I speak, WE speak, YOU speak MATH

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to treat math as a language. Educational psychologists believe that learning mathematics requires a strong vocabulary base, fluency and proficiency with numbers, symbols, words, and diagrams; and comprehension skills (Riccomini, 2015). Research studies have shown that teachers can successfully achieve these requirements by teaching mathematics using second language acquisition strategies.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

How can teachers effectively teach mathematics as a language?

Can teachers approach teaching mathematics the same way second language acquisition in approached?

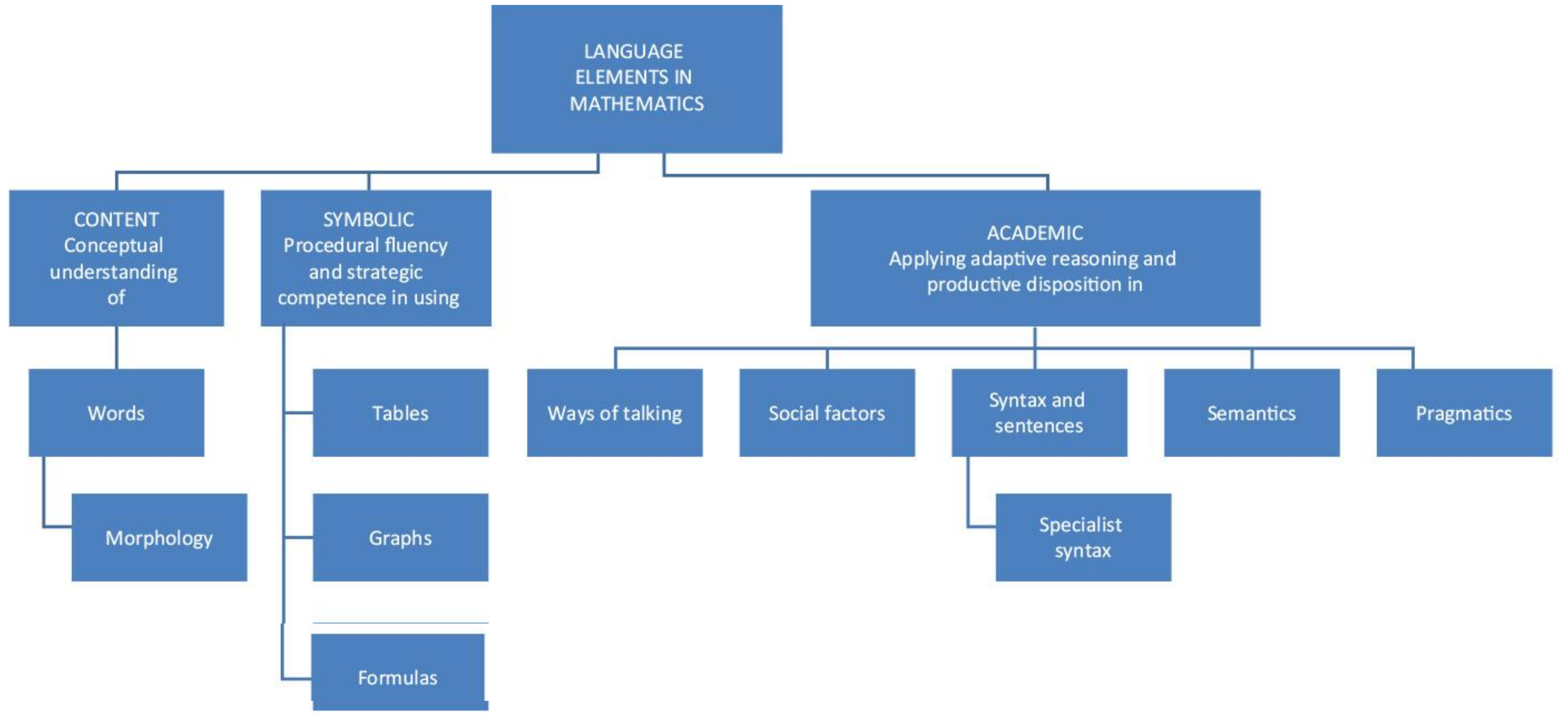
HYPOTHESIS

If mathematics is a language, then teachers will find success in teaching math by incorporating the methods and approaches used for second language acquisition.

RESULTS

Approaching mathematics as a language means that the skills needed to learn math are similar to the skills required to learn any other language. By viewing all students as "English Language Learners" in a math setting teachers can use the same strategies that have been proven to be effective for students learning a new language. (Krussel & Dunham, 2008)

It would benefit math teachers to be trained as language teachers in order to create awareness of the similarities and useful questioning techniques and teacher strategies associated with the acquisition of a second language. (Ledibane, Kaiser & Walt, 2018)



CONCLUSION

Research has shown that learners go through similar process when acquiring a new language and learning math therefore teachers will find success in teaching math by incorporating the methods and approaches used for second language acquisition.

METHODS

The research question and hypothesis were formulated by prior research on the topic of second language acquisition. This research is an extension to include the approach of treating math as a language. The information to support this research was closely examined to identify themes and patterns relating to the research questions and hypothesis.

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