

When learning an L2, the process of collecting vocabulary words can be a valuable experience for learning additional words. When a learner is trying to create strategies to acquire vocabulary in the L2, the first step in the phase involves noticing. Noticing is simply the process of recognizing the importance of learning a word. Nation writes,

"Noticing involves seeing the words as an item to be learned.

Strategies at this level include: putting the word on to a word card, orally repeating the word and visually repeating the word.

(pg 221, Nation).

Different techniques to collect vocabulary help the process. These techniques include using a dictionary, learning vocabulary from context such as keeping a vocabulary notebook, index cards, and using a word wall. In this article, Nation writes about his personal view of the application of research on vocabulary to teaching. He achieves this by focusing on three different categories which include research is not applied or not applied effectively, where research is well applied, and finally where research is over applied. All the categories consider topics such as planning vocabulary courses, determining the difference between high frequency and low frequency words, extensive reading, rote learning of vocabulary, and academic vocabulary.

As a teacher, I intend to use approaches suggested by Nation and incorporate them into my teaching methods. Most importantly, the points about noticing have deepened my awareness about the importance of giving students an opportunity to negotiate language in a classroom, particularly when it comes to acquiring a foreign language. I now realize if students may not like a method, it might have to do with the fact that learning Spanish or English as a foreign language is not easy when it comes to implementing the method or technique. By adapting the method or technique to meet the classroom needs, a motivation to learn increases. Nation's strategies for vocabulary collocation are all effective methods and techniques which can create for a more flexible learning environment.