

# **With The Times: New Vistas in Vocabulary Development**

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## **ABSTRACT**

Newspapers form the most current teaching materials for English Language Teaching (ELT). Apart from teaching basic language skills, English language newspapers can also be used to develop the vocabulary of Indian learners of English as Second Language (ESL). Some ELT practitioners have provided tips on how newspapers can be used effectively to teach English in the Indian context. In this paper, I will attempt to assess whether this rich resource can be tapped to introduce the semantic aspects of neologisms in the Indian classroom. This paper is divided into two parts. In the first part, I will explore the potential for teaching different aspects of vocabulary through newspapers. In the second part, I have found some lexicographical aspects in newspapers. I have also suggested some classroom activities.

Keywords: Dictionaries, ELT materials, newspapers, neologisms, vocabulary development

## **INTRODUCTION**

Newspapers, being economical and easily available, are a source of interest for the English Language Teaching (ELT) practitioners. Being authentic texts, they can be used not only to teach skills such as reading and writing, but also to develop the vocabulary of Indian learners of English as Second Language (ESL). Taking into account the importance of Indian newspapers in English in vocabulary development of ESL learners, I will attempt to show through this paper how they can be used an effective tool to teach minor forms of word formation. I will also try to see whether this rich resource can be tapped to introduce semantic aspects of neologisms. At times, updated editions of the dictionaries reach the market late and from there to college libraries. When the acquaintance of neologisms to the ESL learners through dictionaries is delayed, newspapers may fill the gap and function like dictionaries. I will attempt to locate the lexicographical aspects of

some words in newspapers which are useful for vocabulary development.

### **STUDIES ON THE TEACHING OF VOCABULARY**

Teaching vocabulary through tasks is not new to ESL teachers (Allen, 1983; Morgan & Rinvoluceri, 1986). In the Indian context, several practicing teachers have reported their classroom experiences. Considering the current research and practices of teaching vocabulary, Anuthama (2010) explains three innovative classroom practices of teaching vocabulary—the ripple effect, using colour to teach vocabulary and the word wall approach. Sheikh (2011) also makes some suggestions to the teachers with regard to enhancing their students' vocabulary. In the discussion on techniques of teaching vocabulary Bernabas (2011), emphasizes on contextual teaching of vocabulary items such as collocations and phrasal verbs, among others. Kohli (2012) shares some classroom experiences of dealing with the challenges encountered by learners, and provides strategies to develop the vocabulary of Indian learners. Working with the students of Post-Graduate Diploma in Business Management, Pillai (2013) shares the results of interactive teaching methods such as games to develop their vocabulary.

Some researchers have also shown how newspapers can be used as authentic materials to teach English in India. Making use of supplementary materials such as medicine labels, old railway timetables and newspapers, Kushwaha (2008) illustrates how tasks can be developed using these low cost materials to teach English to ESL learners. Jadhav (2011) develops support materials to teach English using cartoons, newspaper middles, crossword puzzles, anecdotes, proverbs, etc.

### **VOCABULARY DEVELOPMENT THROUGH NEWSPAPERS**

English language newspapers can be very effective in teaching basic language skills as well as in developing the vocabulary of ESL learners. In an empirical study carried out by Lee and Morrison (1998) to verify the role of newspapers in developing autonomous language learning skills, newspaper articles were considered both as learning and practice materials. Sanderson (1999) has shown how almost every aspect of a newspaper—news headlines, editorials, cartoons, articles, matrimonials, classifieds, TV guides, weather forecasts and horoscopes—can function as ELT material. While exploring how newspapers can be used to develop English language skills at all levels of learning and taking into account the main ingredients of newspapers, Mehta (2010), and Patil & Choudhury (2012) suggest classroom activities to enrich the vocabulary of the ESL learners through the use of newspaper middles and cartoons.

Along the lines of these exploratory studies, in the present research I will consider

the potential of newspapers as a tool to teach minor forms of word-formation, especially neologisms. I will also analyze some lexicographical aspects in Indian newspapers in English which are useful for vocabulary development. The Indian daily *The Times of India (TOI)* is considered here as an example and almost all the references in this research paper are taken from the newspaper headlines, articles, cartoons and jokes of the *TOI*, *Sunday Times of India (STOI)*, and the supplements - *The Speaking Tree* and *Times Life*, Pune.

