# VOCABULARY LEARNING STRATEGIES: A CASE IN GRADUATE RECORD EXAMINATIONS

A Thesis Submitted to the Department of English Education In Partial Fulfilment for the Master's Degree in Education

> Submitted by Bedu Dahal

Faculty of Education
Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur
Kathmandu, Nepal
2009

# VOCABULARY LEARNING STRATEGIES: A CASE IN GRADUATE RECORD EXAMINATIONS

A Thesis Submitted to the Department of English Education In Partial Fulfilment for the Master's Degree in Education (Specialization in English Education)

Submitted by

Bedu Dahal

Faculty of Education

Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur

Kathmandu, Nepal

2009

TU Reg. No: 9-2-1-1089-2000 Date of Approval of the

Second Year Examination Thesis Proposal: 2065-03-26

Roll no: 280182/2064 Date of Submission: 2065-11-23

#### RECOMMENDATION FOR ACCEPTANCE

This is to certify that **Bedu Dahal** has prepared this thesis entitled **Vocabulary Learning Strategies: A Case in Graduate Record Examinations** under my guidance and supervision.

I recommend the thesis for acceptance.

Dr. Bal Mukunda Bhandari

Lecturer
Department of English Education
Faculty of Education
TU, Kirtipur, Kathmandu

Date: 2065-11-23

## RECOMMENDATION FOR EVALUATION

This thesis has been recommended for evaluation from the following Research Guidance Committee.

	Signature
Dr. Chandreshwar Mishra	
Reader and Head	Chairperson
Department of English Education	
TU, Kirtipur	
Mrs. Tapsi Bhattacharya	
Reader	Member
Department of English Education	
TU, Kirtipur	
Dr. Bal Mukunda Bhandari (Guide)	
Lecturer	Member
Department of English Education	
TU, Kirtipur	

Date: 2065-12-21

## **EVALUATION AND APPROVAL**

This Thesis has been approved by the following thesis Evaluation and Approval Committee.

	Signature
Dr. Chandreshwar Mishra	
Reader and Head	Chairperson
Department of English Education	
T U, Kirtipur	
Dr. Jai Raj Awasthi	
Professor	Member
Department of English Education	
Chairperson	
English and Other Foreign Languages Education	
Subject Committee	
TU, Kirtipur	
Dr. Bal Mukunda Bhandari (Guide)	
Lecturer	Member
Department of English Education	
TU, Kirtipur	

Date: 2065-12-23

# **DEDICATION**

### Dedicated

to

My Parents who devotedly tried to make me what I am today.

## **DECLARATION**

I hereby declare to the best of my knowledge that this thesis is original; no part of it was earlier submitted for the candidature of the research to any university.

**Bedu Dahal** 

Date: 2065-11-20

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

This research work has been prepared for the partial fulfillment of M. Ed. Degree in English Education.

Firstly I owe a debt of profound gratitude to my thesis supervisor **Dr. Bal Mukunda Bhandari**, Lecturer in English Education, Central Department of Education, TU, for his invaluable and untiring guidance, encouragement and suggestions from the very beginning to the end of the writing of this thesis.

I am sincerely grateful to **Dr. Chandreshwar Mishra**, Reader and Head of the Department of English Education, and **Mrs. Tapsi Bhattacharya**, Reader of English, Central Department of Education, TU, for their constructive suggestions as the members of the Research Guidance Committee. I am much indebted to **Prof. Dr. Jai Raj Awasthi** of the Department of English Education for helpful suggestions.

My sincere gratitude also goes to **Prof. Dr. Govinda Raj Bhattarai**, **Prof. Dr. Tirth Raj Khaniya**, **Prof. Dr. Shanti Basnyat**, and **Dr. Anjana Bhattarai** for their direct or indirect encouragement and academic supports.

I owe very much to **Mr. Bal Krishna Sharma** and **Mr. Prem Bahadur Phyak**, Lecturers at the Department of English Education for their helpful suggestions and precious guidance throughout the research work. I am also grateful to other teachers and staff of Department.

Further, I would like to thank **Chudamani Poudyal, Anita Subba, Gita Neupane** and **Prabin Rai** for their co-operation in carrying out this research.

Finally, I express my deep sense of gratitude to my parents, brothers and sister for their regular encouragement and support in my study.

March, 2009 Bedu Dahal

#### **ABSTRACT**

This research is a study of **Vocabulary Learning Strategies: A Case in Graduate Record Examinations**. This work attempted to find out the strategies employed by the GRE learners. For this I have selected 80 GRE learners randomly from four different institutes of Kathmandu valley as the population of the study. The researcher used questionnaire as a tool for data collection. On the basis of the collected data, the strategies employed by the learners were determined using simple statistical tools like percentage and weighted mean and presented with the help of tables and chart to draw the findings. The major finding of this research included the strategies employed by the learners of GRE on the basis of the weighted mean. The most used strategies were learning words by definition and noting down the meaning during teacher's explanation.

