Determining the relationship the viewpoint of the students towards English language and the amount of their educational performance in English language course during 2013—2014 educational year

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of the present study is to examine the relationship between the viewpoint of the students towards English language and the amount of their educational performance in English language course during2013-2014academic year. This research is empirical from the view point of purpose and the way of collecting data is descriptive survey. The statistical sample population of this study is 3231 students of grade 2 high school students of Shabestar during 2013-2014 academic year From among these population 344 ones were selected as statistical sample using Ants Table. The research data was collected through questionnaire and the validity of the questionnaire in content form has been examined and proved. To calculate the reliability of the questionnaire the Kronbach Alpha has been used. Since the coefficient Cronbach Alpha for all variants was. /7 more than the standard amount, so the questions relating to research variants had the necessary reliability. To test the hypotheses the Spearman correlation and Youman within tests were used. The results of the research showed that there was a meaningful relationship between the students' viewpoints towards English language and their educational performance in English language and also there was a meaningful relationship between their viewpoints towards English language and the amount of their understanding of the value and importance of English language, positive feelings towards English language and the kind of the surrounding people's expectations. But there was not any relationship between the students' viewpoints and the educational facilities. The results also showed that there is a relationship between the gender and the performance of the students.
Key words*: viewpoint, English Language, Educational Performance, Educational Progress.*

INTRODUCTION

The widespread use of English language throughout the world has caused the people of the world to call it an international language. In four recent decades of the twentieth century the fast progresses in all fields of science from one hand and the ever increasing needs of human societies because of these progresses from the other hand has made the establishment of relationship with other nations very necessary. Following these changes from ancient times the people of the world have thought of a unique communicative language in all industrial, medical, economical, commercial fields, university studies, air travels, marine travels, road travels, sports travels, tourism and hundreds of similar cases. Even though there were some suggestions on making a unique language widespread like Sprantu, some successes were achieved. But since after World War II English language entered gradually in powerful countries especially the United States, no definite language was used as a unique one among the nations. In most countries in which English language is not the mother tongue of their people, this language was placed as a second language in educational systems of schools and universities and it was considered as their main course. Along with educational progress of schools and universities, English language learning and teaching centers in all countries in the form of private, semi private and state institutes act upon English language teaching and learning. Regardless of such wide spectrums of the need of the nations of the world to know English language, numerous teachers, and researchers have attempted to research on English language teaching and learning as a second language. Different theorists give their theories on different linguistic, psychological, and learning fields of the language and in this regard, the experts and authorities present different teaching methods based on the upcoming needs of learners. Through the training of the teachers

in different English language learning centers and preparing educational books and producing proper realias based on the prominent theories of the time they try to facilitate this process by presenting new techniques of English language learning.[Douglass Brown,translated by Fahim(2002)P:1]

The importance of the examining the relationship between the students' viewpoints towards English language and their educational performance emerges from the point that one of the most important effective factors on educational performance of the students of schools and universities is their personal and psychological characteristics.

To enter the society and face the different situations and people (from the viewpoints of culture, economics, social class, etc.) one is equipped with some tools like special personal traits and psychological structures. (Kamelmir, Denilson and Bastian, 2005, P: 31) These psychological tools can help him infacing events of his life. These psychological structures are not only influenced by different factors such as family, society, contemporarygroup's .etc, but also they influence these factors mutually. (Barry, Laki, Varhak, 2007:59) These personality characteristics are in fact regarded as the motivation of behaviors and habits to achieve that goal; that is, these characteristics enable the human to do different behaviors at special situations.(Parvin,1996) The widespread ness of the reception of the main 5 factors of the 5-factored personality theory which claims that 5 main dimensions of the personality are needed and enough to judge about behavioral ,emotional and cognitive adaptability and stability in non-clinicalsamples, refers that other structural and self-centered structures like learning strategies may simply be the reflective of the regarded definite individual differences in 5 factored model (Kamvar& Forenham,2008,P:782)