### NEOLOGISMS

Neologism refers to a newly coined word or expression. Newspapers carry a number of neologisms such as “Attractology” (*Times Life*, 2017) and “Poplomacy” (*TOI*, 2018). In fact, every part of a newspaper plays an active role in creating neologisms. Cartoons, jokes, news headlines and news items provide ample teaching materials for every aspect of vocabulary, from affixation to minor forms of word formation including clippings, blends, borrowings, etc. This has been studied by several researchers in the mass media. Nam et al. (2016) studied 938 words in the Korean mass media over a span of ten years, from 2005-2015, for their inclusion in the dictionary. They concluded that only 27 per cent of neologisms are consistent in usage. With the view that neologisms are a means of updating the lexicon, Kadoch (2013), studied the frequency of occurrence of neologisms in two British dailies—*The Guardian* and *The Daily Mail*, from the end of 2011 to the first two months of 2013. Kadoch analysed various ways of creating neologisms in present day English; both as major and minor forms of word formation. He noted that compounds are the most productive word form followed by blending.

Amul cartoons in the newspaper regularly come up with neologisms such as “Natwarious” *The Times of India*, (2014) and “neutralicious” *The Times of India*, (2015), which provide ESL learners with nutritious food for learning.



Figure 1 (*TOI*, 2015)

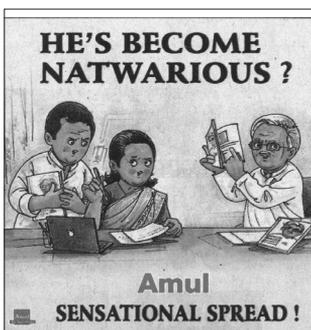


Figure 2 (*TOI*, 2014)

The “Laughing Tree” column from the newspaper supplement *The Speaking Tree* helps teachers and learners of English to clear the confusion related to the spellings and meanings of words. Two examples are given here. “Be Generous” (*The Speaking Tree*, 2016) takes us through the words *excepted*, *accepted* and *expected*, while “Missing Appendix” (*The Speaking Tree*, 2016) demonstrates the usage of the two meanings of the word *appendix*.

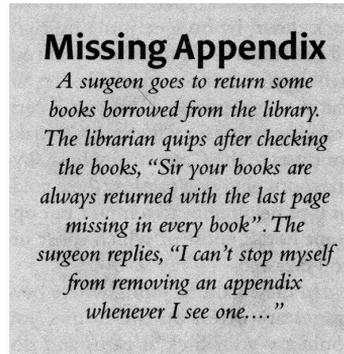
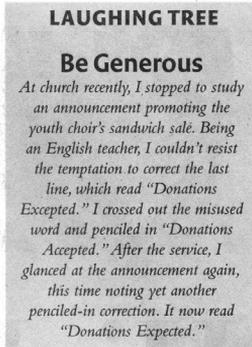


Figure 3 (*The Speaking Tree*, 2016)      Figure 4 (*The Speaking Tree*, 2016)

“Laughing Tree” also helps the teacher to introduce the learners to blends, e.g. *seenager* (*The Speaking Tree*, 2017), meaning senior teenager.

#### Minor Types of Word Formation

Some examples of minor forms of word formation are given in the following table:

Table 1

#### Minor examples of word formation

Blends	chocolicious (Oct 23, 2013, p. 1)	‘stantastic’ (Sept 13, 2016, n.p.)
	save-cation, braincation ( <i>Times Life</i> , Dec 29, 2013, p. 3)	‘brangelina’ (Sept 21, 2016, p. 18)
	grandacation, staycations ( <i>Times Life</i> , Jan 26, 2014, p. 1)	‘sanTina’ (Oct 29, 2016)
	gymtimidated ( <i>Times Life</i> , Feb 9, 2014, p.1)	trumponomics (Jan 30, 2017, p. 13)
	group-cation ( <i>Times Life</i> , Aug 7, 2016, p. 3)	glocal ( <i>Times Life</i> , Aug 16, 2017, p. 3)
	Lee-Bops (Aug 7, 2016, p. 24)	hanxiety ( <i>Times Life</i> , Jan 14, 2018, p. 3)

Clippings	vocab (Jan 1, 2015, p. 3), lab, plaint (Nov 17, 2016, p.3), rehab (Jan 24, 2017, p. 6)	
Coinages	egg-cellence, egg-licious ( <i>Times Life</i> , Aug 3, 2014, p. 2)	babymoon ( <i>Times Life</i> , Dec 29, 2013, p. 3)
		'cellfies' (Nov 29, 2016, p. 11)

### ACRONYMS

Almost every page in a newspaper carries a number of acronyms. This is because space constraints compel the section editors to use short forms, abbreviations and acronyms. Acronyms such as AMMA, BRICS, GOBAR, KAUSHAL, MUDRA, NOTA, SAKSHAM, SEBI, USTAAD may be helpful to students who are preparing for competitive exams.

