RELEVANCE OF THE NEW GENERAL SERVICE LIST IN SELECTING READING PASSAGES FOR ESL STUDENTS

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Abstract:

The original General Service List, published in 1953, was a list of words deemed important for the second language learners of English. The list became the main reference by many studies involving the coverage of words that the second language learners needed to know to understand a certain amount of the text. Since it was developed over 60 years ago, a couple of attempts to update the list was initiated. One of the significant attempts resulted in the development of the New General Service List (NGSL) in 2013. The NGSL consists of high-frequency words that the second language learners need to know to understand approximately 92% of most general English language texts. These are the basic words, but where these words stand in the English Vocabulary Profile (EVP) of the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) have yet to be confirmed. The study intended to determine the CEFR level of the words listed in the NGSL and determine the relationship between the NGSL and the CEFR levels. A descriptive research design and purposive sampling method were adopted. The findings show that most words in the NGSL are listed in the EVP, and there is an inverse relationship between the coverage of the NGSL and the CEFR levels, thus confirming the NGSL can be used as a comparative measure on how much an L2 learner would understand a certain reading text. Future investigations to include analysis of learners' comprehension and more sample passages are recommended.

Keywords: readability, CEFR levels, New General Service List, word analyzer, reading passages

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1. Introduction

This section presents the background of the study, from the original General Service List (GSL) to the New General Service List (NGSL). It also highlights the issue related to the difficulty level of words in the NGSL as measured by the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR). The objectives, significance of the study and the scope and limitation of the study are also presented.

1.1 Background

The General Service List (GSL) was first published in 1953 by Michael West. The GSL consisted of roughly 2000 words deemed necessary for the English as a second language (L2) learner to know. These words were selected to represent the most frequent words of English and were taken from a corpus of written English. The GSL could be used to determine approximately how much the L2 learners would understand a text. West (1953) claimed that knowing the words enabled learners to understand approximately 90-95 percent of colloquial speech and 80-85 percent of any general written texts. As the GSL was compiled more than 60 years ago, a couple of attempts to update the list were initiated. One of the attempts was by Browne, Culligan and Phillips in 2013, resulting in the New General Service List (NGSL) publication. The new list is based on a large, modern corpus to replace some outdated words in the GSL. Some issues concerning the entries of words in the GSL are made clearer and systematic in the NGSL (Browne, Culligan and Phillips, 2013). There are 2801 high-frequency words for L2 learners to know listed in the NGSL. These words were selected from the high-frequency words from the modern corpus of written English (Browne, Culligan and Phillips, 2013). Learners who know these words can understand approximately 92% of most general English language texts (Browne, Culligan and Phillips, 2013).

The words are essential as they are encountered frequently in the written language and make up most of the running words (tokens) in any discourse (Schmitt, 2000). Often, these high-frequency words become the clues to understand other unknown or less familiar words (Laufer, 1997). Even though the list of words is known to be necessary, the difficulty level of these words based on the CEFR levels is yet to be determined. The study intends to determine the CEFR levels of the words in the NGSL. Knowing the CEFR level of the NGSL words could help the course instructors, instructional material developers, and curriculum designers determine the potential coverage of understanding a text set at different CEFR levels. The study also intends to determine the relationship of the NGSL coverage and the CEFR level of the users. This finding could estimate how much L2 learners would understand texts set at CEFR levels based on the coverage of the NGSL of the texts.

1.2 Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are to:
  a) determine the CEFR level of words in the NGSL.

b) determine the relationship of the NGSL coverage and the CEFR level of the users.

1.3 Significance of the Study

The findings of the study on the CEFR level of words in the NGSL and the relationship between the coverage of the NGSL and the CEFR level of the users are helpful to course instructors, instructional material developers and curriculum designers in selecting suitable instructional texts that match language ability of the target learners. Besides that, the findings can also lead to new research for those interested in vocabulary and readability studies of reading passages.

1.4 Scope and Limitation of the Study

The passages used in this study were taken from the reading comprehension practice in https://www.examenglish.com. The website offers free online practice for English as a Second Language (ESL) exams. These passages are set at different CEFR levels. The CEFR level of the passages may include both passages and questions assigned to the passages. The present study focused only on the reading passages, and the measurement of passage difficulty rely solely on the high-frequency words used in the NGSL. The study did not cover other contributions to passage difficulty. Therefore, the findings of this study would only be an estimated value of how much the L2 learners would understand the passages based on the words found in NGSL and not on how good the learners could answer the questions assigned to the passages.

Apart from that, the number of passages involved in the study was small, and no generalization could be made based on this study. Findings on the study could be a starting point for a more comprehensive study in the future,

Another limitation of the study is the calculation of how much a learner would understand a passage containing a certain number of words in the NGSL. The study uses the general guidelines provided by Brown, Culligen and Phillips (2013) and does not involve the actual measuring of students' comprehension of the passages. An in-depth study on the latter can be conducted in future research.

2. Literature Review

Reading passages are among the instructional materials commonly used in language learning, and the passages can be in the form of short parts of a book, magazine, etc., which consist of several paragraphs (Richards, Platt & Platt, 1992). Reading passages can be used in language classrooms to teach and assess reading comprehension. Selecting suitable reading passages is vital as it contributes to the success of attempting the tasks that follow. Students with limited language ability may get discouraged to complete the tasks if the language used in the passages is beyond their ability to comprehend, while more competent students may also feel the same if the passages are restricted to simple repetitive ones (Aziz, Chan & Alsree, 2010a: 2010b). Poor selection of reading passages may affect not just better students but also students with lower language competency.

Therefore, the selection of passages must be carefully made to benefit students within the range.

