The creation of a passive recall version of the Vocabulary Size Test

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Recognition tests of vocabulary size are quick to administer and score, but have been criticized due to their forced-choice format for which guessing and inflation are serious disadvantages. As such tests fall on an implicational scale wherein active recall knowledge signifies greater vocabulary knowledge than passive recall, active recognition, and passive recognition (Laufer, 2007; Laufer & Goldstein, 2004), a passive recall format with an L1 translation task has been proposed as a more accurate way of measuring vocabulary size. Thus, correctly answering items at a greater knowledge-tier (L1 translation) implies that lower knowledge-tier items (multiple-choice) are also known.

This presentation will detail the creation, piloting, and challenges of a passive recall version of the 20,000-word family, 100-item Vocabulary Size Test (VST) (Beglar, 2010; Nation, 2012; Nation & Beglar, 2007) for Japanese test-takers. This study aimed to: 1. create and pilot a new written recall version of the VST (Recall VST); 2. investigate what differences exist between scores on the original VST (Recognition VST) and the new Recall VST when measuring the vocabulary sizes of intermediate university learners of English; and 3. compare both measures of vocabulary size with performance on a written multiple-choice reading comprehension test. Looking forward, the implications of this study include a new instrument, specifications, and method through which to assess, practice, and learn vocabulary for language learners.

References


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