Nowadays through the progress of sciences and skill and societies' are complicated the personal and social requirements are also complicated. Satisfying these complicated needs also requires complicated sciences and skills. Learning an international language is a logical need in the era of information and economical deals explosion. Fortunately or unfortunately, this role has been given to English language. From among 4000 to 5000 live languages throughout the world, English language has the most usage and practice (Brumfit& Breton, 1978) We should accept that English language is no longer a foreign language, but it's a meditative or common language of all the people of the world, we should consider the correct right of training for all Iranian children. The developing world is producing science and technology every second and nearly all these scientific researchers are presented in English in international societies. Most of the students believe that if English language training was begun from primary school, the present critical situation would improve surely. Theteacher, the method of training and the student are involved in the effective teaching factors in any educational setting. The students just consider the Grammar of English as language learning! The educational (course) books are not attractive for students and they don't have the required motivation to learn English language. As a need training English language should be placed within the social relationships and occasions. Because this language is not far from the world of gift and needs of people and any one needs to learn it at any stage of his life. Language learning is a skillful issue and is different from science and knowledge issues. It's learned through repetition. Unfortunately in our educational system there is no place for this repetition. (Mohammadi Fard,2012) Therefore, the objectives of English language teaching should be set in a way that the students get at a deserving level in listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills.So that they can express their thoughts and feelings and through listening they can interact with other people and can communicate with other people through reading and writing with the help of the achieved skills. Since language learning strategy is a communicative one, it's necessary that educational planning of schools pays serious attention to this objective. Of course it seems that the 4 mentioned skills should be fertilized in students for 2 reasons.First,in the era of communications and information technology and development of knowledge production in written media such as internet which are the only excuse to give meaning to English language learning/training ,the achievement of the 2 reading and writing skills are necessary. So through the reminding the materials in this research we try to examine the relationship between the students' views towards English language and the amount of their educational performance in English language course in high school students of Shabestar during 2013-2014academic year.

In this regard the followings are the research questions:

1. Is there any relationship between the students' viewpoints towards English language and the amount of their educational performance in English language course?

2. Is there any relationship between the amount of the student's knowledge about the importance and value of English language and the amount of their educational performance in English language course?

3. Is there any relationship between positive feelings (interests0 towards English language and the amount of their educational performance in English language course?

4. Is there any relationship between the type of the expectations of the students' surrounding people and the amount of their educational performance in English language course?

5. Is there any relationship between the gender of the students and the amount of their educational performance in English language course?

6. Is there any relationship between the educational facilities and the amount of their educational performance in English language course?

MATERIALS OF THE METHODS

The Method of the Research:

This research is an empirical one from the view point of its objectives and the method of collecting data is descriptive-survey. Some parts of the research have been done through the study of book cards, papers, theses, etc. and the use of internet. The span of time is limited to2013-2014academicyears and the span of the place is limited to Shabestar region.

Statistical population, sample and its volume:

The statistical population of the research, which includes all high school students of Shabestar Zone during2013-2014 academic years, equals 3231 people. Through the use of Ants Table the statistical sample of the present research is 344 people. From among 344 distributed questionnaires just 331 ones were gotten back. From among 14 male and 11 female high schools, 5 male and 4 female schools were selected for sampling.

To sampling the stratified classical sampling random method has been used in this research. In this method the population is divided into congruent groups and each group is formed of the people who have similar characteristics. After dividing the population into congruent groups, the number of the sample in proportion to each group was determined and then through the use of simple or rehular random sampling the number of the required substances of each group has been selected.(Azar& Moumeni,2006 ,P:7)

The tools used in this research

In general, the research gets benefit of researcher-made questionnaire. To provide the validity of the questions of the questionnaire the views of supervisor professors and some of English language teachers were taken so that the questions of the questionnaire could examine the subject of the research. In this regard the validity of the questionnaire was proved from the view point of contents. To calculate the reliability of the questionnaire the Kronbach Alpha has been used. This questionnaire includes 20 questions which have been raised and planned and examined based on 5 alternatives Lickert Scale.