A reading passage may be seen as easy to one student but not to others. Many factors contribute to the difficulty level of reading passages, thus requiring a careful selection of the passages for the students. Background knowledge (Johnson, 1981; Carrell, 1987; Day, 1994; Nuttall, 1996; Oakland & Lane, 2004; Hudson, 2007), interest and motivation (McLaughlin, 1968; Shehadeh & Strother, 1994; Day, 1994; Johnson, 1998; Oakland, & Lane, 2004) and complexity of words and sentences (McLaughlin, 1968; Shehadeh & Strother, 1994; Day, 1994; Chavkin, 1997; Johnson, 1998; Oakland, & Lane, 2004; Stenner & Stone, 2006; Mesmer, 2008; Aziz, Chan & Alsree, 2010a: 2010b) are among the factors that cause passage difficulty. Background knowledge, interest and motivation are subjective and intangible. Different students may treat the same passage differently due to these factors. Sentence and word complexity, on the other hands, provide a more objective measure to passage difficulty. These two measures have made part of the formula to measure text readability, such as in the Flesch Reading Ease formula (Flesch, 1948), Flesh-Kincaid Grade Level Formula (Kincaid, 1975), and New Dale-Chall Readability Formula (Chall & Dale, 1995).

Apart from that, the placement of mixed abilities in the same group could also affect the selection of reading passages for the students. Such placement happens when students are placed based on their registration to the classes and not based on their language ability (Syed Ahmad, 2021). Wills (2018) stated that mixed-ability classes will always be working with materials above or below their level of English. This mismatch could lead to a negative attitude toward learning the language and eventually hinder their progress.

The present study focuses on word complexity rather than sentence complexity as Chall (1958), Laufer (1997), Nation and Coady (1998) confirmed that word complexity could be the most significant predictor of the overall text difficulty. Word complexity can be determined by looking at the word frequency, word familiarity, word length (Gunning, 1971; Chall, 1981; Klare, 1985; Nation & Coady, 1988), concreteness and abstractness of words and the degree of association value (Gunning, 1971; Klare, 1985; Nation & Coady, 1988). As for reading passages for the second language (L2) learners, an extensive study was done by Aziz, Chan and Alsree (2010a; 2010b) on the various factors that made a reading passage difficult, and they suggested the coverage of the high-frequency words in the passage as another important measure of passage difficulty.

High-frequency words refer to words that are encountered frequently in spoken or written language. These words tend to be short (Thornbury, 2002; Gunning, 2003) and make up the majority of the running words (tokens) in any discourse (Schmitt, 2000). These words are often used as clues to understanding other unknown or less familiar words (Laufer, 1997). However, how many of these high-frequency words should the students of English as a second language know to understand a reading passage? Studies show that the average university-educated English native speakers only use about 5,000 very common words repeatedly when they know about 20,000 words or 40,000 words

(Bell Team, 2016, Sagar-Fenton & McNeill, 2018). Nation (1990) claimed that knowing the first 2000 high-frequency words of the language enables comprehension of 87% of any ordinary texts. Nation and Waring (1997) suggested that L2 learners need to know the 3000 high-frequency words of the language as knowing these words enable them to start reading authentic texts (Nation, 1990; Schmitt, Schmitt & Clapham, 2001). The most cited list of high-frequency words that the L2 learners need to know was West's General Service List (GSL) (Nation & Waring, 1997).

The GSL, first published in 1953 by Michael West, was a list of words regarded as necessary for L2 learners, and it could be used to determine approximately how much L2 learners would understand a text. The words were selected from a corpus of written English. Knowing the words enables learners to understand approximately 90-95 percent of colloquial speech and 80-85 percent of any general written texts (West, 1953). As the GSL was compiled more than 60 years ago, a couple of efforts to update the list were initiated. One of them was by Browne, Culligan and Phillips in 2013, resulting in the New General Service List (NGSL) publication. The new list is based on a large, modern corpus to replace some outdated words in the GSL. Some issues concerning the entries of words in the GSL are made clearer and systematic in the NGSL (Browne, Culligan and Phillips, 2013). There are 2801 high-frequency words for L2 learners to know listed in the NGSL. Learners who know these words can understand approximately 92% of most general English language texts (Browne, Culligan and Phillips, 2013).

The NGSL lists the essential words that an L2 learner needs to know and knowing these words could help students understand a certain amount of the texts. However, information in terms of the difficulty level of these NGSL words based on the 6 Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) levels is unknown. The English Vocabulary Profile (EVP), developed based on the Cambridge Learners Corpus, can be used to check the suitability of words for students at certain levels. The EVP offers learners information about words and phrases known and used according to CEFR levels A1-C2 to indicate learning priorities. Teachers, material writers, test developers and syllabus designers can use the EVP as a reference source for their work. They can check whether the vocabulary for a lesson is suitable for their students or whether a certain vocabulary list is suitable for a course they are developing (Council of Europe, 2018).

The global scale descriptors for CEFR levels (Council of Europe, n.d) state three different user levels: Basic Users, Independent Users and Proficient Users. Each level is further divided into two sub-levels known as A1 and A2 for Basic Users, B1 and B2 for Independent Users and C1 and C2 for Proficient Users. Basic Users at A1 level should be able to understand texts that contain familiar everyday expressions and basic phrases, Basic Users at A2 level should be able to understand texts that contain sentences and expressions that are frequently used in daily life. Meanwhile, Independent Users at the B1 level should understand texts involving main points of clear standard inputs that are regularly encountered in life. While Independent Users at B2 should be able to handle complex texts containing the main idea of both concrete and abstract topics, including discussions in fields of specialization. Lastly, Proficient Users at the C1 level should be

able to understand a wide range of demanding longer texts and recognize implicit meanings, while Proficient Users at C2 level should be able to understand with ease virtually everything they heard or read (Council of Europe, n.d). Figure 1 shows the description of the 6 CEFR levels of the learners.

