

Preparing writing teachers to teach the vocabulary and grammar of academic prose

This article is a literature review focused on the vocabulary and grammar of academic writing. A list of web-based resources is also included.

1. Vocabulary instruction in the English for Academic Purposes (EAP) composition class



Vocabulary knowledge needed for different language use processes is different. (Nation, 2001)

- To use a word in writing, learners need to have the knowledge of its meaning in various contexts, spelling, collocations, word families, regular grammatical patterns, formality, word parts, synonyms and opposites, and so on.
- Multiple exposures are crucial.
- For students to acquire this level of knowledge, both students and teachers' need to plan the learning.
- The Academic Word List (AWL) (Coxhead, 2000) is an example of an academic word list. Lack of knowledge of academic words can block students from becoming effective academic writers.



Different academic genres demand specialized language knowledge.



Reading provides students opportunities to learn vocabulary in authentic contexts. But learning needs to be strategically planned.

2. Grammar instruction in the EAP composition class

Grammatical features of academic prose:



Complex noun phrases often followed by prepositional phrase



Frequent use of passive voice



Common use of nouns

Learning needs to happen in authentic contexts.

3. Lexicogrammar sequences instruction



4. Teacher analysis of selected samples of academic prose

