

## CHAPTER-IV

### WORD-AND-VOCABULARY

#### 4.1 MEANING OF WORD :

Today, this is growing need of human life to acquire more and more languages. The reasons may be different behind acquisition of languages, but it is true that language acquisition enriches the individual as well as the society.

Now language learning has become a science. So it is easy to acquire it in minimum efforts but with maximum profits. The science of language has made it easy to learn more and more languages within a short span of time. Every language is different from the other because it has itself a collective art of expression.

Traditionally the study of language is divided into four main branches viz. phonetic, morphology, syntax and semantics. But in practice, systematic study of words does not find its place in any of these branches. Therefore, it would not be improper to treat wordology as a separate branch of language.

"Wordology should be the new branch of a language which can be divided into two sub-groups viz. One is theoretical wordology and the second is applied wordology. Theoretical wordology contains laws of word formation and laws of vocabulary in learning of different languages. But applied wordology contains learning of a language vocabulary or comparative vocabulary study of two or more than two languages on the basis of general rules." (Dr. Nagendra)

When any one uses the language it means a set of different words used by the speaker to communicate his thoughts and feelings. When we use the word 'language', we mean the words in the language. They are suppliers of thoughts and emotions. The words embody more elements such as traditions, beliefs, culture, habits and even geographical surrounding. With the growth of the literacy the gulf between a dialect and the standard language has reduced.

One who lacks the word-power, lacks in understanding and thinking ability. Such a person even fails to express himself and as such lacks communication and ultimately becomes a retarded one. The individual progress is linked up with his linguistic progress or achievement. Thus, in short, language plays a vitally important role in the life of an individual.

When any one uses the word 'language' he is talking with the help of the words. Many linguists have defined it in their own way of thinking. Some major important definitions are quoted below :

"The word is one of the smallest completely satisfying bits of isolated 'meaning' into which the sentence resolves itself."

- Mr. Sapir

"The smallest unit of vocal expression which has meaning and communicates an idea when taken by itself."

- Carter V. Good

According to western linguists some Indian linguists have also worked in this field.

The child develops his language by word after word. He understands and uses the word very easily. The size of vocabulary continues to grow during his whole life.

When words are introduced, it is more important to see that they come into practice or not. Actually the words come into practice which one feels easy and some others remain in dictionary which are difficult to use. An environment plays prominent role in vocabulary development. The number of words in a personal vocabulary change from time to time and place to place.

The same case is with adults in acquiring knowledge of words, and so there is always difference in using words for first language in home and the words of second language outside.

The Report of the official language Commission gives suggestions on Page 61, "For a successful solution of the problem of the languages in India, in our view, it is imperative that the same principle of identity should be employed to the maximum possible extent when building up these supplementary vocabularies for our languages."

Identical or similar words of adult's mothertongue should be selected. This would create interest in adults in learning words.

Old words are discarded from practical use and new words take their place. This process of coming new words in the place of old one continues in any language. It is a symbol of liveness of any language.

#### 4.2 CLASSIFICATION-OF-WORDS :

The classification of words is an important part of words learning. Words are generally divided into two classes, a) Structural words and b) Content words. These words deal with matter of the subject. These two classes of words are again sub-divided into sub-classes as shown below :

a) Structural words -

i) Essential words - These are the words without which we cannot talk.

ii) General words- We talk with the help of these words.

b) Content words -

i) Common environmental words - These words denote certain things which are common to all environments.

ii) Zonal words - These are the words which are universal within a large zone.

iii) Specific words - These are the words used only by a certain limited class of individual or in a certain limited area or deal with some particular subject in which all are not interested.

The theory of function and content word has given new outlook to the theory of basic vocabulary. The concept of basic vocabulary is mainly dependent upon frequency count of the words. Those words which are frequent in language use are accepted as basic vocabulary in teaching of any language.

We use so many words for daily social communication. We use any word which fulfils our needs. We pull out our conversation. Though the word order is loose but sufficiently meaningful.

We have to accept new words according to changing environment but the traditional social mind of a man uses the same routine vocabulary and try to maintain the common range of easy and simple vocabulary. The same original word has to be used in different meaningful situations and it creates so many meanings of one word. So the meanings of these words depend on context.