Figure 1: Description of the 6 CEFR levels of the learners
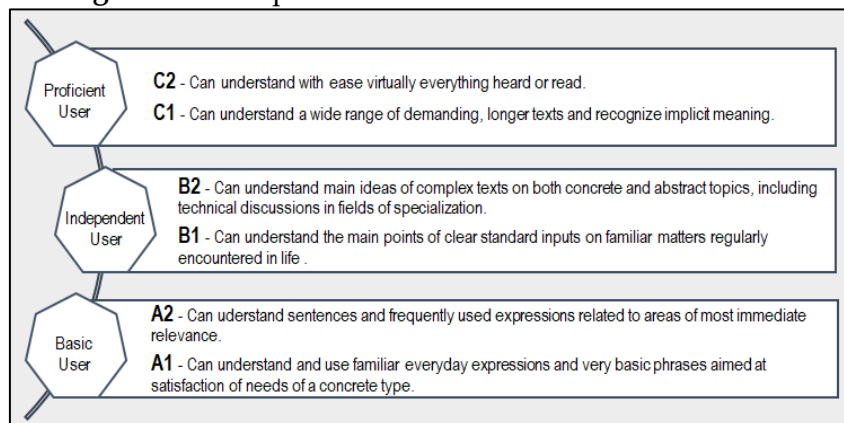
(Adapted from Council of Europe: Global Scale-Table 1)

3. Material and Methods

A descriptive research design was adopted for the study. This type of research is useful when not much is known about the topic being researched (McCombes, 2020). This study intended to find out the CEFR level of the words listed in the NGSL. This information was required before the subsequent analysis could be done.

The first part of the study focused on the words in the NGSL. The words were downloaded from http://www.newgeneralservicelist.org/. These words were analyzed using an online tool called Text Inspector, which is available at http://englishprofile.org/wordlists/text-inspector. The tool is used to determine the CEFR level of the words in the NGSL. This online tool is one of the online tools provided by English Profile, an ongoing global research program founded by Cambridge University Press, Cambridge English Language Assessment, University of Cambridge, University of Bedfordshire, British Council and English UK.

The second part of the study was to estimate how much L2 learners would understand passages set at different CEFR levels. A purposive sampling method was adopted to select samples for the study. The study required reading passages that were set at different CEFR levels. Six passages representing each CEFR level from https://www.examenglish.com were used in the study. This website was meant for people studying for English language exams, and there was a section for reading comprehension at each CEFR level. The reading passages in this section were chosen to be the samples of the study. The passages were set at specific levels, and readers at those levels should be able to understand the passages. The study would look at the coverage of the NGSL of the passages to determine the relationship of NGSL and the CEFR The

main instruments of the study were Text Inspector, which was used to determine the CEFR level of the words listed in the NGSL and WordSmith Tools 7.0, which was used to analyze words in the passages against the words in the NGSL.

The study began by determining the CEFR level of the words in the NGSL using an online tool, Text Inspector. The tool would list the words based on the CEFR levels: A1, A2, B1, B2, C1 or C2. After that, the analysis of estimating the learners' comprehension of the passages was conducted. WordSmith Tools was used to create a word list for the passages. These word lists were then compared to the words listed in the NGSL to estimate the percentage of comprehension. The estimation was based on the notion that learners with the knowledge of words in the NGSL could understand approximately 92% of most general English language texts (Browne, Culligan and Phillips, 2013). The calculation of the percentage of text comprehension was as below:

- 100% coverage of NGSL = 2801 words
- 2801 words = 92.0% of text comprehension
- 1 word = 0.0328% of text comprehension

If 100% coverage of NGSL equals 2801 words, which is translated into 92% of text comprehension, 50% coverage of NGSL will lead to 1400.5 words, which is translated into 46% of text comprehension (1400.5 multiplies by 0.0328% equals to 45.93%). This calculation is merely a guide to estimate an L2 learner's comprehension level of a text. It is not an absolute value. Figure 2 explains the process of collecting and analyzing data of the study.

Figure 2: The Process of Collecting and Analyzing Data of the Study
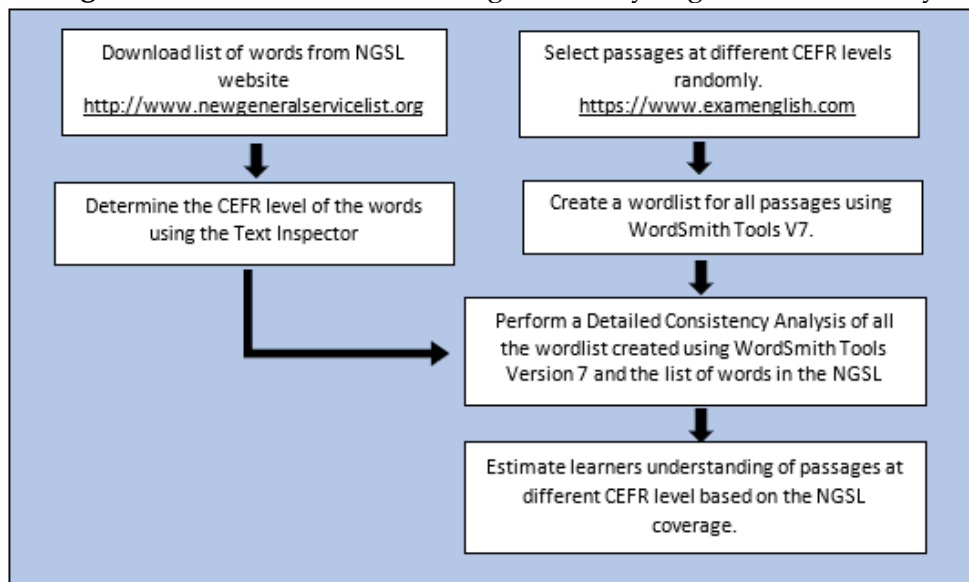
4. Results and Discussion

The first part of the study was to determine the CEFR level of words in the NGSL. There are 2801 words in the NGSL, and 2723 words (97.2%) are listed at various CEFR levels,

while 78 words (2.8%) are unlisted in EVP. Table 1 shows the percentages of words in the NGSL at different CEFR levels.

