The Impact of Word Saliency on Iranian upper intermediate EFL Learners' word knowledge

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Abstract The present study aims to investigate the effect of word saliency on Iranian EFL upper intermediate learners' word knowledge. This study tried to determine whether or not using word saliency strategy might enhance upper intermediate Iranian EFL learners' word knowledge. To answer this question, forty learners Ghaem language Institute were ed after following the Oxford Placement Test (OPT). The participants were female and male, ranging 16 to 19 years old. Then, they were randomly divided into two groups, the experimental group who received the treatment on word saliency strategy and control group who received a placebo. Both groups had to take part in multiple choice tests as their pretests and posttests. Their scores were analyzed through SPSS by applying Independent t-test, and paired sample t-test. A null hypothesis was approved based on the aforementioned analysis and statistical procedures. The findings revealed that participants in the experimental group, who had received the treatment on word saliency strategy, had no change in performance in comparison to control group which had no treatment.

Keywords : Highly used vocabulary, learners of English, linguistic knowledge