It is clear that if a man uses one and the same word in two different situations, the meaning of the word changes with the situations. With different situations, the person uses different modes. This fact is clearly stated by Stephan Ullman that, "Larger groupings bound together by the same interests, professions, trades, games and sports etc. all have their special vocabulary." The illiterate adults have needed their special vocabulary. So the researcher has tried to study of the special vocabulary for adults.

#### 4.3 TYPES-OF-WORDLISTS :

The following are the types of word lists which have been used by research workers to measure the vocabularies.

##### a) A-word-frequency list :

In this type of list, a count of words is taken from the material studied. The words are arranged in order of frequency and also alphabetically. The words securing high frequency are considered as commonest words. They are treated as very easy for learning by the adults.

b) A-range-list :

This type of word list shows the number of sources in which the word occurred. It cannot give an idea about the usefulness of words for a certain purpose. If the range list is used alongwith the frequency list, it proves to be very useul in determining the value of a word.

c) A-specific-word-frequency-list :

In this type of list, words useful for specific purposes are listed e.g. lists prepared for travel, sports, business, transport, industry, commerce etc. Persons interested in a particular profession can make use of this list. They can learn the vocabulary of that particular trade within the shortest possible time.

A word frequency list is a statistical statement of words. It may be acceptive if it has not interpreted carefully. Two criticisms are labelled against the frequency list. (a) The method of counting homonyms and (b) The effect of the chosen material on the result of the count.

The term 'homonyms' means word having two or more meanings so widely different that there is no relationship between them e.g.

भाव (rate)	भाव (Devotion)
कर (hand)	कर (do)

Homonyms if counted under one and the same word create some defect. If the frequencies of both the words are combined sometimes the unimportant word may secure a higher place in the word list. To remove this effect a semantic count of words (words having different

meanings will be counted separately) is taken. In the present study, the words having more than one meaning have been counted separately.

The wordlist should be comprehensive. It should consider all types of literature i.e. industrial, business, classical. One type of literature should not be over-emphasized of the other.

But in the present study all types of literature is not included. As this wordlist is limited to illiterate adults of 15-35 years age group.

#### 4.4 FACTORS AFFECTING WORD-LISTS :

The conclusions of vocabulary study depend upon some factors. They are as follows :

1) The group selected for study - the types of occupations, the background of experience, the place of adult, the age group, sexual difference (men and women).

2) The methods used for determining a word list such as only to define word, to demonstrate, to recognise different shades of meaning or to ask question with reference.

3) The way in which the researcher defines a word as a unit of measurement. More recent studies have considered the matter of semantics and counted each separate meaning as a separate word.

4) The method of selecting the sample of words for a vocabulary test. Samples have taken from word lists or from the dictionary have been selected by the page method. The dictionary has used for the selecting of words.

#### 4.5 MEANING-OF-VOCABULARY :

In English, there are two words used for the 'word'. One is 'word' itself and the second is 'vocabulary'. Though these two words are used according to user's desire, still they differ in their connotations. Generally, the 'word' is used for isolated or single word but the 'vocabulary' is used for the group of words, used in a language. The total number of words making up a language is called a vocabulary. The meaning of the word is changed in the context and as times passes, new meanings are added to these words. The literal meaning of the word 'vocabulary' is the stock of words employed by an individual speaker, author, class of person etc.

In Oxford dictionary, the meaning of vocabulary is given as "the range of language of a particular person, class, profession or the like." Every normal person probably learns atleast three new words every day and forgets old one at an appreciable. In fact, children are very much interested in developing their vocabulary at the age of 8 to 10 years. Illiterate adults can talk many words but they do not know the words how to read these.

We use different vocabularies for different purposes but it is essential to control the vocabulary for educational purpose. The teacher has to select vocabulary according to his aims and objectives of teaching any language. So the researcher has selected vocabulary problem. He has kept some objectives before him to study this problem.

In selecting the vocabulary for reading purpose or for preparing teaching materials a number of criteria has applied. The most important

single criterials that of frequency. Taking into consideration, this criteria of frequency, many surveys and research studies have been done so far. Report of these studies are included in detail in this report's Chapter No. III heading namely, Review of Previous Literature.

The researcher has undertaken to determine the common vocabulary of adults through an analysis of letters forms, dictionaries and other writings related to the adult literature.

