

## **A STUDY ON THE STUDENTS' AWARENESS OF THE TERM 'COLLOCATION'**

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**Abstract:** For the effective use of English language the knowledge of collocation is essential. The students who study English as the third language are likely to know less about this term. So, the present research study was undertaken to find out the awareness of this term among the last year undergraduate students of special English from Ichalkaranji city. Exercise sheets including objective type questions based on the highly frequent 57 V+N collocations in English were given to the students. On analyzing the data, it was found that students' performance was better.

**Keywords:** Collocation, Students, Special English, V+N Collocations.

**Introduction:** India is a multi-lingual country. Every state has its own regional language. In these states, three language formulas are proposed for education system. Here, the first language is the regional language ( L1 ), second language is the national language that is Hindi ( L2 ) and English, the world language is taught as the third language ( L3). In this fast moving world knowledge of English is a must. To make the effective use of English having vocabulary and knowing sentence patterns is not enough, but knowledge of the terms like Collocation is very essential. But students studying English as the third language are likely to know less about this term. So, the present research work was undertaken in which the students of B.A. III special English from Ichalkaranji city were selected to find out the awareness of the term collocation, V + N Collocation in particular.

**Procedure and Findings :** In the beginning, it becomes necessary to know what is collocation. Collocation is an important term in English grammar. It can be defined as 'Collocation is the way words combine in a language to produce natural sounding speech and writing.' We can generally say that Collocation means a habitual association between particular words which sounds 'right' to the native English speakers.

Harold Palmer, the linguist firstly worked on Collocation. Then the British linguist J.R. Firth who is known as the 'Father of Collocation' gave his valuable contribution.

There are many types of collocations. They are as following:

1. Adjective + Noun
2. Quantifier + Noun
3. Verb + Noun
4. Noun + Verb
5. Noun + Noun
6. Preposition + Noun
7. Noun + Preposition
8. Adverb + Verb

The selected students of B.A III special English were from rural and semi-rural areas. For the present study 57 highly frequent V + N Collocations were selected. Objective type questions like tables, matching, fill in the blanks, pairs etc. based on these collocations were included in the exercise sheet. Data was collected from three colleges of the city. Additional information like name of the schools and colleges, medium of instruction, mother tongue, education of family members etc. was taken from the students. This information helped to find out their sociological and educational family background.

The collected data was analyzed. With the help of 'Oxford Collocations Dictionary' collocations formed by students were checked. On analyzing the data researcher found that the students' awareness of Collocations was better. Students who were regular in the college and had sound financial and educational family background performed better. Among 57 V + N Collocations selected for the study, 30 Collocations were found as the 'Active Collocations' on the other hand, 27 collocations were found as the 'Passive Collocations'. Researcher also found the influence of Marathi over the students' formation of the collocations. The researcher observed that students from semi-rural area have performed better than those from the rural area.

Some students performed well even though they didn't have favourable background. It can be due to their ambitious and studious nature.

**Conclusions:** In this study it is found that deliberate introduction and more serious teaching of this concept is necessary. In the end, this study suggested the following topics for further research –

Other types of Collocations such as Noun + Verb, Adverb + Adjective, Adverb + Verb, Quantifier + Noun, Noun + Preposition etc. can be chosen for the further research

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