### SAMPLE TASKS

All the lexical items discussed so far can be used to help the ESL learners develop their vocabulary. Some sample tasks that help the learners to do this are:

Scan the newspapers given to you and perform the following tasks.

1. Make a list of neologisms ending with -acation, -icious, -ship.
2. Identify the blended words in *Brangelina*, *gymtimidated*, *haxiety* and *SanTina*.

Apart from providing examples for understanding minor types of word formation, English language newspapers in India generally include news about preparation of new dictionaries by researchers/practicing teachers, surveys of online dictionaries, the publication of new dictionaries and their reviews. For example, in the *Kolhapur Special* supplement of *The Times of India*, Pune edition, a news item by Mulla (2007) mentions that around 150 compound words, from Dr. Ambedkar's English writings have been included in the dictionary of English words under preparation. Some of these words are *deep-seated*, *hero-worship*, *blood-king* and *counter-claims*.

### NEW WORDS IN THE OXFORD ENGLISH DICTIONARY

Newspapers also provide information of new entrants in the Oxford English dictionary. Following are the headlines of the news items indicating new entrants in English dictionaries.

1. “‘Bestie’, ‘wackadoodle’ latest addition to Oxford Dictionary” (*TOI*, 2014).

The news items also mention the inclusion of words such as ‘beatboxer’, ‘scissor-kick’, erap shoot’ and ‘bookaholic’.

2. “Indian kitchen goes global, *keema*, *papad* now English words” (*TOI*, 2015)
3. “‘Jugaad’, ‘Kitty Party’ Find Place in Oxford English Dictionary” (*TOI*, 2015)

The news item not only mentions the inclusion of 240 plus words of Indian origin in the latest edition of the Oxford English dictionary, it also gives the meanings of some of these words. These words are: *Jugaad* (a colloquial term for a fix), *Kitty party* (a social gathering, mainly of women), *Videshi* (of foreign origin) and *mixie* (a food mixer). Along with digitally relevant words such as *bloggy* and *bloggabble*, we also find a lexical set of words derived from Tweeter—retweet, tweetable, tweetheart, tweeterverse and tweetup.

4. “‘YOLO’, ‘Merica’ ‘clicktivism’ enter Oxford Dictionary” (*TOI*, 2016)

The news item mentions the origin of the acronym YOLO meaning “you only live once”, gives the usage of *Merica* and the meaning of *clicktivism*. *Merica* (a truncated form of America) is often used ironically to draw attention to stereotypical American ideals, institutions, or traditions. The word *clicktivism* describes the use of social media and other online methods to promote a cause.

5. “Aiyoh! It’s there in the dictionary!” (*The Hindu*, 2016)

### WORD OF THE YEAR

Newspapers also update their readers with regard to the “word of the year”. The news items not only list these words, but also provides their meanings. Following are some instances. (The newspaper clippings are appended to this paper.)

- a. Xenophobia: Online lexicon’s word of the year (*TOI*, 2016).

According to this news item regarding Dictionary.com’s word of the year, the site defines xenophobia as “fear or hatred of foreigners, people from different cultures, or strangers.”

- b. “‘Post-truth’ is Oxford lexicon’s word of the Year” (*TOI*, 2016)

The feature lists ten words over the last ten years, from 2007 to 2016. It also gives the meanings of words such as *adulthood*, *Brexiteer*, *Latinx*, *coulrophobia*, *hygge*, and *woke*. For instance, *Brexiteer* is a person in favour of the UK withdrawing from the European Union, and *Latinx* is a person of Latin American origin or descent, used as a gender-neutral or non-binary alternative to *Latino* or *Latina*.