Some other factors help in developing vocabularies. According to some researchers, there is a sex difference in vocabulary development. Women are more superior to men. But the vocabulary of women is more related to domestic things while the vocabulary of men is related to outside the home environment. Family size and structure effects on the vocabulary. Social class and cultural heritage, contacts with adults affect the vocabulary development. Present age is the age of specialization. So different persons have prepared specific word frequency lists aiming at discovering the nature of the vocabulary of same particular type of reading matter. So the researcher has tried to determine the specific vocabulary for illiterate adults.

Mallikarjunaswamy (1969) worked on adult vocabulary and reported that the words which frequently occurred were useful to control the vocabulary, whereas the words which do not occur so frequently, but commonly occurred and were familiar to the adult would be helpful to control the vocabulary of neo-literates.

#### 4.6 VARIOUS METHODS COMMONLY USED FOR VOCABULARY STUDY :

There are two methods available for vocabulary study. One is a catalogue method and the other is a sampling method.

##### 1) A-Catalogue-Method -

In this method, we record every word employed by the 'child' whose vocabulary is being investigated, over a definite period of time, sufficiently long to allow approximately the whole vocabulary to be recorded, but not so long that the record from day-to-day represents merely the normal daily increase in vocabulary. Normally, this method can only be employed with children upto about the age of six to seven.

##### 2) A-Sampling-Method -

In this method, the subject is presented with a list of 100 words which must represent a fair sample of the words in the ordinary dictionary. He is asked to mark the words which he knows the meaning of or could use. -----To obtain a more accurate estimate, however, we must apply a correlation factor----- Thus if the subject marks 80 of the 100, and defines correctly 9 out of the 10, his total vocabulary is given by  $\frac{9}{10}$  of 80, that is 72 percent of the words in the dictionary. For a reliable estimate of vocabulary by this method, we should take atleast three samples and average the results. This method has been employed by Terman.

Using the sampling method, vocabulary lists are prepared on the basis of age of the students or on the basis of standard of the students. In this research work the sampling method has used. The vocabulary list

is prepared on the basis of age of the adults and on the basis of occupations of the adults.

Vocabulary lists are prepared on various basis. One of them is frequency count based vocabulary. In this research work vocabularylist is prepared on the basis of frequency count.

Vocabulary lists are very helpful in teaching-learning process. They make the study interesting and economical in efforts. Here the vocabulary list is prepared for to remove the illiteracy and to make interest of adults in reading words and with this adults can learn to read.

#### **4.7 USES-OF-VOCABULARY-LISTS :**

The vocabulary lists are useful for the following persons.

##### **A) Teacher-Community -**

The vocabulary list will be helpful to adult education teachers in many ways. With the help of vocabulary lists,he can find out which are the new words to be introduced in a particular stage which are the words already known to the adults and which of them need drilling. The vocabulary list will be useful in selection for the suitable teaching methods. It will be useful for planning the exercises of the adults.

##### **B) Writer -**

The writers of literature for illiterate and semi-literate adults, can use vocabulary lists for their writings. They can choose suitable words for their writings and make them attractive. A book written with the help of such vocabulary list can sustain interest among adults. This

list will be useful for effective implementation of programme laid down in N.A.E.P. Not only teaching but maintaining the literacy it also important in A.E.P. The vocabulary list will be helpful to the writers for making source materials for adults.

**C) Mass-media of communication -**

Radio and television are the powerful means of mass-education. Radio and T.V. have immediate impact on common people. The basic vocabulary is very useful for these broad-casts especially meant for rural people, workers, women and children. So careful selection of words with the help of word list will minimise the difficulties faced by listeners in understanding and appreciating the programme.

**D) Editors and Newspapers, Magazines etc. -**

News papers and magazines are also one of the mass media of communication. But their impact is more visual, directly related to eye and script communication. News-papers would the economic, social and political outlook of the nation. They transmit the culture from one generation to another.

The news-papers will have to use a limited vocabulary for the spread of education and culture. This vocabulary list will be helpful for adults to read news-papers.

**E) Neo-literates -**

In the outline of N.A.E.P., it is observed "Exclusion of the vast majority of adult population from the organised system of education will not cease only by organisation of one time adult education programme.

