

The Impacts Of Utilizing Crossword Puzzles On Iranian Intermediate-Level EFL Learners' Vocabulary Development

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The present study was an attempt to investigate the effectiveness of applying crossword puzzles in enhancing vocabulary area of Iranian intermediate EFL learners. For achieving this purpose, 30 learners who were studying at Shokouh English Institute in Rudsar, were ed among 100 learners based on their performance on QPT. The participants were randomly assigned to two groups of experimental and control including 15 each. At first, two multiple choice tests of vocabulary with the reliability values of 0.79 and 0.70 were administered to 20 intermediate learners as a pilot study. After that, a test was administered to both groups as the pretest. Then, the experimental group used a variety of crossword puzzles in ten sessions. The control group continued its previous educational routine, and received no treatment. Finally, after ten sessions, the participants took another vocabulary test as the posttest. The data obtained the tests showed that there was statistically significant difference between the scores in experimental and control groups. Certainly, it clearly showed that the experimental group who received the crossword puzzles, as the treatment, had better scores on the posttest. Therefore, it is found that using crossword puzzles in EFL instruction has a significant effect on the learners' vocabulary development. Based on the findings of this study, teachers can use the crossword puzzle as an instructional material to improve their learners' vocabulary knowledge. The findings showed the use of the crossword puzzles increases language proficiency in EFL learners.

Keywords : Vocabulary, Crossword puzzle, Motivation

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