Table 1: Percentages of Words in the NGSL based on the CEFR Levels

	CEFR Levels						Unlisted
	Basic Users		Independent Users		Proficient Users		
	36.0%		52.2%		9.0%		
	A1	A2	B1	B2	C1	C2	
Percentage of NGSL at different CEFR levels	16.7%	19.3%	27.8%	24.2%	6.7%	2.3%	2.8%
No. of Words	468	542	780	681	187	65	78
Total No. of Words at various CEFR Levels	2723 (97.2%)						
Total No. of Words in NGSL	2801						

The findings showed that 36.0% of the words in the NGSL were at the Basic User level, 52.2% of the words were at the Independent User level, 9% of the words were at the Proficient User level, and the remaining 2.8% of the words were not listed in the EVP. The findings showed that about half of the words listed in the NGSL were at the independent user level, about one-third of the words at the Basic User level, and less than one-tenth of the words were at the proficient user level. It shows that the words listed in the NGSL concentrate within the range of Basic User and Independent User levels.

468 words (16.7%) in the NGSL were at the A1 level. Words listed at this level helps learners to understand and use familiar everyday expressions and basic phrases. 542 words (19.3%) were at the A2 level. Words listed at this level help learners to understand texts that contain sentences and expressions which are frequently used in daily life. Next, 780 words in the NGSL (27.8%) were at the B1 level, and 681 words (24.2%) were at B2 level. Words listed at B1 level should help learners understand texts involving main points of texts that are regularly encountered in life, while words at B2 should help learners handle complex texts that contain the main idea of both concrete and abstract topics, including discussions in fields of specialization. Finally, 187 words in the NGSL (6.7%) are at C1 level, and 65 words (2.3%) are at C2 level. Words listed at C1 level should assist learners to understand a wide range of demanding longer texts and recognize implicit meanings, while words listed at C2 level could help learners understand with ease virtually everything they heard or read. The list of words in the NGSL grouped into their respective CEFR levels can be found in the appendix.

The second part of the study was to determine the relationship of the NGSL coverage and the CEFR level of the users. To do this, the study needed to determine how much L2 learners would understand passages set at different CEFR levels. Passage A1 had 195 types, and NGSL coverage of the passage was 67.2% (131 types). Based on the calculation described earlier that a word found in the NGSL would suggest an estimation of 0.0328% text comprehension. Thus, in this case, the learner would understand approximately 61.7% of the passage. Passage A2 had 179 types, and the NGSL coverage

was 61.5% (110 types). Based on the same calculation, the learners would understand approximately 56.5% of the passage.

The same calculation was applied to the rest of the passages. Since Passage B1 had 260 types, and the NGSL coverage was 55.4% (144 words), the approximated comprehension of the passage would be 50.9%. Passage B2 had 325 types, and the NGSL coverage was 52.9% (172 words), and the estimated comprehension of the passage was 48.6%.

Next, passage C1 had 478 types, and the NGSL coverage was 49.0% (234 types) which led to an approximated comprehension of 45.0% of the passage. Lastly, Passage C2 had 359 types, and the NGSL coverage was 45.1% (162 types) which led to an approximated comprehension of 41.4% of the passage. Table 2 shows the coverage of words in the NGSL and the percentage of the L2 learners' comprehension of passages at different CEFR levels.

Table 2: Coverage of NGSL and Comprehension of Passages Different CEFR Levels

Users	Reading Passages	No. of Different Words (Types)	No. of Words in NGSL	% of NGSL in Passages	Percentage of Text Comprehension
Basic Users	Passage A1	195	131	67.2%	61.7%
	Passage A2	179	110	61.5%	56.5%
Independent Users	Passage B1	260	144	55.4%	50.9%
	Passage B2	325	172	52.9%	48.6%
Proficient Users	Passage C1	478	234	49.0%	45.0%
	Passage C2	359	162	45.1%	41.4%

It could be seen that the passage set at the A1 level only showed coverage of 67.2% of the NGSL, which was equivalent to 61.7% comprehension, while a passage set at the A2 level showed only 61.5% of the NGSL, which was equivalent to 56.5% comprehension. The estimated comprehension of the passage was rather average even though it was set for Basic Users. It seemed that the passages for the Basic Users could still post some difficulty of the L2 learners as the estimated comprehension was only between 57-62%. The coverage of the NGSL should be higher as the learners are still in the category of Basic Users.

The same pattern could be seen for passages at Independent Users (B1-B2) levels. Students at B1 and B2 are expected to be able to understand the main points of clear standard input on the familiar matter and able to understand the main idea of complex texts on both concrete and abstract, respectively. The NGSL coverage of the B1 passage was 55.4%, which is equivalent to 50.9% of comprehension, while the B2 passage was 52.9%, which is equivalent to 48.6% of comprehension. However, since B1 and B2 are categorized as Independent Users, the coverage of the NGSL was between 53-55%, which could be considered as acceptable.

Finally, students at C1 and C2 are expected to understand a wide range of demanding longer texts and recognize implicit meanings and be able to understand with ease virtually everything they heard or read, respectively. Since students are supposed

to be independent and proficient users of the language, the NGSL coverage is expected to be lower (45-49%).

5. Pedagogical Implication

The course instructors, instructional material developers and curriculum designers can use the NGSL listed in the appendix to check the reading passages that they want to use for a specific group of L2 learners. The comparison between the passages and the NGSL listed in the appendix enable them to determine the overall estimation of learners' comprehension and the number or percentage of words that appear at different CEFR levels. This information would assist the course instructors, instructional material developers and curriculum designers make informed decision about how much changes need to be made to match the language ability of the target learners.

6. Recommendation

This study shows that the NGSL could be used to estimate the comprehension level of passages for the L2 learners at the Basic User level up to the Proficient User level. However, the range of the NGSL coverage for each user level has not been established as more samples are required to be analyzed before any conclusive suggestions can be made about the coverage of the NGSL for each user level indicated in the CEFR.

Apart from establishing the range of the NGSL coverage for each user level, future studies could also involve the actual learners' comprehension level of passages set at different CEFR levels. The studies could provide more objective evidence regarding the relationship of the NGSL coverage in passages and the CEFR levels.

