UNDERSTANDING TEMPORAL WORDS AND THEIR SIGNIFICANCE IN LANGUAGE LEARNING

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Abstract. This article explores the importance of teaching temporal words to English learners, emphasizing their role in enhancing communication clarity, improving narrative skills, and facilitating the understanding of complex verb tenses. The article also highlights significant contributions from linguists like Bernard Comrie and Carlota Smith, who have studied temporality in language, as well as contemporary researchers like Angelika Kratzer and Nirit Kadmon. The piece concludes by discussing effective teaching strategies, such as contextual learning, visual aids, and explicit grammar instruction, to help learners master temporal expressions and achieve language fluency.

Keywords. Temporal words, tense and aspect, linguistics, language teaching, English learners, communication clarity, understanding of time, time relations.

ПОНИМАНИЕ ВРЕМЕННЫХ СЛОВ И ИХ ЗНАЧЕНИЕ В ИЗУЧЕНИИ ЯЗЫКА

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Аннотация. В этой статье исследуется важность обучения слов, обозначающих время, для изучающих английский язык. Эти слова играют важную роль в повышении точности общения, улучшении навыков повествования и облегчении понимания сложных времен глаголов. В статье также освещены работы лингвистов Бернарда Комри и Карлотты Смит, внесших значительный вклад в изучение слов, представляющих время, а также работы современных исследователей Анжелики Кратцер и Нирит Кадмон. В заключение в статье обсуждаются эффективные методы обучения словам, представляющим время, такие как контекстное обучение, наглядный подход и советы о том, как помочь изучающим язык усвоить эти слова и рекомендации о том, как повысить беглость речи с помощью прямого обучения грамматике.

Ключевые слова. слова обозначающие время, время и аспект, лингвистика, обучение языку, изучающие английский язык, точность общения, понимание времени, временные отношения.

TIL O'RGANISHDAGI VAQTNI ANGLATUVSHI SO'ZLAR VA ULARNING AHAMIYATINI TUSHUNISH

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Annotatsiya. Mazkur maqola ingliz tilini o'rganuvchilar uchun vaqtni ifodalovchi so'zlarni o'rgatish muhimligini tadqiq qiladi. Ushbu so'zlar muloqot aniqligini oshirish, hikoya qilish ko'nikmalarini yaxshilash va murakkab fe'l zamonlarini tushunishni yengillashtirishda katta rol o'ynaydi. Maqolada tilshunoslar Bernard Komri va Karlota Smit kabi vaqtni ifodalovchi so'zlarni o'rganishda katta hissasi qo'shgan shaxslar, shuningdek, zamonaviy tadqiqotchilar Anjelika Kratser va Nirit Kadmonning ishlariga ham urg'u berilgan. Yakunda, maqola vaqtni ifodalovchi so'zlarni o'rgatishda samarali usullar, masalan, kontekstual o'rganish, ko'rgazmali yondashuv va grammatikani to'g'ridan-to'g'ri o'rgatish orqali til o'rganuvchilarga ushbu so'zlarni egallash va qanday qilib tilni ravon o'rganishga yordam berish haqidagi tavsiyalarni muhokama qiladi.

Kalit so'zlar. Temporal so'zlar, zamon va aspekt, tilshunoslik, tilni o'rgatish, ingliz tilini o'rganuvchilar, muloqot aniqligi, vaqtni tushunish, vaqt munosabatlari.

INTRODUCTION. Temporal words, also known as time expressions, are integral to

our daily communication. They help us sequence events, explain when things happen, and connect past, present, and future actions. In the context of language learning, especially for English learners, mastering temporal words is crucial for achieving fluency and coherence in speech and writing. Temporal words are linguistic elements that indicate time relationships between events or actions. They can be adverbs (e.g., "now," "later," "soon"), conjunctions (e.g., «before,» "after," "while"), or phrases (e.g., "in the meantime," "at that moment"). These words and phrases allow speakers and writers to describe when something happened, is happening, or will happen.

For example:

"She will arrive after lunch."

"They met while I was studying."

"We have to finish the project by tomorrow."

In each sentence, the temporal word clarifies the timing of the action, providing the listener or reader with a clear understanding of the sequence or duration of events.

The study of time and temporality has intrigued scientists and philosophers for centuries. Among the most notable contributors are: Immanuel Kant, Albert Einstein, Henri Bergson,

Immanuel Kant argued that time is a fundamental concept that structures human perception. According to him, our understanding of time is not derived from experience but is an innate aspect of how we perceive the world. Albert Einstein's theory of relativity revolutionized our understanding of time, showing that it is not absolute but relative, depending on the observer's speed and gravity. This has implications not just in physics but also in how we think about time in everyday life. Henri Bergson is a philosopher who contrasted "lived time" (or "duration") with the mathematical time used by scientists. He emphasized that human experience of time is fluid and continuous, unlike the segmented, linear time often depicted in clocks and calendars.

