This study endeavored to develop an English vocabulary program for College freshmen at the University of Northern Philippines (UNP) Vigan City, Ilocos Sur for the school year 1997-1998.

This study utilized the research and development (sometimes called the “research-based” development) method which is essentially a process intended to develop and validate educational products toward their being used on a wide scale basis (de Leon, 1987). The steps in this process are usually referred to as the “R&D cycle”.

The study involved 2,543 first year college students from the 21 degree and 8 non degree programs of the four colleges and 7 institutes of the UNP. Random sampling with the use of Slovin’s formula was used to determine the number of respondents from each college and institute. The total number of respondents was 501.

The instrument used to gather data were the Vocabulary Level Test for learners of English as a second language and the vocabulary achievement test for college freshmen constructed by the researcher and content validated by the English professors.

To determine the overall performance of the respondents in the Vocabulary Level test, the researcher computed the mean ratings of each college and institute in each of the five vocabulary levels.

Content validity of the vocabulary program was determined through the help of English professors who rated its content and instructional characteristics using five-point rating scale.

Effectiveness of the program was measured by gains in performance in terms of the students pretest and posttest scores mean gain difference.