7. Conclusion

The findings show that most of the NGSL words are listed in the CEFR EVP. There are 2723 (97.2%) of the words in the NGSL that can be placed at different CEFR levels, focusing on the lower and intermediate levels, which are referred to as the Basic and Independent Users. 1010 (36%) of the words in NGSL are at the Basic User level. These words could help students understand and use familiar everyday expressions and basic phrases and help them understand sentences and frequently used expressions in daily life. 1461 (52.2%) of the words in NGSL are at the Independent User level. These words could help them understand the main points of clear standard input on the familiar matter and understand the main idea of complex texts on both concrete and abstract topics. Only a small percentage of the words are 252 (9%) at the Proficient User level. These words help them to understand a wide range of demanding longer texts and recognize implicit meanings, and to understand with ease virtually everything they heard or read. The remaining 78 words (2.8%) are not placed at any CEFR levels.

The findings also show that passages at A1 and A2 levels have an average coverage of the NGSL, equivalent to 61.7% and 56.5% comprehension, respectively. The comprehension level is relatively low for the basic user level. However, as the users move up to an independent and proficient level, the coverage of the NGSL should get lower as the users are getting more proficient in the language. This finding shows an inverse relationship between NGSL coverage and the CEFR level of the users.

Acknowledgements

This is self-funded research and it has yet to be presented in any conferences. The authors would like to thank the readers who voluntarily check the readability of the paper.

Conflict of Interest Statement

The authors declare no conflicts of interests.

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Anealka Aziz has been with the university for over 23 years. She has a great interest in e-learning, instructional design, readability studies and corpus-based research.
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Supplementary Files

Table 1: List of Words in NGSL at CEFR A1 Level

a, about, above, address, adult, after, afternoon, again, age, all, alright, also, always, and, animal, answer, any, anything, arm, as, ask, at, baby, back, bad, bag, ball, band, bank, bar, bath, be, beach, beautiful, because, bed, bedroom, beer, before, begin, behind, below, between, big, bird, black, blue, board, boat, body, book, both, bottom, box, boy, bread, breakfast, brother, brown, bus, business, but, buy, cake, camera, can, car, carry, cat, catch, chair, change, cheap, cheese, child, chip, chocolate, choose, city, class, clean, clock, close, clothes, coat, coffee, cold, come, computer, conversation, cook, country, course, cow, cross, cup, dad, dance, dark, date, daughter, day, dear, desk, die, different, difficult, dinner, do, doctor, dog, dollar, door, down, draw, dress, drink, drive, driver, each, ear, early, easy, eat, egg, email, end, enjoy, evening, every, example, expensive, eye, face, factory, family, famous, farm, fast, fat, father, feel, film, find, fine, finish, first, fish, flat, floor, flower, fly, food, foot, football, for, found, friend, from, fruit, fun, funny, game, garden, get, girl, give, glass, go, good, grass, great, green, group, guitar, hair, half, hand, happy, hard, hat, have, he, head, hear, hello, help, here, hi, holiday, home, horse, hospital, hot, hotel, hour, house, how, husband, I, important , in, inside, into, invite, it, jacket, job, key, kick, kind, kitchen, knife, know, language, last, late, learn, leave, left, leg, lesson, letter, life, light, like, listen, little, live, long, look, lot, love, lunch, make, man, many, march, may, meal, meat, meet, message, milk, minute, miss, mobile, money, month, more, morning, mother, mouth, movie, much, museum, music, name, near, need, never, new, newspaper, next, nice, night, no, noise, nose, not, note, now, number, of, often, old, on, one, only, open, or, orange, other, outside, page, paint, pair, paper, parent, park, part, party, past, pay, pen, people, person, phone, photo, picture, pig, place, plane, plant, plate, play, player, please, poor, possible, potato, present, problem, put, quarter, question, quick, radio, rain, read, ready, really, red, remember, restaurant, rice, ride, right, river, road, room, run, sad, safe, salt, same, say, school, sea, second, see, send, sentence, she, sheep, shirt, shoe, shop, short, show, shower, sing, sister, sit, skirt, sleep, slow, small, smoke, snow, some, something, sometimes, son, soon, sorry, speak, sport, start, station, stay, stop, street, student, study, subject, sugar, summer, sun, sweet, swim, table, take, talk, tall, taxi, tea, teach, teacher, television, tell, tennis, test, than, that, the, then, there, they, thing, think, this, ticket, time, to, today, together, tomorrow, tonight, too, tooth, town, train, travel, tree, under, understand, university, until, up, use, vegetable, very, village, visit, wait, wake, walk, wall, want, warm, wash, watch, water, we, wear, weather, week, weekend, well, what, when, where, which, white, who, why, wife, will, wind, window, wine, winter, with, woman, word, work, world, worry, would, write, wrong, year, yellow, yes, yesterday, you, young.

Table 2: List of Words in NGSL at CEFR A2 Level

able, accident, across, activity, actor, actually, add, adventure, advertisement, advice, afraid, against, ago, agree, air, album, alcohol, almost, alone, along, already, among, angry, another, anybody, anymore, anyone, anyway, anywhere, apartment, appointment, area, around, arrive, art, artist, assistant, attractive, aunt, autumn, available, away, badly, bear, become, believe, belt, beside, bike, bill, bit, blood, boot, borrow, boss, bother, bottle, bowl, brain, break, bridge, bright, brilliant, bring, brush, build, busy, by, call, camp, cap, capital, card, care, careful, carefully, carpet, case, cash, castle, cent, century, certainly, chain, channel, chat, check, chicken, church, cigarette, circle, classical, clear, clearly, climb, cloud, club, coach, colleague, collect, college, comfortable, company, competition, complete, concert, contact, cool, copy, corner, correct, cost, could, cousin, cover, crazy, cream, crowd, cry, curtain, customer, cut, daily, danger, dangerous, dead, decide, deep, degree, delay, department, describe, desert, detail, difference, digital, dirty, discount, discuss, dish, document, double, dream, dry, during, earn, easily, east, electric, electricity, else, empty, engine, engineer, enough, enter, entrance, envelope, especially, even, ever, everybody, everyone, everything, everywhere, exactly, exam, examination, excellent, except, exercise, explain, extra, fact, fail, fair, fall, fan, fantastic, far, farmer, fashion, few, field, file, fill, final, finally, finger, fire, fit, flight, follow, foreign, forest, forget, form, free, fresh, friendly, front, full, furniture, further, future, gas, gate, gift, glad, goal, god, gold, golden, golf, grammar, grandmother, grow, guess, guest, guide, guy, hall, happen, hate, health, healthy, heart, heavy, herself, high, hill, himself, history, hit, hold, hope, horrible, however, hurry, hurt, ice, idea, if, ill, immediately, improve, include, information, instead, instruction, instrument, international, invitation, island,

itself, join, journey, jump, just, keep, kill, king, kiss, lake, large, laugh, lay, lazy, least, leather, lend, less, let, level, library, lie, lift, line, list, lose, loud, lovely, low, luck, lucky, machine, mad, magazine, magic, mail, manager, map, mark, market, match, matter, maybe, mean, medicine, member, memory, menu, middle, might, mind, mine, mirror, mistake, mix, model, modern, moment, moon, most, mountain, mouse, move, musical, must, myself, national, nature, nearly, neck, negative, net, news, nobody, normal, north, nothing, notice, noun, nurse, off, offer, office, oil, once, online, opera, opposite, order, ourselves, out, over, own, pack, pain, pale, partner, pass, passenger, path, per, perfect, perhaps, photograph, piano, pick, piece, pilot, pink, plan, plastic, platform, pleasant, plus, pocket, point, police, pool, pop, popular, possibly, post, pound, practice, pray, prefer, prepare, pretty, price, print, printer, prize, probably, program, project, pub, pull, pupil, push, quickly, quiet, quite, race, rat, real, reason, receive, record, rent, repair, repeat, rest, return, rich, ring, round, sale, save, science, screen, seat, secretary, sell, serve, set, several, shall, share, sheet, shelf, ship, should, shout, shut, sick, side, sign, silver, simple, since, singer, single, sink, site, size, sky, slice, slowly, so, soft, software, somebody, someone, somewhere, song, sort, soul, sound, south, space, spare, speaker, special, spell, spend, spring, square, staff, stage, stamp, stand, star, steal, still, stomach, storm, story, straight, strange, stranger, strong, such, suit, sure, surprise, team, teenager, telephone, temperature, term, terrible, text, thank, themselves, thin, through, throw, tie, till, top, tour, tourist, toy, traffic, trip, true, try, tune, turn, twice, type, uncle, unfortunately, uniform, unusual, upset, useful, usual, usually, variety, various, verb, video, view, visitor, war, way, web, weekly, welcome, west, wet, wheel, while, whole, wide, wild, win, winner, wish, without, wonderful, wood, wooden, worker, yeah, yet, yourself.

Table 3: List of Words in NGSL at CEFR B1 Level

ability, abroad, absolutely, accept, acceptable, access, accommodation, accompany, account, accurate, achieve, achievement, act, action, active, ad, addition, admire, admit, advance, advantage, advertise, advise, agency, ahead, aim, airline, alarm, alive, allow, although, altogether, amount, ancient, announce, announcement, annual, anxious, apart, appear, appearance, application, apply, approach, approve, approximately, architecture, argue, argument, army, arrange, arrangement, arrest, arrival, article, ashamed, athlete, atmosphere, attach, attack, attempt, attend, attention, attitude, attract, attraction, audience, author, average, avoid, awful, background, base, basic, battle, beat, beauty, behave, bell, benefit, besides, bet, bin, birth, bite, blame, blind, block, blow, bomb, bone, border, branch, breast, breath, breathe, brief, briefly, broad, bunch, burn, bury, button, buyer, cable, calm, cancel, cancer, career, celebrate, celebration, central, ceremony, certain, challenge, champion, championship, chance, chapter, character, charge, charity, cheek, childhood, choice, climate, coast, coin, collection, comedy, comment, common, communicate, communication, compare, compete, competitor, complain, complaint, completely, composition, concentrate, conclusion, condition, confident, confirm, connect, connection, consider, contain, contest, continue, contract, control, convince, cough, count, couple, court, crash, create, creative, creature, credit, crew, crime, criminal, crop, cultural, culture, currency, custom, cycle, damage, damn, death, decision, declare, decrease, defeat, defend, definitely, deliver, delivery, demand, deposit, depth, description, deserve, design, designer, despite, destroy, develop, development, diet, differently, difficulty, dig, direct, direction, directly, director, disagree, disappear, disappoint, discover, discussion, disease, disk, display, distance, district, divide, divorce, doubt, dozen, drag, drama, drop, due, dust, duty, earth, eastern, edge, education, effect, efficient, effort, either, elderly, election, electronic, emergency, employ, employee, employer, employment, encourage, enemy, energy, enormous, entertain, entertainment, entry, environment, environmental, equal, equipment, escape, essay, essential, event, exact, exchange, excitement, excuse, exhibition, exist, expect, experience, experiment, expert, explanation, explore, extraordinary, extremely, fairly, false, familiar, fancy, fault, fear, fee, feed, female, festival, fiction, fight, figure, financial, firm, fix, flag, float, flood, flow, fold, folk, fool, forecast, forever, former, forward, frame, freeze, frequent, frequently, friendship, fuel, fully, gain, gallery, gap, gay, general, generally, generation, gentle, giant, glance, government, grab, grade, grant, grateful, greet, ground, guard, guilty, gun, habit, handle, hang, happiness, hardly, heat, heavily, height, helpful, hero, hide, hire, historic, historical, hole, honest, hopefully, huge, human, hunger, hunt, illness, imagination, imagine, importance, impossible, improvement, inch, increase, indeed, independent, individual, industry, inform, initial, injure, inquiry, insist, install, instance, intend, interest, interview, introduce, invent, involve, iron, issue, item, jail, joke, journalist, judge, keen, kid, knee, knock, knowledge, label, laboratory, lack, lady, land, landscape, law, lawyer, lead, leader, league, lecture, length, likely, limit, link, lip, liquid, literature, load, loan, local, locate,