These thinkers have shaped the way we understand temporality, influencing various fields, including linguistics. Their insights underscore the complexity of time as a concept and its deep connection to human cognition and language. The study of temporality in the linguistic sphere began in earnest in the early 20th century, though discussions related to time and tense can be traced back to classical philosophers and early grammarians. Greek philosophers like Aristotle and Plato discussed concepts of time and its relation to language, though not in the formalized linguistic sense we understand today. The early 20th century can be said as the beginning of systematic study. While Ferdinand de Saussure did not focus specifically on temporality, his structuralist approach laid the groundwork for later linguistic analyses, including the study of tense and aspect. Otto Jespersen a Danish linguist, contributed significantly to the understanding of tense and mood in his work on English grammar. His book "The Philosophy of Grammar" (1924) offered early systematic treatment of temporality in language.

Mid-20th century can be named as Formalization and Expansion. During this period Roman Jakobson a key figure in structural linguistics, made important contributions to the understanding of time, particularly through his work on grammatical categories, including tense and aspect. Emile Benveniste is a French structuralist, worked on the relationship between language and time, especially in his analyses of verb tenses and their implications for temporality.

Several scientists made their research in late 20th century. Bernard Comrie's book "Tense" (1985) is one of the most comprehensive studies on the topic [1]. Comrie's work systematically explored the expression of temporality across languages, particularly focusing on tense and aspect. Carlota Smith, an American linguist, is known for her work on the aspectual system in language, particularly the distinction between perfective and imperfective aspects and how these relate to temporality. [3] Although more of a philosopher and logician, Hans Reichenbach's 1947 work "Elements of Symbolic Logic" included a formal theory of tense, which has been very influential in linguistic theories of temporality. [2]

Contemporary research includes the following: Angelika Kratzer is a contemporary linguist who has done significant work on modality and tense, particularly in how they interact with each other. [4] Nirit Kadmon's work on formal semantics includes studies on tense, aspect, and

how temporal expressions are interpreted in natural language. [5]

The study of temporality in linguistics has evolved from a focus on tense and aspect to more complex interactions between time, modality, and discourse, with ongoing research contributing to our understanding of how different languages express time.

Why teaching temporal words is important for English learners? For learners of English, understanding and using temporal words correctly is essential for several reasons:

Enhances Communication Clarity: Temporal words help learners structure their sentences in a way that clearly conveys the timing of events. Without them, statements can become confusing or ambiguous.

Improves Narrative Skills: Whether writing a story or recounting past events, temporal words are necessary to create a coherent narrative. They allow learners to link sentences and ideas smoothly, making their writing or speaking more engaging and understandable.

Facilitates Understanding of Tense: English has complex verb tenses, and temporal words often work in tandem with these tenses to convey time accurately. Learning these words helps students grasp when to use specific tenses, such as the past perfect or future continuous.

Supports Advanced Language Proficiency: For more advanced learners, mastering temporal words is key to achieving fluency. They enable more nuanced expressions of time, such as conditional scenarios or hypothetical situations.

Cultural Competence: Time concepts vary across cultures, and understanding how English speakers use temporal words can help learners navigate social situations more effectively, avoiding misunderstandings.

So, what teaching strategies are advisable for temporal words? When teaching temporal words, educators should consider using the following strategies:

Contextual Learning: It is better to teach temporal words within the context of stories, dialogues, or real-life scenarios. This helps students see how these words function in authentic communication.

Visual Aids: Timelines, calendars, and flowcharts can be effective tools for illustrating the sequence of events and the use of temporal words.

Practice Activities: Encourage students to practice using temporal words in both speaking and writing. Activities like story sequencing, role-playing, and timeline creation can be particularly helpful.

Explicit Grammar Instruction: While context is important, explicit instruction on how temporal words interact with different tenses and sentence structures is also necessary.

CONCLUSION

Temporal words are a fundamental aspect of language that enables effective communication about time. The work of scientists and philosophers like Kant, Einstein, and Bergson highlights the complexity and significance of temporality in human cognition. For English learners, mastering temporal words is crucial for clear communication, narrative coherence, and overall language fluency. By incorporating thoughtful teaching strategies, educators can help students navigate the intricate landscape of time in language, ultimately leading to more effective and nuanced communication.

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