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In The Name of God

Collocation Dictionary

**The effect of different dictionary on learning
collocation**

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Introduction

This book is intended as a guide for students who are required to undertake research in teaching studies and present it in written and/or oral form. It is not an introduction to teaching studies as such, we assume that readers already have a basic familiarity with the field. For anyone learning or teaching a second language, collocation is undoubtedly one of the most fascinating (and at times frustrating) challenges that they will face. Equally, for those interested in researching second language (L2) collocation knowledge and development, the challenges are both fascinating and frustrating, but for different reasons. Collocation dictionary aims to provide a step by step introduction to doing research in an area which, because of its interdisciplinary nature, can present the inexperienced researcher with a bewildering array of collocation. And teaching, we have called it collocation dictionary because it is designed to help you find your way through a relatively new and uncharted terrain. Nowadays, many English language learners use technology such as Soft copy dictionaries to learn foreign languages. This is one of the reasons why English learners in the 21st century are often called "digital natives," because these learners have "spent their entire lives

surrounded by and using computers, videogames, digital music players, video cams, cell phones, software dictionaries and all the other toys of the digital age" (Prensky, 2001). In addition to developing English reading, listening, writing, and speaking skills, nowadays English learners use technology to learn and improve their collocation. It seems that university students take advantage of innovative technologies such as online flashcards and soft copy dictionaries to learn EFL collocation (Steel & Levy, 2013). Yet, most EFL learners do not take advantage of technology to improve the lexical accuracy of their writing, especially in terms of collocations (i.e., combinations of two words that occur frequently together). This is a major gap in the application of technology, collocation instruction, and EFL writing.

To promote collocation accuracy and fluency in EFL written work, researchers have suggested the use of software dictionaries (Nakata, 2012; Ranalli, 2013). The research reported here examined the effectiveness of soft-copy collocation dictionary versus hard-copy collocation dictionaries. Teaching collocations to learners is important at least for five reasons. First, collocations are widespread in language (Erman & Warren, 2000). Second, teaching collocations has been shown to improve learners' lexical and grammatical knowledge² (McCarthy, O'Keefe, & Walsh, 2010). Knowledge of lexical collocations, which combine adjectives, nouns or adverbs (e.g., play a role; major role) and grammatical collocations, which include prepositions (e.g., listen to; fond of) as well as specific

grammatical structures (e.g., recommend doing something) can enhance students' writing. Third, teaching collocations contributes to accuracy (and native-like lexical selection in writing and speaking McCarthy & O'Dell, 2005). Although some EFL writers write pass the law, bring examples, and stand in front of a problem which sound awkward in English, native speakers prefer writing break the law, give examples, and face a problem (Laufer & Waldman, 2011, p. 652). Fourth, collocations help learners understand connotational meanings of words in context (Sinclair, 2004). For example, cause commonly collocates with negative words (e.g., cause- trouble/damage/problems) while provide collocates with positive words (e.g., provide service/information/advice). This phenomenon is also known as Semantic Prosody (see Stubbs, 2009). Fifth, focusing on collocations can contribute to EFL learners' writing development (Hinkel, 2004; Seesink, 2007). Because collocations are formulaic in nature, they are frequently used in writing (e.g., in recent years; current research on; this paper presents). In sum, collocations are important for accuracy in both speech and writing.