



The relationship between the spoken core vocabulary and high-frequency words in the EFL classroom.

Ai-Ling Kan (akan2@wisc.edu) University of Wisconsin-Madison. School of Education



● Background

1. High-frequency words (**HFW**) frequently occur in written and oral text. When helping young English learners to acquire reading skills, teachers from K-grade 3 typically use readily available lists of high-frequency words for sight words.
2. Two of the most common high-frequency words used in elementary schools are **word list by Dolch and Fry**. (Dolch, 1936; Fry, 1980)

Spoken core vocabulary and HFW



Lori & Mathew (2008)

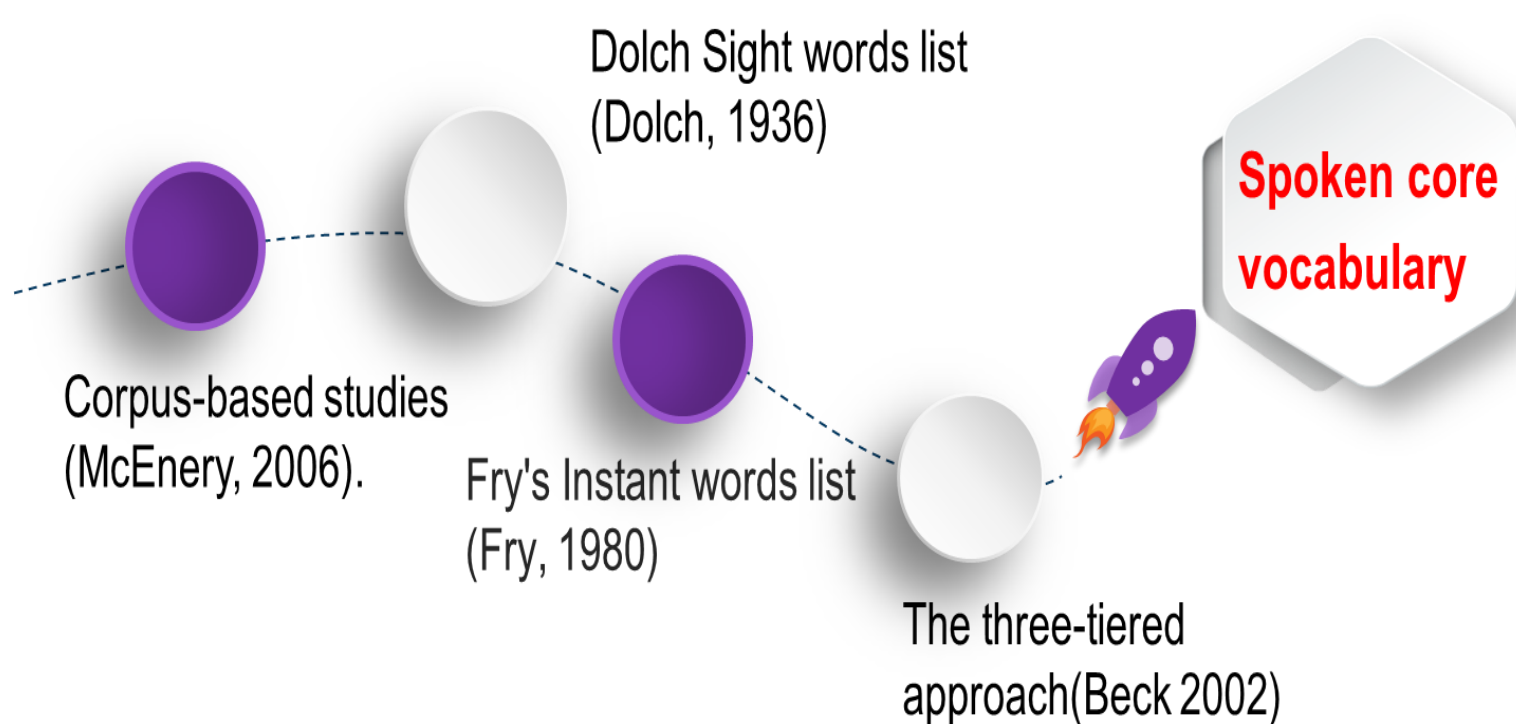
Babayigit (2015)

- Kids have better speaking ability if they learn more sight word vocabulary.
- Oral language plays a key role in reading comprehension.

● Research Issues

1. In EFL classrooms, what percentage of spoken vocabulary appears on Dolch's and Fry's High-frequency word (HFW) lists?
2. What is the spoken core vocabulary used by learners in the EFL classroom?