- c. “Was 2016 a dream or a nightmare? It was SURREAL” (*TOI*, 2016)

The column not only gives the origin and meaning of the word “surreal”, which is described as “Merriam Webster’s word of the year”, but also mentions the meanings of words such as *bigly*, *assumpsit*, *revenant* and *feckless*, among others. For instance the word *revenant* reads: Leonardo DiCaprio played one in a movie. It describes one that returns after death or a long absence.

a. “Why ‘youthquake’ is word of the year” (*TOI*, 2017)

In the news, “Why ‘youthquake’ is word of the year”, Jennifer Schuessler (2017) mentions the words of the year chosen by Merriam-Webster and Cambridge Dictionary. She also provides the meaning of the Oxford Dictionary word of the year for 2017 “Youthquake” as: “a significant cultural, political or social change arising from the actions or influence of young people”.

b. “Aadhaar” is Oxford’s first Hindi word of the year 2017 (*TOI*, 2018).

The news item also mentions other shortlisted Hindi words of the year such as *notebandi*, *swachh*, *vikas*, *Yoga* and *Bahubali*.

### THE MEANINGS OF WORDS IN ARTICLES

In the following examples, the articles give the words related to a term as well as their meanings. In the article “are you in a Textationship?”, Nona Walia (*Times Life*, 2016) gives a list of words such as *benching*, *layby*, *ghosting*, *zombieing* and *cupcaking*, along with their explanations. Some news items may give differences between words such as *wooing* and *dating*.

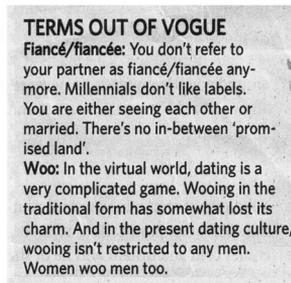


Figure 5 (*Times Life*, 2016)

In the article, “Lunchbox”, by Amin Ali (*Times Life*, 2017), the change in the meaning of the English word “tiffin” has been highlighted in the box.

**Did You Know?**

Tiffin is a variation of the English slang tiffing, meaning “having a little drink”. The word got Indianized and become tiffin during the days of the Raj.



In another article by Nona Walia (*Times Life*, 2018) “The ‘Sisu’ within you”, the meaning of this Finnish word has been given separately in an ellipse.

‘Sisu’ actually means your strength lies in your gut, literally. When someone has ‘sisu’, it means he or she encompasses extreme perseverance and dignity in the face of adversity.

### LEXICAL SETS OF NEOLOGISMS

Newspapers can also help ESL teachers and learners with lexical sets. In the examples considered here, the terms related to relationships, health and wellness, pop culture and travel are not only listed but also explained. Although such neologisms can also be found on online sources such as [www.urbandictionary.com](http://www.urbandictionary.com) and Wiktionary, they are not grouped as lexical sets.

In the list of words describing relationships, there are terms such *sharenting*, *dadzillas*, *flirtationship*, etc. (*Times Life*, 2013). Parents are referred to as *sharents* and *dadzillas* are domestic super-dads, who usually drop their kids to school, attend PTA meetings, change nappies, cook and do household chores with masculine obsessiveness as their wives go to work. Similarly, in the list of travel words (*Times Life*, 2013), we come across words such as *save-cation*, *braincation*, and *babymoon*, and their meanings.

**Relationships**

**Sharenting**  
It is a new phenomenon where parents share baby pictures and experiences on their blogs or social networking profiles. These 'sharents' want to share their parenthood experiences with the world at large, day after day. In an increasingly fragmented society, sharenting allows them to stay connected and get support from their friends and family.

**Slow Love**  
An extension of the Slow Movement, Slow Love was endorsed by dating gurus as a response to today's urban hook-up culture, where most love relationships are based on convenience and physical passion. It's an approach that makes for safer romantic relationships in a world of addictive social dating.

**Dadzillas**  
Domestic super-dads were everywhere. With the rise of ambitious working mothers, more domesticated superdads catered to the needs of their children. Fathers adopted their new role as a caricatured rather seriously. Dadzillas usually drop their kids to school, attend PTA meetings, change nappies, cook and do household chores with masculine obsessiveness as their wives go to work.

**Flirtationship**  
The fastest-growing relationship trend. Flirtationship became the most popular buzzword in the dating circuit. It describes a relationship where you care more than just friends but not in a deep commitment, where you flirt and speak suggestively with no intention of getting physically involved.

