

REINFORCING MATH VOCABULARY TO ENHANCE PROBLEM SOLVING SKILLS OF GRADE-5 PUPILS OF JRU ELEMENTARY DIVISION

Susana F. Alvarez
Elementary School Division

This action research study which was conducted among Grade 5 math pupils to answer the questions of how mathematical vocabulary plays an integral role in the pupils' ability, in their comprehension of the daily lesson, and most of all, its impact on the curriculum. It is the researcher's belief that math is a language, and to be fluent in that language, one must be able to use and understand vocabulary. The researcher found out that direct instruction and provision of math vocabulary increased the test scores and their confidence as test takers. Furthermore, with the use of vocabulary quizzes and mathematically-centered vocabulary activities, pupils' scores and understanding of math concepts can be increased. It was also found out that many of the pupils had never been exposed to consistent mathematical terminology in their elementary education which led many to have unfavorable impressions about math. As a result of this research, the researcher plans to integrate vocabulary drills as a regular part of the mathematics teaching and continues to look for strategies to promote math vocabulary retention among the pupils. Finally, the researcher will share the findings to the rest of the teachers handling math subjects to be part of their own improvement goals.