

ABSTRACT

Learning new words continues throughout a person's lifetime, especially in societies where there are always new objects being invented, new ideas requiring new labels, even new words for old things. In fact, the capacity of human beings for learning new languages is not limited to one language. These people, indeed, can be bilingual or multilingual. Just imagine, how many words proficient stored in their memory, especially in their Long-Term Memory in which vast amounts of words and their information last for very long periods of time and might sometimes be retrieved.

Here, the writer is interested in studying on how the vast amounts of words and their information are stored in the LTM. Besides, the writer also intends to test hypothesis based on the assumption on the vocabulary size and their accessibility to be connected to each other as in an atomic network. For this case, the writer used semantic network structure as a tool to find the answer.

Through semantic network structures the writer compared the organization of L1 (Indonesian) and L2 (English) vocabulary storage in LTM. The respondents of this study are the English Departments students of Letters Faculty of Airlangga University who speak Indonesian as L1 and English as L2 or foreign language.

The findings of this study, anyway, are different from the writer's assumption concerning the vocabulary size of L1 and L2. The writer suggested that the vocabulary size of L1 in the LTM storage was bigger than L2 which influences the accessibility of L1 vocabulary items to be joined with others. The statistic test, however, leads the writer to conclude that it is indeed the L2 vocabulary items, which have bigger accessibility to be joined with others. This suggests that further studies are necessary to account for the findings of this study.

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION