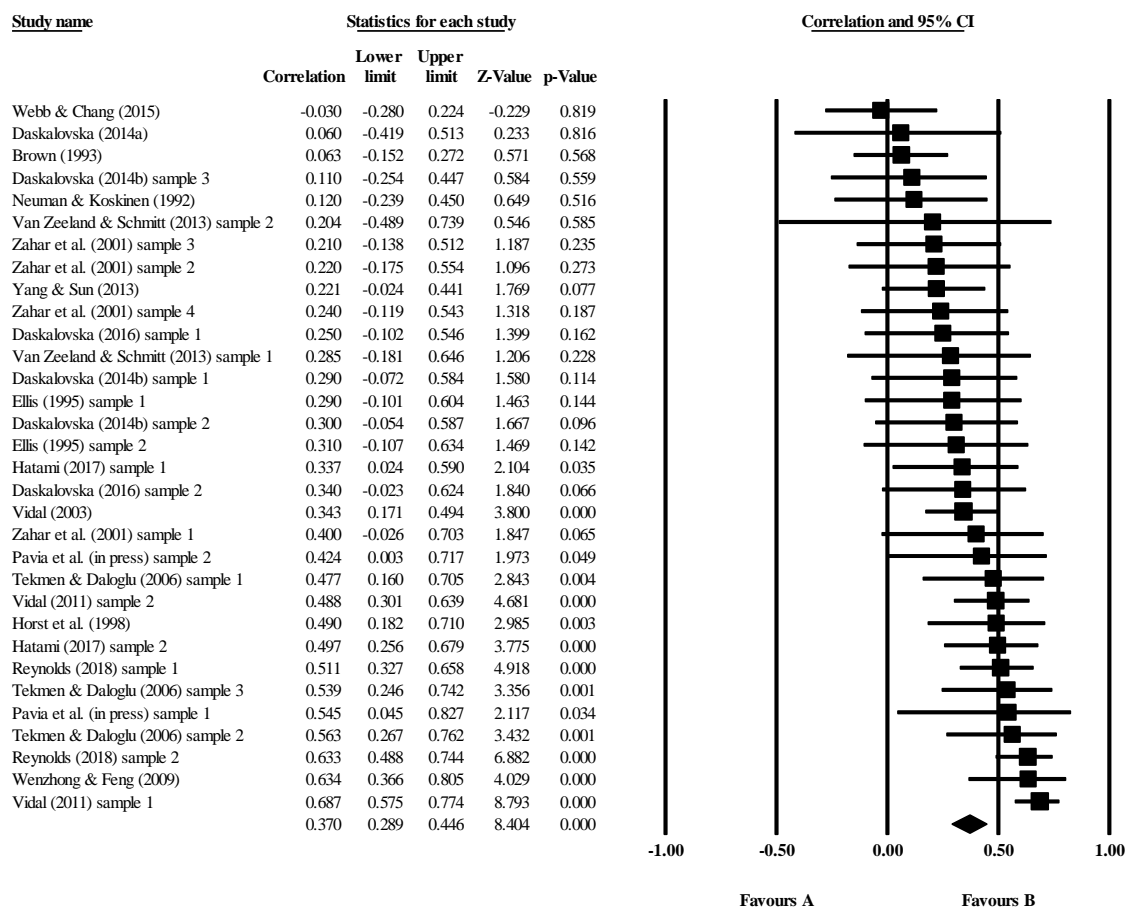


#### Appendix S1: Sensitivity Analysis

In order to examine the extent to which the current results were influenced by the presence of unpublished studies, we ran another analysis following the same procedure we adopted in the original analysis—that is, calculation of the mean effect size and moderator analysis—based on effect sizes from published studies ( $k = 32$ ), with those from unpublished studies ( $k = 13$ ) excluded.

To examine the overall relationship between frequency of encounters and vocabulary learning, the mean effect size was calculated,  $r = .37$ , 95% CI [.29, .45],  $p < .001$  (see Figure 1). The magnitude of this effect size was slightly larger than that of the mean effect size found in the original analysis,  $r = .34$ , 95% CI [.27, .40],  $p < .001$ , but both were considered medium effects according to Plonsky and Oswald's (2014) criteria.



**Figure 1** Overall average correlation between frequency of encounters and learning gains (indicated by a diamond) and correlations with confidence intervals for each study.

To explore whether and to what extent 10 variables moderate the relationship between frequency of encounters and vocabulary learning, a series of moderator analyses were conducted. The results of categorical variables and continuous variables are presented in Tables 1 and 2, respectively. Due to the decrease in the number of samples (i.e., effect sizes) and resulting decrease in statistical power, some moderator analyses which were found to be significant in the original analysis did not reach statistical significance ( $\alpha = .05$ ). However, the direction of the relationship between moderators and frequency effects as well as the size of moderator effects were overall similar to the original results, except for moderators of age and basic vocabulary. As for the age variable, a relatively large effect was found for studies using primary school students ( $r = .47$ ) compared to the effect found in the original analysis ( $r = .20$ ). Yet, this result was based on two effect sizes ( $k = 2$ ) from one study (Pavia, Webb, & Faez, in press); thus, the reliability of

the effect is questionable. Regarding basic vocabulary, the regression and correlation coefficients ( $b = -0.0026$ ,  $r = -.19$ ) were smaller than the original analysis ( $b = -0.0046$ ,  $r = -.43$ ). However, considering the substantial decrease in the number of samples for this variable ( $k = 22 \geq 14$ ) as well as the finding that the direction of the relationship was the same (i.e., negative correlation), this difference was considered minor.

In summary, the sensitivity analysis showed that the mean effect size of the relationship between frequency of encounters and vocabulary learning was similar to the original analysis. It was also found that the results of the moderator analysis were overall similar in terms of the direction as well as size of the moderating effects on the frequency-learning relationship. Therefore, we confirmed that there was little concern about the confounding influence of unpublished work on the current meta-analysis results.

**Table 1** Results of analysis of categorical moderator variables

Variable	<i>k</i>	<i>r</i>	95% CI	<i>p</i>	<i>Q(df)</i>	<i>p</i>
<u>Learner</u>						
Age					9.85(31)	.001
Primary	2	.47	[.16, .69]	.001		
Secondary school	10	.20	[.09, .31]	.001		
University	20	.42	[.32, .51]	.001		
<u>Treatment</u>						
Spacing					2.00(31)	.150
Spaced learning	7	.26	[.06, .44]	.010		
Massed learning	25	.40	[.33, .48]	.001		
Mode of input					16.69(31)	.001
Reading	7	.49	[.38, .58]	.001		
Listening	10	.41	[.26, .54]	.001		
Reading while listening	13	.30	[.18, .41]	.001		
Viewing	2	.07	[-.10, .25]	.410		
Visual aid					2.87(31)	.090
Yes	6	.24	[.05, .41]	.010		
No	26	.40	[.32, .47]	.001		
Engagement					7.92(31)	.001
Yes	7	.21	[.07, .34]	.001		
No	25	.42	[.35, .50]	.001		
<u>Methodology</u>						
Nonword use					3.90(31)	.040
Yes	6	.50	[.36, .62]	.001		
No	26	.34	[.25, .42]	.001		
Comprehension test announcement					3.40(31)	.060
Yes	6	.51	[.33, .66]	.001		
No	26	.33	[.25, .40]	.001		
Test format					2.60(37)	.270
Recognition	25	.31	[.22, .39]	.001		
Recall	9	.42	[.25, .57]	.001		
Vocabulary knowledge scale	4	.45	[.22, .64]	.001		

**Table 2** Results of weighted correlation analysis of continuous moderator variables

Variable	<i>k</i>	<i>r</i> ( <i>rho</i> )	95% CI	<i>p</i>
Basic vocabulary	11	−.19 (−.20)	[−.91, .52]	.37
Range in encounters	24	−.50 (−.60)	[−.88, −.12]	.00

## Appendix S2: Coding Scheme

Variables	Values				
Identification					
Author					
Title					
Year of publication					
Type of publication	Journal article	Dissertation	Book/book chapter	Proceeding	Presentation
Learner					
Age	Primary school	Secondary school	University		
Basic vocabulary					
Treatment					
Spacing	Spaced	Massed			
Mode of input	Reading	Listening	Reading while listening	Viewing	Other
Visual Aid	Yes	No			
Engagement	Yes	No			
Range in encounters					
Methodology					
Nonword use	Yes	No			
Comprehension test announcement	Yes	No			
Test format	Recognition	Recall	Vocabulary knowledge scale		
Sample sizes ( <i>N</i> )					
Effect sizes ( <i>r</i> )					

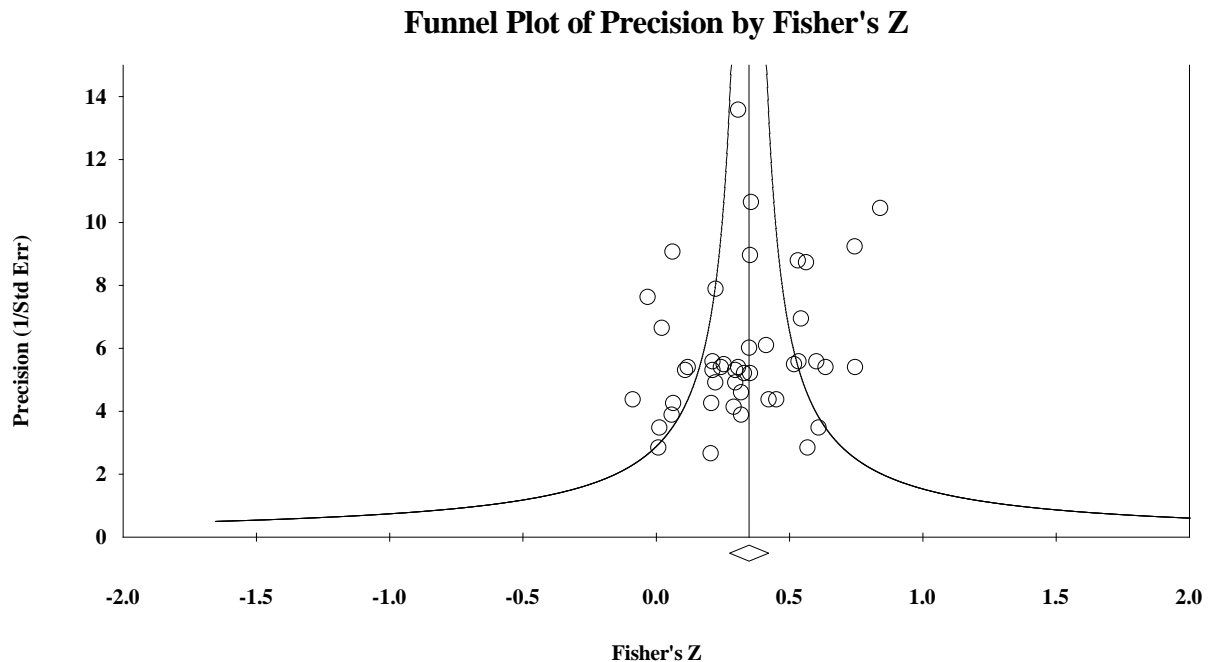
*Note.* Variables without labelled values are continuous, non-categorical, or open-ended.

### Appendix S3: Results of Publication Bias Measures and Funnel Plot

We had a concern about overestimation of the aggregated effect sizes based on the fact that studies reporting statistically significant findings or large effect sizes tend to be published (Lipsey & Wilson, 2001). To assess publication bias in our data, we first employed a funnel plot, which provided information regarding the relationship between measurement precision (i.e., standard error or function of sampling error) and the effect sizes in question (i.e., correlation coefficient). Effect size distribution in a well-balanced data set has a symmetric funnel shape (i.e., the more sampling errors, the more likely that effect sizes vary across studies). Conversely, an unbalanced data set has an asymmetric funnel shape, an indication of publication bias. In the funnel plot, precision values (i.e., the inverse of the standard error or  $1/\text{standard error}$ ) are displayed on the y-axis and effect sizes for each study are displayed on the x-axis. Large sample studies (or effect sizes) generally appear towards the top of the graph and cluster around the mean effect size, whereas smaller studies spread out on the bottom half of the graph. In the presence of publication bias, studies normally miss on either side of the mean near the bottom.

In the current data, the funnel plot in Figure 1 displays an approximately equal distribution of the effect sizes around the mean, which suggests the absence of publication bias. In order to further examine whether the observed overall effect was robust in our data, we conducted the following three measures: (a) fail-safe  $N$ , (b) Orwin's fail-safe  $N$ , and (c) trim-and-fill. First, the classic fail-safe  $N$  (Rosenthal, 1979) calculates how many missing studies with small effect sizes (effect size = 0) would be needed before the  $p$  value for the observed mean effect became nonsignificant. The result showed that we would have needed to retrieve 2,182 studies to nullify the effect ( $\alpha = .05$ ), indicating that there would be less reason for concern about publication bias. Second, Orwin's fail-safe  $N$  (Orwin, 1983) concerns the number of missing studies needed to lower the mean effect down to a certain effect-size value instead of focusing on statistical significance. The result showed that we would have needed to retrieve 122 studies before the mean effect size became the size of little importance (i.e.,  $r = .10$ ). This finding also suggested that the effect of publication bias was not serious in this study. Finally, we computed the trim-and-fill analysis (Duval & Tweedie, 2000a, 2000b) for the random-effects model. It calculated the unbiased estimate of the mean effect size by accounting for the lack of asymmetry in the funnel plot. The result showed that there appeared to be a slight underestimate of the mean effect size, but the adjusted value and initial value were overall similar:  $r = .408$ , 95% CI [.343, .469] and  $r = .335$ , 95% CI [.268, .398], respectively—both of the correlation coefficients were considered medium effects according to the criteria established by Plonsky and Oswald

