, Conference, TV, Newspaper
7. Collocations

Games

- Narrative: Telling a story using the words
- Blind Man's Game
- Alien Game
- Brainstorming
- Do Pair Review
- Word Elaboration

Homework

- Vocabulary Review with Photos
- Vocabulary Review with Picture Option
- Vocabulary Use Interviews
- Vocabulary Meaning Interviews
- Interviews Reported in Class