**Secret parties**  
Low-profile shillings held at undisclosed locations, announced hurriedly to a select few, took nightlife over in Indian metros. Secret parties like *Genes First Dinner*, *Live from the Condo* and *All Stars* parties had major appeal as events to meet interesting strangers and listen to unique music.

**Health & Wellness**

**Superseds**  
Peanutkin, chia, hemp and sunflower seeds, among others, were deemed superseds after researchers discovered that they pack a nutritional punch and alleviate a hoarde of ailments. In the evenings, snacks and energy bars, they were everywhere in 2013!

**Hybrid yoga**  
Musical yoga, flagy yoga and aqua yoga joined the ever-expanding yoga phenomenon. In musical yoga, one performs asanas to the strains of a sitar. Flagy yoga, popularized by *So and the City* star Kim Cattrall, combines one-on-one physical therapy with massage, essential oils and meditative breathing, while aqua yoga is low-impact yoga performed underwater.

**Poshitis**  
Carrying overrated items in the crook of the elbow, Victoria Beckham got a big thumbs-down by health experts, who termed the resulting medical hazard. Poshitis. According to them, this pose can cause inflamed shoulder tendons, muscle pull, severe back and neck pain and in worst cases, difficulty in sleeping. Injury to the spine and even paralysis!

**Inversion therapy**  
A rage in the West for treating depression, back pain, stress and for correcting posture, inversion therapy came to India when its specialized table was introduced here. An inversion table is like a flexible bed that treats and stretches you. It uses the earth's gravity and your body's weight to stretch the muscles and the spine.

**Crowdfunding**  
An approach that makes for safer romantic relationships in a world of addictive social dating.

Figure 6 (*Times Life*, 2013)

**Travel**

**Save-cation**  
Also known as Hail Mary Moons, this unique-themed travel trend caught the attention of couples going through a rough patch. A Save-cation is a holiday that endeavors to save a failing marriage or relationship as a last ditch attempt.

**Babymoon**  
A vacation takes by expecting couples. Babymoon became the hottest travel trend after Brit royals Prince William and Kate Middleton went on one to the secluded Caribbean islands of Mustique this February. It's the ideal for couples to spend some private moments together before parenthood weighs them down.

**Set jetting**  
This year, we saw a rise in 'location vacations', a tourism phenomenon, where one visits a place depicted in his/her favourite movie, like the Alnwick Castle in Northumberland (Hogwarts in the Harry Potter series). A perfect holiday idea for diehard cinema buffs.

**Braincation**  
Busy executives battled tech addiction by going on gadget-free holidays. On a braincation, you temporarily shut off all the digital gadgets in your life and reconnect with nature.

**Pop culture**

**Womaniya**  
The term was coined as the title of a Bollywood film song (from *Gangs of Wassepur*) and quickly rose in popularity as the new descriptor of desi cool while the aviators-and-Indianwear look from the film became a memorable fashion statement.

**3D action riled Hollywood**  
It's no coincidence that Hollywood's biggest blockbusters were 3D action films. From *Man 3* and *Pacific Rim* to *Gravity*, practically every action movie got a 3D release to meet the audiences' demand.

**Musical movies**  
A big trend in the world of music, the way videos became more like short films, in the way they looked as well as in storytelling. While big name Hollywood filmmakers directed some visually stunning videos (David Fincher for Justin Timberlake's *Sexy & Funny* popstars like Katy Perry and Lady Gaga created mini movies with them).

Figure 7 (*Times Life*, 2013)



### SOCIAL MEDIA LINGO

In a news items by Medha Dutta (TOI, 2015), readers are acquainted with the meanings of words such as *selfie*, *bestie*, and *duckface* alongside Shakespeare’s contribution to English vocabulary.

