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ABSTRACTS BOOK

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ABSTRACTS

Challenges and Processes in School Turnaround - A Singapore Secondary School Principal's Perspective

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Abstract

Background: Singapore schools have a reputation of high achieving in the various international surveys, such as the TIMSS, PIRLS and PISA, in the past ten years. The latest PISA 2012 results ranked Singapore 2nd in Maths, 3rd in Reading and 3rd in Science. However, in the midst of such high achieving schools are schools which have been saddled with poor discipline, low morale among staff and students and under-performance in academic standards. A few of these schools have achieved remarkable turnaround. How do such schools managed to turnaround?

Purpose: This paper presents the context, challenges and processes involved in turning around an under-performing school in Singapore through the experiences of a 'turnaround' principal. Considerations of important factors such as context, personality, leadership and five essential questions for the turnaround leader are discussed with references to effective schools, school improvement as well as corporate turnaround literature.

Conclusion: The process of turning around schools is never an easy one. The principal as the chief driver of the turnaround needs the moral courage, the belief and competencies to do the job of turnaround. In the end he must make the seemingly impossible task possible through working with all stakeholders in the school.

Key words: School, Turnaround, Effectiveness, Improvement, Academic, Performance, Standards

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Conceptions of Learning in Light of the Multiple Intelligences Theory

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Abstract

Problem Statement. The Multiple Intelligences (MI) theory, which was postulated in 1983 by Howard Gardner in his seminal book of Frames of Mind, emphasizes the multiple nature of our brain capacity. Gardner defines intelligence as a person's ability to solve problems or create products that are valued within one or more cultural settings. The eight multiple intelligences suggested by Gardner include the following: (1) linguistic intelligence, (2) logical-mathematical intelligence, (3) spatial intelligence, (4) bodily-kinesthetic intelligence, (5) musical intelligence, (6) intrapersonal intelligence, (7) interpersonal intelligence, (8) naturalist intelligence.

Purpose of Study: The purpose of this study was to examine Turkish primary teacher candidates' conceptions of learning that were put forward by the MI theory through using metaphors. The question was: What was learning like in light of the MI theory and what kinds of metaphors do Turkish primary teacher trainees use to represent it?

Method: The participants included 87 seniors taking an elective course (Applications of the MI Theory in Primary Education) in the primary education (grades 1-4) program at Ahmet Keleşoğlu Education Faculty, Necmettin Erbakan University, in the spring of the 2013-2014 academic year. The participants were asked to use the prompt "Learning according to the MI theory is like ... because ..." to write their MI theory related learning images and send their compositions within a week to the researcher's e-mail account. The findings of this study are based on the content analysis of these compositions.

Findings: The 20 metaphors that were produced by the participants include the following: (1) grafting a fruit tree, (2) bees making honey, (3) the functioning of the council of ministers, (4) a chameleon's changing its color, (5) eating healthy, (6) the formation of the rainbow, (7) visiting a zoo, (8) meeting of the roads leading to different places in the same intersection, (9) putting makeup on, (10) placing the punctuation marks in a story appropriately, (11) making music with an orchestra, (12) snow white and the seven dwarfs' working together, (13) painting with crayons of different color, (14) using a multi charger to charge phones, (15) interpreting a poem or an abstract picture, (16) putting a theater play on stage, (17) our body's self-defense or fight against different viruses, (18) our body organs working together, (19) our body systems working together, (20) putting together the pieces of a puzzle.

Conclusion: According to the results of the study, it can be argued that the metaphors of teacher candidates helped them to transform their abstract information of the MI theory into more solid/concrete knowledge.

Key words:

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“Sustainability” Education by Sustainable School Design

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Abstract

In recent years, sustainability concept has become the common interest of numerous disciplines. The reason for this popularity is, to perform the sustainable development of societies. Easiness of forming a relationship with the word “sustainability” is because of its social, economical and environmental aspects. The term provides different perspectives to different areas. Today, in educational sciences, “environmental sustainability” is one of the main subjects that lesson programs includes several studies about. In education system in Turkey, to teach “sustainability” concept, teachers use traditional education methods mostly. To tell “what sustainability is” only by words is not enough for using the knowledge in the practice. Besides this, students learn much more by seeing real examples rather than hearing about it. In this context, this study aims to nominate “school buildings” as valuable learning environments for students. In other words, school buildings can be seen as 3D text books written by architects. Architecture discipline deals with environmental sustainability and defines various sustainability criterias. Environmental sustainability is related with built environment design and designing with the natural environment. In this study, sustainable school buildings had been analysed related with their design criterias and as a result an evaluation made about using architecture and its products as a concrete material for sustainability education.

Key words:

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The evolution of the Russian image in the English discourse: from the Past to the Future

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Abstract

The given research work is of topical interest and is stipulated by the profound analysis of stereotypes of perception of Russia in existing English cultures.

The aim of the research work is to describe the creation of the image of Russia in the English discourse with the help of different linguistic means and to show the influence of this image on cross-cultural, political and economic relations.

Different stereotypes of Russia that originated in the Western cultures are studied in this work for the purpose of creating a comprehensive image of Russia in the world arena which is one of the actual tasks of today.

Key words: image, stereotype, perception, mass media, feature.