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location, lock, loose, lover, luxury, main, mainly, male, manage, marriage, marry, mate, material, maximum, meanwhile, medium, membership, mention, mess, metal, method, mile, minimum, monthly, mood, mostly, murder, musician, mystery, narrow, natural, nearby, necessary, nervous, none, normally, northern, novel, nowadays, nowhere, object, obvious, obviously, occasion, ocean, officer, onto, operate, operation, opinion, opportunity, option, ordinary, organization, organize, original, otherwise, owe, owner, paragraph, particular, particularly, partly, patient, pattern, pause, peace, peak, percent, perfectly, perform, performance, period, permanent, permission, permit, personal, personally, persuade, phrase, pile, pipe, plain, planet, pleasure, plenty, poem, poet, poetry, political, politician, politics, pollution, population, port, position, positive, possibility, pot, pour, power, powerful, predict, pregnant, preparation, presentation, president, press, prevent, previous, previously, principal, prison, prisoner, private, produce, product, profession, professional, professor, progress, promise, promote, proper, properly, property, protect, proud, prove, provide, public, pump, pure, purpose, qualification, quality, quantity, quietly, rail, raise, range, rare, rarely, rather, raw, reach, reader, realize, reasonable, reasonably, recent, recently, recognize, recommend, recover, reduce, refuse, regard, region, register, registration, regret, regular, regularly, relation, relationship, relative, relax, reliable, religion, remain, remind, remove, replace, reply, report, reporter, request, require, rescue, research, reserve, resort, respect, responsible, result, retire, review, revise, reward, rid, rise, rock, role, roll, romantic, rough, route, routine, row, ruin, rule, sail, salary, sand, scene, scientific, scientist, score, scream, search, season, secondary, secret, section, security, seem, select, sense, separate, series, serious, seriously, server, service, session, sex, shade, shadow, shake, shape, sharp, shine, shock, shoot, shore, shot, shoulder, sight, silence, silent, silly, similar, sir, situation, ski, skill, skin, slip, smart, smell, smile, smooth, social, society, soldier, solution, solve, somehow, southern, speech, speed, spot, step, stick, stir, stone, store, stream, stress, strict, strike, studio, stuff, stupid, style, succeed, success, successful, suddenly, suggest, suggestion, suitable, sum, support, supporter, suppose, surprisingly, surround, switch, system, talent, tap, taste, tax, tear, technique, technology, temporary, tent, therefore, thick, though, throat, tight, tiny, tip, tissue, title, tongue, topic, total, totally, touch, tourism, tournament, tower, track, trade, traditional, transfer, translate, transport, trend, trick, trouble, truck, trust, truth, tube, twin, typical, typically, ugly, unable, unemployment, union, unit, universe, unknown, unless, unlikely, update, upon, upper, user, valley, valuable, value, van, vehicle, via, virus, voice, volume, vote, wage, warn, waste, wave, weak, weigh, weight, western, whatever, whenever, wherever, whether, wing, within, wonder, worth, wrap, writer, yard, youth, zone.

Table 4: List of Words in NGSL at CEFR B2 Level

abandon, absence, absolute, abstract, abuse, academic, accuse, acquire, actual, adapt, additional, adequate, adjust, adjustment, adopt, affair, affect, agent, aggressive, agreement, aircraft, alter, alternative, analysis, analyst, anger, anxiety, apparent, apparently, appeal, appreciate, appropriate, approval, aside, assess, assessment, assist, assistance, association, assume, assure, attachment, automatically, award, aware, balance, ban, barely, barrier, basically, basis, belief, belong, bend, beneath, beyond, biological, bloody, bond, boost, bore, brand, breed, broadcast, budget, burst, calculate, capable, capacity, capture, carbon, cast, category, cause, cell, characteristic, charm, chart, chase, chemical, chest, chief, circumstance, citizen, claim, classic, clause, closely, clothing, code, collapse, column, combination, combine, comfort, command, commercial, commit, commitment, committee, community, comparison, competitive, complex, compose, compromise, concentration, concept, concern, concrete, conduct, confidence, conflict, confuse, confusion, consequence, consequently, considerable, consideration, constant, constantly, construct, construction, consultant, consume, consumer, contemporary, content, context, continuous, contrast, contribute, contribution, controversial, conventional, convert, cooperation, cope, corporation, correspond, council, counter, county, crack, craft, creation, crisis, critic, critical, criticism, criticize, crucial, current, currently, curve, dare, darkness, data, database, deal, dealer, debate, debt, decline, deeply, define, definition, delight, democracy, democratic, demonstrate, demonstration, deny, dependent, depression, desire, destruction, determination, device, devote, differ, dimension, disaster, discipline, discovery, distant, distinction, distinguish, distribute, disturb, division, domestic, dominate, draft, dramatic, dramatically, drug, ease, economic, economy, edit, edition, editor, educate, educational, effective, effectively, efficiency, elect, element, elsewhere, emerge, emotion, emotional, emphasis, emphasize, enable, encounter, ensure, entire, entirely, entitle, episode, equally, era, error, establish, estate, estimate, eventually, evidence, evil, evolution, examine, exception, existence, expand, expansion,