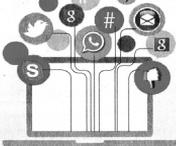
IN OUR VOCAB		ACTION WORDS	SHAKESPEARE'S CONTRIBUTION
<p><b>Selfie:</b> A photograph that one has taken of oneself, typically one taken with a smartphone or webcam and uploaded to a social media website</p> <p><b>Bestie:</b> A person's best friend; a very close friend</p> <p><b>Group hug:</b> A hug shared by three or more people in a group, typically as an expression of support or solidarity</p> <p><b>Photo-bomb:</b> Spoil a photograph of a</p>	<p>person or thing) by unexpectedly appearing in the camera's field of view as the picture is taken, typically as a prank or practical joke</p> <p><b>Duckface:</b> A term used to describe the face made if you push your lips together in a combination of a pout and a pucker, giving the impression you have larger cheekbones and bigger lips</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Inbox</li> <li>&gt; Skype</li> <li>&gt; Hashtag</li> <li>&gt; WhatsApp</li> <li>&gt; Google</li> </ul> 	<p>Like It, Act II, Scene VII</p> <p><b>Fashionable:</b> Troilus and Cressida, Act III, Scene III</p> <p><b>Manager:</b> A Midsummer Night's Dream, Act V, Scene I</p> <p><b>Swagger:</b> Henry V, Act II, Scene IV/A Midsummer Night's Dream, Act III, Scene I</p> <p><b>Uncomfortable:</b> Romeo and Juliet, Act IV, Scene V</p>

Figure 11 (TOI, 2015)

### ETYMOLOGICAL INFORMATION OF WORDS

“The pie story” (TOI, 2017) not only provides the evolution in the meaning of the word *pie* over the centuries, but it also describes the usage of the phrase “a finger in every pie”. In another instance (TOI, 2017), readers are acquainted with the use of the words *groupfie* and *selfie*. It explains *selfie* as “short for self-portrait”.

### NEW AGE ACRONYMS AND SLANGS

In the feature “BRB After checking Oxford Dictionary” (TOI, 2016), learners are acquainted with Oxford English Dictionary updates of acronyms such as *deffo* (definitely), *BRB* (be right back), *AFK* (Away from the keyboard), *SYS* (see you soon). In addition, the meanings of slangs such as “Stupid O’clock” (a time of the day that is extremely early or late) and “Listicles” (online newspaper or magazine articles presented in the form of a list) are also provided. Similarly, through “The Laughing Tree” column in *The Speaking Tree* supplement, learners are



**BRB AFTER CHECKING OXFORD DICTIONARY**

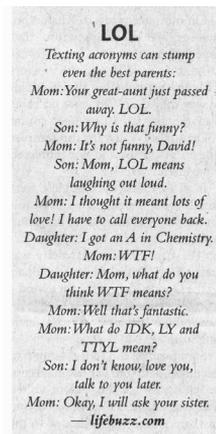
Keeping up with the times, the Oxford English Dictionary has updated itself to the digital age and added a number of acronyms used extensively on social media and by text-actors. Here are a few eye-catching entries from among the more than 1,000 new words.

- BRB** (be right back)
- IMAO** (laughing my arse off)
- TLDR** (Used as a dismissive response to a lengthy online post, or to introduce a summary of a lengthy post)
- TTYL** (Talk to you later)
- AFK** (Away from the keyboard)
- SYS** (See you soon)
- JK** (joke kidding)
- ICTM** (It can't be true)
- TBH** (to be honest)
- GTG** (Got to go)
- FWIW** (For what it's worth)
- Deffo** (definitely)
- ROFL** (Rolling on the floor laughing (used to convey great amusement))

**SOME MORE SLANGS**

- BOYVER** Thanks to comedian Catherine Tate's teenage character Laura's much-repeated catch-phrase "Am I boyvered?"
- HOCKEY MOM** A mother who devotes a great deal of time and effort to supporting her children's participation in ice hockey
- BUDGE** **SHIMMLEDIG** Men's brief, light-fitting swimming trunks
- LISTICLES** Online newspaper or magazine articles presented in the form of a list
- GLAMPING** A form of camping involving accommodation and facilities more luxurious than those associated with traditional camping
- STARTER MARRIAGE** A short-lived first marriage between young adults
- STUPID O'CLOCK** A time of the day that is extremely early (or late)
- WEDDING TABLE** A man's genitals

Figure 12 (TOI, 2016)



**LOL**

Texting acronyms can stump even the best parents:

Mom: Your great-aunt just passed away. LOL.

Son: Why is that funny?

Mom: It's not funny, David!

Son: Mom, LOL means laughing out loud.

Mom: I thought it meant lots of love! I have to call everyone back.

Daughter: I got an A in Chemistry.

Mom: WTF!

Daughter: Mom, what do you think WTF means?

Mom: Well that's fantastic.

Mom: What do IDK, LY and TTYL mean?

Son: I don't know, love you, talk to you later.

Mom: Okay, I will ask your sister.