At the beginning of this questionnaire some information on demography of the interlocutors has been achieved. According to the objectives of the research the questions have been divided into very low to very high alternative structures. To arrive at the reliability 30 people of the statistical population were chosen and evaluated at random for a pre test.The coefficient of Kronbach Alpha was between zero and one. When this coefficient becomes more than. /7 and gets closer to 1, it shows the reliability of the questions. As the results of the examination of the reliability of questions show the total calculated coefficient of Kronbach Alpha equals ./86 and since it's bigger than ./7,so one can conclude that the questionnaire used in this research has the required research reliability.

 To analyze the collected data, the descriptive and deductive statistics have been used. To describe the data statistically the central and dispersive calculations were used and for deductive test the kolmogrophSmirnoff and Spearman correlation and Man vitini test have been used. To do statistical calculations the software package of Spss has been used.

Findings:

The main hypothesis: There is a relationship between the students' viewpoints towards English language and the amount of their educational performance in English language course.

 To examine the relationship between the students' viewpoints towards English language and the amount of their educational performance in English language course Spearman Correlation coefficient test was used. Since the achieved meaningful level of the test is less below ./05,so with 95% of certainty one can say that the null hypothesis is not proved and the research hypothesis, there is a relationship between the students' viewpoints towards English language and the amount of their educational performance in English language course, is proved.

Correlations

			performance	viewpoint
Spearman's rho	performance	Correlation Coefficient	1.000	.195**
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.	.000
		N	331	331

			viewpoint	
viewpoint	Correlation Coefficient		.195**	1.000
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000	.
	N		331	331

**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Hypothesis 1: There is a relationship between the amount of the students' familiarity with value and importance of English language and the educational performance of them in English language course.

The results showed that the meaningful level of Spearman test is below ./05,so with 95 % of certainty one can say that there is a relationship between the amount of the students' familiarity with value and importance of English language and the educational performance of them in English language course.

Correlations

			performance	familiarity
Spearman's rho	performance	Correlation Coefficient	1.000	.119*
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.	.031
		N	331	331
	familiarity	Correlation Coefficient	.119*	1.000
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.031	.
		N	331	331

*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Hypothesis 2: There is relationship between positive feeling (interest) in English language and the educational performance of them in English language course.

The results showed that the meaningful level of Spearman test is below ./05,so with 95 % of certainty one can say there is relationship between positive feeling (interest) in English language and the educational performance of them in English language course.

Correlations

			performance	positive feeling
Spearman's rho	performance	Correlation Coefficient	1.000	.234**
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.	.000
		N	331	331
	positive feeling	Correlation Coefficient	.234**	1.000
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.
		N	331	331

**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Hypothesis3: There is a relationship between the expectations of the surrounding people and the educational performance of them in English language course.

The results showed that the meaningful level of Spearman test is below. /05, so with 95 % of certainty one can say there is relationship between the expectations of the surrounding people and the educational performance of them in English language course.

Correlations

			performance	expectations
Spearman's rho	performance	Correlation Coefficient	1.000	.131*
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.	.018
		N	331	331
	expectations	Correlation Coefficient	.131*	1.000
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.018	.
		N	331	331

*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Hypothesis 4: There is a relationship between the training facilities of English language and the educational performance of them in English language course.

The results showed that the meaningful level of Spearman test is below ./05,so with 95 % of certainty one can say there is relationship between the training facilities of English language and the educational performance of them in English language course.

Correlations

			performance	facilities
Spearman's rho	performance	Correlation Coefficient	1.000	.023
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.	.675
		N	331	331
	facilities	Correlation Coefficient	.023	1.000
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.675	.
		N	331	331

Hypothesis 5: There is a relationship between the gender of the students and the educational performance of them in English language course.