The perspective of life-long learning and provision of arrangements, therefore, shall have put forth in view in planning and preparing for N.A.E.P. From this point of view the N.A.E.P. will not conclude with the end of quinquennium. Systematic follow-up programmes shall have to be organised almost with the beginning of N.A.E.P. They would comprise a well organised system of mass production of books and their dissemination and inclusion in the communicational circuit of the neo-literates. It would be desirable to follow up adult education programme with organised developmental action."

So the word lists are useful for the preparation of the literature for the neo-literates. Such words, if included in the literature meant for them, they will read these books with interest resulting in the retention of their literacy programme.

The word lists are useful in giving the most frequently used words in reading or writing but they do not denote words that adult should use. The growth of vocabulary of adult can't be possible only by the use of word lists. The word lists should be prepared purposefully.

The word lists serve as good guides for teachers in finding out the reading as well as writing vocabularies of adult but these lists need modification in respect of illiteracy and occupational adults.

#### 4.8 TYPES-OF-VOCABULARY :

The study of words vocabulary science is the study of total number of words used by an individual or words used in a language or in a book and their nature of application.

There are three types of vocabularies. They are (1) Vocabulary of an individual, (2) Vocabulary of a book and (3) Vocabulary of a language. But the present work is limited to the vocabulary of an individual study.

Dr. B.Tiwari says, "The vocabulary of an individual is of two types. One is an active vocabulary and the other is passive vocabulary. These are again divided into three sub-types and they are -

Active Vocabulary

1) Very active vocabulary

2) Active vocabulary

3) Less active vocabulary

Passive Vocabulary

1) Very passive vocabulary

2) Passive vocabulary

3) Less passive vocabulary

In Layman's ordinary vocabulary the percentage of active vocabulary is very low but the persons of specialised fields or technical side, the percentage of active vocabulary is very high.

On this basis, the highest and lowest vocabulary of different professional persons have been calculated and results have been achieved. This result depicts that an uneducated farmer possesses only 500 to 800 words of active vocabulary.

The vocabulary of an individual may be divided into two main parts and they are (1) A basic vocabulary and (2) A social, cultural and contextual vocabulary.

According to Dr. N.G. Kalekar basic vocabulary is related to the needs of human beings and their general knowledge.

The social, cultural and contextual vocabulary is related to the special factors of an individual such as social system, cultural heritage, professional field, caste system, religion belief etc.

When we use the word 'basic vocabulary' instead of 'limited vocabulary', we have to decide first what words are basic in a language and why are they ? What are the limitations of it ? So some researchers stress on the meaning of words for fixing the basic vocabulary. But basic vocabulary has a relative value, which is related to social needs and principles in the context of culture. The limited vocabulary is related with a place or location. It may be of different types. The vocabulary related to family activities, farming, carpentry, goldsmithy type of professional vocabulary limited and even the people using this language are not familiar with all words regarding these activities. Limited vocabulary is useful only when a particular situation arises and so it is occasionally used.

In the basic vocabulary words are arranged according to their frequency. A word with a high frequency is considered more important than a word with a low frequency and it consists of all structural words and a few selected content words which are absolutely essential for one's expression and comprehension.

Though the minimum adequate reading vocabulary can be prepared by selecting those words from the word-frequency list which can fairly and adequately express the ideas and by including certain 'categories' such as colours, foods, animals, etc. but such a word-list is difficult to prepare as the needs are always changing.

Mr. R.G. Strickland divides the vocabulary into two groups. One is active vocabulary and the other is passive vocabulary.

Active vocabulary is divided into two major types of vocabularies and they are - (i) Speaking vocabulary and (ii) writing vocabulary. These two types are again sub-divided into informal and formal vocabulary.

Passive vocabulary is sub-divided into two types. One is understanding vocabulary which is again classified into listening vocabulary and reading vocabulary. The other is marginal vocabulary which is again sub-divided into context vocabulary and analysis vocabulary.

In listening vocabulary those words are grouped which words an individual recognises and comprehends through listening. Reading vocabulary is the words an individual recognises and comprehends through reading.

In this research work, the researcher has tried to study the reading vocabulary for the illiterate adults. The reading vocabulary has prepared purposefully and this limited vocabulary will help the adults and their needs will fulfil. The adults will learn to read in a shorter time with this vocabulary list.