— lifebuzz.com

Figure 13 (TOI, 2018)

acquainted with texting acronyms such as LOL, WTF, IDK, LY and TTYL (*The Speaking Tree*, 2018).

### THE WORDS 'LOST' AND 'FOUND'

While reporting on a project, a team of linguists at the University of York, UK, gives the meanings of eighteen lost words in the column “The ‘Lost’ Words” (*The Times of India*, 2017). Some of them are given here:

Peacockize = To pose or strut ostentatiously

Merry-go-sorry = A mixture of joy & sorrow

Ambodexter = One who takes bribes from both sides

Percher = A person who aspires to a higher rank or status

Downsabel = Applied generically to a sweetheart, “lady-love”

The feature “Are you one of these notable types?” (*The Times of India*, 2016) introduces the terms related to *notebandi* in India such as “queuepids”, “cashless virgins”, “the note-worthies”, “the white-washers”, “the remonetisers” and “change-makers”.

### HOMOPHONES IN DIFFERENT LANGUAGES

In one of the features “To kiss is to piss in Sweden” (*TOI*, 2016), readers are acquainted with words that sound the same, but have different meanings in different countries.



Figure 14 (*TOI*, 2016)

### WORDS AND IDIOMS IN OTHER LANGUAGES

A feature on words that describe emotions but are difficult to express in other languages, (*The Times Special*, 2017), gives the meanings of words such as *Shinrin-yoku*, *Wabi-sabi*, *Natsukashii* (Japanese), *Yuan bei* (Chinese), *Saudade* (Portuguese) and *Sehnsucht* (German). For instance, *Shinrin-yoku* (Japanese) means “the relaxation gained from bathing in the forest, figuratively or literally”. Similarly, in one of the articles, Joeanna Fernandes (*TOI*, 2017) gives the meanings of some untranslatable Indian idioms such as *Lethi* (Oriya), *Pond Paaka* and *Naeka* (Bangla) and *Saand* (Marathi and Hindi). According to the article, *saand* is “Literally a stud bullock, but refers to a layabout who is absolutely irresponsible and not fit to take familial responsibilities”.

### CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

The use contemporary lexical items make vocabulary development an enjoyable exercise for ESL learners. Some tasks that involve the use of newspapers to introduce lexical items to ESL learners include:

1. Read the news items given to you and complete the following table.

Year	Indian Words Included in the Oxford English Dictionary	Oxford’s Hindi Word of the Year	Oxford Lexicon’s Word of the Year	Merriam-Webster’s Word of the Year
2016				
2017				
2018				

Scan the newspapers given to you and perform the following tasks.

2. Write the different meanings of the word *charge* as indicated in the following cartoon.



Figure 15 (*TOI*, 2016)

3. Explain the difference between the following words:
  - a. Excepted and expected
  - b. Wooing and dating
  - c. Parents and sharents
  - d. Selfie and groupfie
4. Trace the origin of the word *selfie* and explain its full form.
5. Make sentences using the following words: *Google, like, tweet, WhatsApp*, both as nouns and verbs.
6. Write the meanings of the following words:
  - a. Ambodexter
  - b. Bestie
  - c. Bookaholic
  - d. Brexiteer
  - e. Percher
  - f. Psephologist
  - g. Seenager

### CONCLUSION

There are various special purpose dictionaries such as *Dictionary of Spelling, Dictionary of Word Origins, Dictionary of Pronunciation* and *Dictionary of Abbreviation*, to name a few. However, barring pronunciation, also an important lexicographical aspect, a newspaper clarifies various other aspects of words such as spelling, meanings, etymology, words often confused, acronyms, usage of words, and even meanings of emojis (TOI, 2017). Moreover, all of these are illustrated pictorially in headlines, news items, features, jokes and cartoons. With the focus on the semantic aspect of vocabulary, newspapers can hence be used like dictionaries in the English classes. Nowadays, ESL teachers and learners often consult online dictionaries through their smart phones to look up a word. In the absence of print dictionaries (Advanced learner's or pocket), and also when mobile phones are not allowed, newspapers can be handy for classroom purposes.

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APPENDIX

a.