To examine the relationship between the gender of the students and the educational performance of them in English language course the Man Vitini test was used. The results showed that there is a relationship between the gender of the students and the educational performance of them in English language course.

Ranks

gender	N	Mean Rank	Sum of Ranks
girl	164	143.07	23463.50
boy	167	188.52	31482.50
Total	331		

Test Statistics[a]

	performance
Mann-Whitney U	9933.500
Wilcoxon W	2.346E4
Z	-4.326
Asymp. Sig. (2-tailed)	.000

a. Grouping Variable: gender

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The concept of viewpoint is along with the concept of a good or bad feeling towards one person or thing. Therefore, the concept of viewpoint is along with a positive or negative characteristic.Ina more simple form one can say that the viewpoint is our outlook towards our surrounding setting the results of which are reflected in our behaviors and they have direct influence on our present and future. Since the viewpoint has 2 positive and negative dimensions from one hand, so its results can be both positive and negative. According to Mantle Broomli(1991) the viewpoints influence English language learning /training and are considered as a kind of evaluative and emotional reflection. The study of Gardener ,et al (1985) showed that the viewpoint and motivation influence the speed of learning French language vocabulary. The study of Ahamdi and Mobasher Nia (2007) also showed that the background, family, social, cognitive and emotional variants have an effect on establishment and development and reinforcement of positive and negative viewpoints towards English language. So one can say that the results of the present study are homogeneous with the results of the previously mentioned studies.

The study of Ahmadi and MobasherNia (2007) has shown that those who have had some people with mastery over English language have gotten a higher mark in benefit expectation of English language learning. The findings show that the family, relatives, friends and the surrounding people who have

mastery over English language have caused to get higher expectation from learning English language. Therefore, factors such as the benefit expectation and the mastery of the relatives in the setting which have suitable background for language learning can be considered as the most effective and serious factors in beginning and promotion of English language learning. The results of the present study showed that there is a relationship between the type of the surrounding people's expectations and the educational performance of them in English language course. That is, the more the expectations of the surrounding people from the students towards English language learning, the educational performance of the students will also be promoted. So one can say that the results of the present study are homogeneous with the results of the previously mentioned studies.

Regardless of much more efforts done on behalf of parents, training teachers and involved authorities, the promotion of the quality of English language learning has been nonsense. Perhaps one can say that a part of this failure relates to the language learner, and another part related to his surrounding setting. Therefore, the present study has been done on behalf of the most effective factors in training and directing learners' viewpoints. Viewpoint is regarded as an effective factor in a person's decision making, enterprising,and interpreting the behavior, because through the change of the viewpoint one can change the structure of life and activities completely.Unfortunately,we believe that learning English language depends on just conversation,listening,reading and writing, while we ignore all psychological issues and the learners' learning habits. Propertraining, involving students in teaching/learning process ,establishing suitable learning setting, sharingteachers, principals and parents in decision making process of schools and efficiency of the knowledge of teachers are of important factors in arriving at the determined objectives of English language learning.

Regarding the achieved results of the study one can say that unless we consider the effective factors on students' viewpoints, the problems of learning English language would remain unsolved.

Learning a language except one's mother tongue requires more effort and endeavour.To pave this direction for students who lack inner interest and motivation and support of surrounding people and society is impossible and spending expenses and facilities in this regard requires constructive work and stabilizing English language training.Therefore,it's required that the planners and those involved should make decisions through establishing proper kips in reinforcement process of students' viewpoints.

According to the findings of the research the following suggestions are considered as a part of research suggestions:

1. it's suggested that future studies examine learning problems of the students.

2. it's suggested that future studies examine the amount of attractiveness of English language books from the viewpoint of the students.

3. In this study to examine the viewpoints of the students towards English language the components have been examined and some other components may influence the students' viewpoints towards English language. It's better the future studies do researches on the other factors.

4. Its better the relationship between the students' viewpoints towards English language and the amount of their educational performance in English language in other cities is studied and the needed comparative studies are done.

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