The study report consists of four chapters. Chapter one introduces the study in terms of general background; review of related literature, objectives and significance of the study along with the definition of some specific terms. Chapter two deals with the methodological strategies used to conduct the study which includes the sources of data, population of the study, sampling procedure, process of data collection and limitations of the study. Chapter three includes analysis and interpretation of the collected data. The data were analyzed and interpreted by using simple statistical tools and presented with the help of tables, diagrams and chart. Chapter four, the final chapter of this thesis presents the findings, recommendations of the study.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

			Pages
Dec	laration	1	i
Rec	ommen	dation for Acceptance	ii
Rec	ommen	dation for Evaluation	iii
Eva	luation	and Approval	iv
Ded	lication		v
Ack	nowled	gements	vi
Abs	tract		vii
Tab	ole of Co	ontents	viii
List	of Tab	les	X
List	of Diag	grams and Chart	xi
List	of Abb	reviations	xii
		CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION	1-20
1.1	Genera	ll Background	1
	1.1.1	Vocabulary	3
	1.1.2	Types of Vocabulary	5
	1.1.3	Learning Strategies	6
	1.1.4	Types of Learning Strategies	7
	1.1.5	Graduate Record Examinations (GRE)	10
	1.1.6	Types of GRE Tests	12
	1.1.7	Format of GRE	17
1.2	Review	w of Related Literature	18
1.3	Object	tives of the Study	20
1.4	Significance of the Study		
1.5	Definition of the Specific Terms		20

	<b>CHAPTER TWO: METHODOLOGY</b>	21-23
2.1	Sources of Data	21
	2.1.1 Primary Source of Data	21
	2.1.2 Secondary Sources of Data	21
2.2	Sampling Procedure and Sample Population	21
2.3	Tools of Data Collection	21
2.4	Procedure of Data Collection	22
2.5	Limitations of the Study	22
2.6	Procedure of Data Analysis	22
CF	HAPTER THREE: ANALYSIS AND INTRRPRETATION	24-52
3.1	The GRE Learners Responses about the Strategies of Learning	
	Vocabulary	24
3.2	Analysis and Interpretation of the GRE Learners' Responses	27
3.3	Analysis and Interpretation of the GRE Learners' Responses	
	On the basis of the Taxonomy of Vocabulary Learning	42
	3.3.1 Meta Cognitive Strategies	42
	3.3.2 Cognitive Learning Strategies	43
	3.3.3 Socio-Affective Strategies	46
3.4	Distribution of the GRE Learners' Responses on the Basis of the	
	Strategies Used by them	48
	3.4.1 Strategies Used by the GRE Learners	48
	3.4.2 Strategies May or May not be Used by GRE Learners	49
	3.4.3 Strategies not Used by the GRE Learners	51
СН	APTER FOUR: FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	53-54
4.1	Findings	53
4.2	Recommendations	54
RE	FERENCES	55-57
API	PENDICES	

# LIST OF TABLES

	Pages
Table 1: Format of the GRE	17
Table 2: The GRE Learners' Responses Reflecting the Meta	
Cognitive Strategies of Learning Vocabulary	42
Table 3: The GRE Learners' Responses Reflecting the Cognitive	
Learning Strategies of Learning Vocabulary	44
Table 4: The GRE Learners' Responses Reflecting the Socio-	
Affective Strategies of Learning Vocabulary	47
Table 5: Strategies Used by the GRE Learners	48
Table 6: Strategies May or May not be Used by the GRE Learners	49
Table 7: Strategies not Used by the GRE Learners	51

# LIST OF DIAGRAMS AND CHART

Pag	ge no.
Diagram no. 1: Bar Diagram Showing Distribution of the GRE Learners	
Responses about the strategies of Learning Vocabulary in terms	
of Rating Scale	25
Diagram no. 2: Scatter Diagram Showing Rating Scale of the GRE Learne	rs
Responses about the Strategies of Learning Vocabulary	26
Diagram no. 3: Weighted Mean of the GRE Learners' Responses about the	;
Strategies of Learning Vocabulary	26
Diagram no. 4: Scatter Diagram Showing the Meta Cognitive Strategies o	f
Learning Vocabulary	43
Diagram no. 5: Scatter Diagram Showing the Cognitive Strategies of Learn	ning
Vocabulary	46
Diagram no. 6: Scatter Diagram Showing Socio-Affective Strategies of	
Learning Vocabulary	48
Diagram no. 7: Scatter Diagram Showing the GRE learners' Responses on	the
basis of the Strategies Used by them	52
Chart 1: Percentage Representing the GRE Learners' Responses on the	
basis of the Strategies Used by them	52

#### LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AGS Association of Graduate Schools

CD Compact Disk

CGS Council of Graduate Schools

CUP Cambridge University Press

Ed Edition

Eds. Editors

ELT English Language Teaching

ETS Educational Testing Services

GRE Graduate Record Examinations

W.M. weighted mean

NELTA Nepal English Language Teachers' Associations

NIEC Nepal International Educational Consultancy

OUP Oxford University Press

p. page

Reg. No. Registration Number

TU Tribhuvan University

US United States of America

Viz Videlicet (Namely)

Vol. Volume