**'Post-truth' is Oxford lexicon's word of the year**

**LATEST WORDS THAT DIDN'T MAKE IT**

**Adulting** | Practice of behaving in a way characteristic of a responsible adult

**Brexititeer** | Person in favour of the UK withdrawing from the European Union

**Vote to Leave the EU**

**Coulrophobia** | Extreme or irrational fear of clowns. Clown hysteria spread across the world with reports of scary clown sightings and attacks by them. The frenzy was born in South Carolina in late August

**Hygge** | A quality of cosiness and comfortable conviviality that engenders a feeling of contentment or well-being, untroubled and a definition

**Latnix** | A person of Latin American origin or descent, used as a gender-neutral or non-binary alternative to

**Woke** | Originally in African-American usage meaning alert to injustice in society

**LAST 10 YEARS IN 10 WORDS**

2016 Post-truth  
2015 'tears of joy' emoji  
2014 Vape  
2013 Selfie  
2012 Omishambles and GIF  
2011 Squeezed middle  
2010 Big society and Redcliffe  
2009 Simples and Unfriend  
2008 Credit crunch and hypermiling  
2007 Carbon footprint and Locovore

Figure 16 (TOI, 2016)

**WAS 2016 A DREAM OR A NIGHTMARE? IT WAS SURREAL**

**Merriam Webster's word of the year**

**OTHER WORDS IN THE TOP**

**Bigly** | A rare and sometimes archaic form of 'big', dating to around 1480. It made its way into the collective mind thanks to Trump, who was fond of using 'big league' as an adverb but making it sound like bigly

**Deploable** | Thank you, Hillary Clinton and your basket full of, though it's not technically a noun

**Irregularities** | Considered a 'nonstandard' word for regardless. It's best avoided

**Assumptill** | This spike came after Prince's April 21 death, along with surreal

**Assumptill** | For the record, it's a legal term with Latin roots for a type of implied promise or contract

**Faulla die Miliana** | Literally, this French phrase means 'lack of something better or more desirable'. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg used it in a brief concurring opinion in June

**In omnia pariter** | A Latin phrase for 'ready for all things'

**Revealed** | Leonardo DiCaprio played one in a movie. It describes 'one that returns after death or a long absence'

**Feebles** | Means weak or worthless. It's how Vice President-elect Mike Pence described President Obama's foreign policy

**HOW DID MERRIAM REACH THIS CONCLUSION**

The company tracks year-over-year growth and spikes in lookups of words on its website to come up with the top choice

**MAJOR SPIKES IN LOOKUPS FOR THE WORD CAME AFTER:**

- > Brussels attacks in March
- > Bastille Day massacre in Nice in July
- > Coup attempt in Turkey also in July

**Single biggest spike:**

- > On November 8, the day Trump went from candidate to president-elect
- > Smaller spikes reported after the death of Prince in April
- > After the June shootings at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, Florida

Oxford's top choice: **POST-TRUTH**  
Dictionary.com's: **XENOPHOBIA**

Figure 17 (TOI, 2016)

b.

**THE 'LOST' WORDS**

Have you ever been btrumped by a losenger? 'Btrumped' and 'losenger' may sound gibberish to us, but a team of linguists at the University of York, UK, think the words have relevance even today. The team spent three months searching through old books and dictionaries to create a list of 30 'lost' words. A look at some of them:

<b>Betrump</b>   To deceive, cheat, elude	claims knowledge of or skill in medicine	through laziness
<b>Losenger</b>   A flatterer, a lying rascal	<b>Snout-fair</b>   Having a fair countenance; fair-faced, comely, handsome	<b>Percher</b>   A person who aspires to a higher rank or status
<b>Hugger-mugger</b>   Concealment, secrecy	<b>Stomaching</b>   Full of malignity, given to cherish anger	<b>Sillytonian</b>   A silly or gullible person
<b>Peacockize</b>   To pose or strut ostentatiously	<b>Wasteheart</b>   Used to express grief, pity, regret, disappointment	<b>Rouzy-bouzy</b>   Boisterously drunk
<b>Merry-go-sorry</b>   A mixture of joy & sorrow	<b>Ambodexter</b>   One who takes bribes from both sides	<b>Momist</b>   A harsh critic
<b>Awshape</b>   To amaze, stupefy with fear, confound utterly	<b>Slug-a-bed</b>   One who lies long in bed	<b>Ruff</b>   To swagger, bluster, domineer. To ruff it out / to brag or boast of a thing
<b>Quacksalver</b>   A person who dishonestly		<b>Dowsabel</b>   Applied generically to a sweetheart, 'lady-love'

Figure 18 TOI, 2017)

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