● Theoretical framework



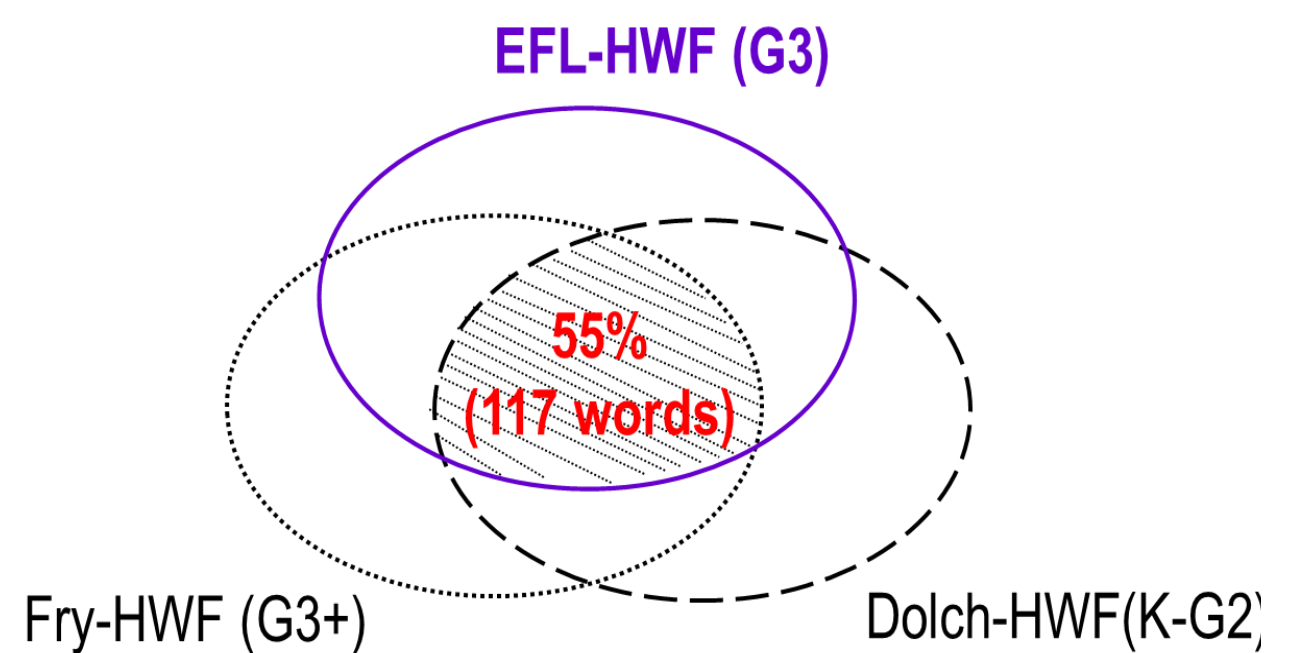
● Research participants

Grade 3 pupils in elementary school
90 students (with consent form)

- All student participants:
- Use **Mandarin as their first language**
- Have been in an **English-class** for at least **two years** (SD=2.57).

● Research Result

1. A relatively small core vocabulary represented a large proportion of the words used by EFL speakers: 220 words accounted for **65.75%** in the EFL spoken corpus in this study. The researcher then selected the top **220 high-frequency words** from these three groups: EFL spoken corpus, Dolch sight word list and Fry instant word list as the comparing foundation.
2. It was found that EFL spoken vocabulary covered **70.45%** of the vocabulary from the **Dolch HFW** and **68.41%** of the vocabulary from the **Fry HFW**.



3. When comparing the 220 words most frequently used by the EFL speakers from the Dolch sight word list and Fry instant word list, there was **an overlapping ratio of 55%, which produced 117 vocabulary words** among the three groups.

- Below are the top 30 of 117 high-frequency words overlapping in EFL spoken corpus, Dolch and Fry word list:

1	YOUR	11	WHEN	21	TWO
2	YOU	12	WHAT	22	TRY
3	WRITE	13	WELL	23	TOO
4	WORK	14	WE	24	TO
5	WITH	15	WAS	25	THREE
6	WILL	16	WANT	26	THIS
7	WHY	17	VERY	27	THINK
8	WHO	18	USE	28	THEY
9	WHICH	19	US	29	THERE
10	WHERE	20	UP	30	THEN

● Significance of research

The research results are intended to be used as a reference for educators who guide EFL beginning learners to understand instructions in EFL classroom and also help advanced students to distinguish between written and spoken English.

● Acknowledgments

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