(2014). This indicated no serious effect of publication bias on the current result. Therefore, findings based on the visual inspection of the funnel plot and the three bias-detective measures suggested that the concern for publication bias was very low.



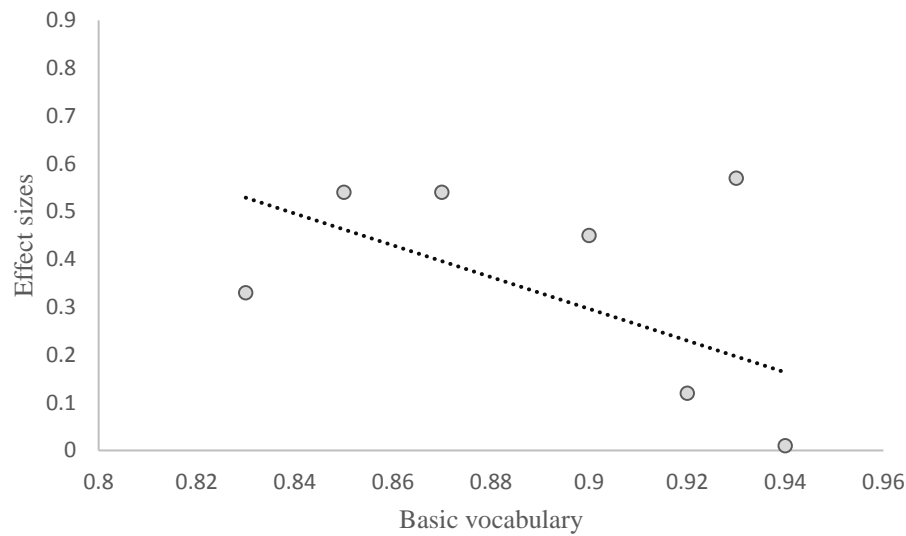
**Figure 1** Funnel plot of effect sizes (x-axis) and standard error (y-axis)

### References

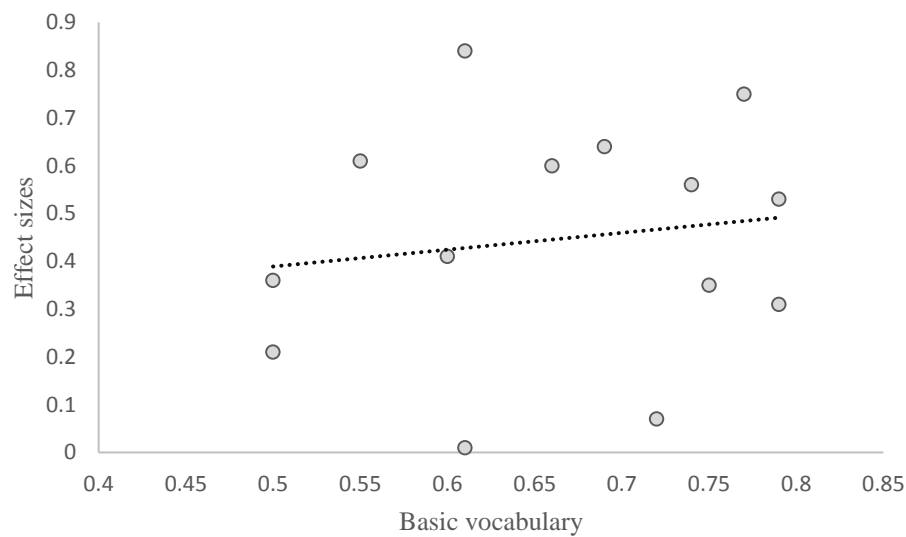
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#### Appendix S4: Relationship Between Frequency and Basic Vocabulary for 2,000 Frequency Level Mastered and Unmastered Samples



**Figure 1** Relationship between basic vocabulary and effect sizes for mastered samples.



**Figure 2** Relationship between basic vocabulary and effect sizes for unmastered samples.

## Appendix S5: References of Included Studies

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