

## THE PRESENT APPROACH TO VOCABULARY TESTING IN EFL COURSE BOOKS

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### Abstract

Vocabulary is an important aspect of language and communication skills. A good master of the target language vocabulary helps learners to know and use the target language effectively at all levels: phonetic, grammatical and semantic. This is because a complete knowledge of a word needs far more than simply recognizing the word or being able to give its meaning; it includes learning its: form (spoken and written form, word-parts), meaning (form and meaning, concepts and referents, associations) and use (grammatical functions, collocations and constraints on use).

Testing, a form of assessing learners' foreign language knowledge and competence, needs to be supportive of good language teaching and learning including vocabulary aspect. There are different kinds of vocabulary test tending to focus on different aspects of word knowledge. Since the aim of English language school program is to learn English for communicative purposes, this research aims to analyze the methodological features of some EFL course books used in Albanian secondary schools in order to probe into the main present approach to vocabulary testing and make proposals for English language teachers for an effective vocabulary testing and therefore its teaching and learning, referring to recent research of foreign language acquisition.

It is concluded that different EFL course books offer a structural approach to vocabulary testing: some course books offer activities that mainly focus on the comprehension of the form and meaning of target lexical items through reading skills, others include further activities focusing on other aspects of word knowledge through other communicative skills. It is recommended the use of a wide variety of formats needed to test a range of aspects of word knowledge. Foreign language teachers, especially those who are in lack of such course books, need to become familiar with different techniques that can help testing to have a beneficial backwash on teaching.

**Keywords:** vocabulary testing, approach, course book, aspect, format/operations.