expectation, expense, export, expose, express, expression, extend, extension, extensive, extent, external, extract, extreme, facility, factor, fade, failure, faith, faithfully, feature, fellow, fence, finance, firmly, firstly, flash, flexible, focus, force, formal, fortunate, fortune, freedom, frighten, function, functional, furthermore, gather, gaze, gear, gender, generate, gentleman, gently, genuine, global, govern, gradually, graduate, greatly, growth, guarantee, harm, hell, hesitate, highlight, highly, hint, hook, host, household, ideal, identify, identity, ignore, illegal, illustrate, image, immediate, immigrant, implement, import, impress, impression, impressive, incident, income, increasingly, independence, indicate, industrial, infection, inflation, influence, initially, injury, inner, innocent, input, inspire, institution, insurance, intellectual, intelligence, intention, interior, internal, interpret, introduction, invest, investigate, investigation, investment, investor, involvement, joint, joy, judgment, justice, justify, largely, latter, laughter, launch, layer, lean, legal, literally, literary, loss, maintain, maintenance, major, majority, maker, management, manner, manufacture, manufacturer, mass, massive, master, mature, mayor, measure, measurement, medical, mental, mere, merely, military, minister, minor, minority, mission, mixture, monitor, moral, moreover, motivation, motor, movement, muscle, nation, native, naturally, necessarily, neither, network, nevertheless, newly, nor, nuclear, objective, obligation, observation, observe, occasionally, occupy, occur, odd, official, operator, opponent, oppose, organic, origin, originally, outline, overall, overcome, overseas, pace, package, panic, participate, partnership, passage, passion, payment, penalty, pension, percentage, personality, phase, philosophy, physical, pitch, plot, policy, portion, portrait, possession, potential, potentially, poverty, practical, praise, precise, precisely, preference, presence, preserve, presidential, pressure, presumably, pretend, pride, primarily, primary, priority, pro, procedure, process, producer, production, profile, profit, promotion, prompt, proof, proposal, propose, prospect, protection, protest, psychological, publication, publisher, purchase, qualify, racial, rapid, rapidly, rate, react, reaction, reality, rear, recall, reckon, recommendation, recovery, reduction, reference, reflect, reflection, refugee, regional, regulation, reject, relatively, release, relevant, relief, religious, remark, remarkable, remote, represent, representative, reputation, requirement, researcher, resident, resign, resist, resource, respond, response, responsibility, restore, retirement, reveal, reverse, revolution, risk, root, roughly, royal, rural, rush, safety, sake, sample, satisfaction, satisfy, scale, schedule, scheme, seal, secondly, secure, seed, seek, selection, senior, sensitive, servant, settle, severe, sexual, shell, shelter, shift, sigh, signal, significant, significantly, simply, slave, slide, slight, slightly, slope, soil, solid, source, specialist, specialize, species, specific, specify, spirit, split, sponsor, spread, stain, standard, stare, state, statement, steady, steel, stimulate, stock, storage, strain, strategy, strength, strengthen, stretch, string, stroke, strongly, structure, struggle, submit, substance, substantial, substitute, successfully, sudden, suffer, sufficient, summary, supplier, supply, surely, surface, surgery, survey, survival, survive, suspect, suspend, swear, sweep, swing, symbol, symptom, tackle, tail, tale, target, task, technical, tension, territory, terrorist, theme, theory, therapy, thirst, threat, threaten, throughout, thus, tone, tough, trace, tradition, trail, transform, trap, treat, treatment, trial, truly, unclear, unique, universal, unlike, urban, variation, vary, vast, version, victim, victory, violence, violent, virtually, visible, vision, visual, vital, volunteer, wander, weakness, wealth, wealthy, weapon, weird, welfare, whereas, whisper, widely, wipe, wire, wise, witness, wound.

Table 5: List of Words in NGSL at CEFR C1 Level

abortion, accomplish, acknowledge, administration, adviser, agenda, aid, ally, alongside, amendment, angle, anticipate, appoint, arise, asset, assign, associate, assumption, attendance, awareness, bid, boundary, burden, campaign, capability, civil, clinical, coal, complicate, component, comprehensive, comprise, conclude, conservative, constitute, consult, convention, corporate, coverage, criterion, deficit, density, derive, detect, determine, dismiss, disorder, distinct, diversity, eliminate, embrace, empire, engage, enhance, enterprise, equation, equivalent, establishment, ethnic, evaluate, evaluation, volve, exceed, excess, exclude, executive, exhaust, exhibit, exposure, fascinate, format, formula, foundation, fund, gene, genetic, gesture, grand, guideline, hence, historian, illustration, implication, impose, index, indication, initiative, innovation, insight, integrate, intense, interaction, journal, jury, leadership, liability, liberal, limitation, listener, log, logic, mechanism, mode, moderate, modify, motivate, multiple, mutual, neglect, negotiate, negotiation, nerve, notion, numerous, opposition, outcome, ownership, panel, participant, peer, perceive, personnel, perspective, phenomenon, pose, possess, pregnancy, principle, prior, privilege, probability, proceed, proportion, protein, provision, pursue, quote, radical, random, rank, ratio, recruit, regardless, regulate, resolve, respectively, restrict, restriction, retail, revenue, rival, scan, scare, scholar, scope,

sector, self, sequence, settlement, significance, similarly, somewhat, specifically, spin, stability, stable, statistic, status, strip, subsequent, subsequently, summarize, tank, tendency, transportation, trigger, twist, ultimately, uncertainty, undergo, undertake, unite, urge, variable, versus, voluntary, withdraw.

Table 6: List of Words in NGSL at CEFR C2 Level

accord, advocate, allege, attribute, bias, bind, civilian, complexity, consistent, constraint, core, dedicate, dispute, embarrass, expenditure, experimental, filter, formation, framework, fundamental, grain, grin, hypothesis, implementation, imply, incentive, incorporate, infant, interpretation, intervention, leap, legislation, margin, motion, mount, narrative, output, parallel, perception, prime, province, recognition, refer, reform, relate, representation, resistance, resolution, retain, roof, sanction, snap, stake, structural, supplement, sustain, tender, theoretical, tire, transition, venture, veteran, vice, voter, yield.

Table 7: List of Words in NGSL Not Listed in the EVP

acquisition, afford, agricultural, amaze, analyze, apologize, behavior, bless, boom, catalog, center, chairman, chamber, characterize, cite, cluster, color, commission, compensation, compound, compute, consist, counsel, curious, decade, defense, depend, depress, dialog, rely, every day, excite, favor, favorite, federal, forth, fragment, frequency, fulfill, governor, gray, harbor, holder, honor, humor, institutional, insure, isolate, labor, license, mathematics, meter, module, mom, mortgage, neighbor, neighborhood, offense, okay, ought, participation, poll, premise, segment, shareholder, situate, stair, stem, tape, tend, theater, tool, toward, troop, underlie, vessel, wed, whilst.