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The Comparison of Dental Students' Ability to Assess Themselves in Preclinical Restorative Course

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Abstract

Purpose: Dental students meet practical courses for the first time in their first year. The purpose is to compare the assessment scores of second and third year students and the faculty in consecutive preclinical exams. The hypothesis were 1. The poorest performers who hold the least accurate performance overestimate; 2. The ability of self-assessment improves with exercise; 3. Students assess their friends in a more accurate way.

Methods: The faculty and student determined scores were calculated. The students were formally instructed on the grading procedures. Each item was assessed by faculty, the student himself and another student. The data was statistically evaluated.

Findings and Results: Initial difference in assessment of their preclinical practical ability by the second year dental students and by staff, was reduced in the third year students. However, the second year students overestimated themselves.

Key words: Self insight may be acquired by more exercise and practical training

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The analysis and Synthesis on education Management for readiness preparation of Thai workforce in accounting for the ASEAN Community

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Abstract

This article was a part of full dissertation titled "Development of a Non-Formal Education Management Model of Readiness Preparation of Thai workforce in Accounting for the ASEAN Community". The purpose was to provide an analysis and synthesis on education management for readiness preparation of Thai workforce in accounting for the ASEAN Community. It employed qualitative approach by documentary study, and an in-depth interview. The data were analyzed and synthesized by content analysis. The analysis showed that moving forward to be standardized, active role and passive roles, and learning outcomes fitted to the roles of the Thai workforce in Accounting. The education management synthesis found 5 functions to be considered which were curricula, contents, activities, desired workforce qualification, and evaluation.

Key words: education management; ASEAN Community; preparation; workforce; accounting; competency

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Integrating Blended Learning in Higher Education

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Abstract

Diversity, gender, cultural and personality differences among students have made university teaching a more challenging job. Learning styles and preferences vary; and considering these differences while planning lessons ensures effective delivery of learning. Besides, students' nomophobia has put more pressure on how instructors plan their lessons. For these reasons, instructors in the higher education sector have been thinking of ways to make learning more interactive and motivating. One of the ways, which is on everybody's lips nowadays, is integrating an online component with traditional face-to-face classroom instruction. It is such integration that simply explains what blended learning is. Many instructors are for blended learning while others are not. This poster presentation discusses what blended learning is, its pros and cons, and finally provides some hands on experience and classroom activities to help instructors integrate blended teaching in higher education.

Key words:

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Identification of Skills and Behaviours Specific to Leadership, in the Business Sector. Case study.

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Radu Andrei IOVA, University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine Bucharest, Calarasi Branch, Romania

Abstract

This present research recorded the opinions and attitudes of the respondents, based on a questionnaire applied to administrative stakeholders, from 106 companies with activity in the agricultural sector, in South Muntenia Development Region, regarding the identification of skills and behaviours specific to leadership. The main conclusion of the case study is that, one of the things very rarely understood in Romania in terms of leadership is, that being a leader is not a privilege, but a responsibility!

Key words: leader, leadership, manager, management, business sector, performance, vision

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Project Based Learning from Elementary School To College, Tool: Architecture

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Abstract

As is known education is the most important factor for the sustainable development of societies. The problems that encountered in the education system, impact this development process negatively. From elementary school to college, in every periods of education, one of the most common problems in education is “inability of internalizing the knowledge” and “relating the theoretical knowledge with real life”. The aim of this study is, to provide this relationship by a multidisciplinary research. For this purpose, architecture discipline and its educational approaches, methods and techniques are analysed. Architecture education includes varied methods for learning. But the main approach is established on “learning by project” method. This method was supported by Dewey’s constructivist approach. Project based learning which has origin grounded on architecture, is started to be used in also primary education today. This paper explains the multidisciplinary interaction between architecture discipline and educational sciences and calls attention to the benefits of project based learning.

Key words: Architecture, education, project based learning.

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Teaching Physical Education in English using CLIL Methodology: a Critical Perspective

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Abstract

Relatively little research has been carried out in Europe on teaching Physical Education (PE) in English as a Lingua Franca (ELF) using the CLIL method. Although CLIL is widely used throughout Europe, the PE content is often limited merely to technical-practical skills without any significant links to a socio-cultural context, critical thinking and/or knowledge acquisition.

The aim of this study is to integrate CLIL with the epistemological perspective of critical pedagogy applied to physical education (Kirk, 2014).

A theoretical "deconstructive" method will be used to provide guidelines for teaching physical education through CLIL. A cultural content based on language, culture and knowledge "in action" (Schön, 1987) will be proposed.

Key words: CLIL, Physical Educatio (PE), English as a Lingua Franca (ELF), critical pedagogy

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Identification of leadership styles in the pre-university educational system. Case study.

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Abstract

The present research focuses on creating a typology of leadership style practiced in the pre-university education institutions in Romania, starting from the assumption that every teacher becomes a leader in relation to the classroom. In the process of personal development, defining their own leadership style is a sure way to understand ourselves and to interact with those around us. The main conclusion of the study is that understanding and leadership practicing are particularly important for the sustainable development of the Romanian pre-university education.

Key words: education, leader, leadership, educational field, performance, vision.

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The Effects of Using Project-Based Learning in Social Studies Education to Students' Attitudes Towards Social Studies Courses

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Abstract

The purpose of this study is to examine the effect of Project-based Learning to students' attitudes for teaching social studies in sixth class at primary school. This study was conducted in a primary school in Konya with totally 44 students in two classes which are equivalent to each other. The classes were divided into control and experimental groups. While students in experimental group learn Social studies course with Project-based Learning Approach, control group learns the social studies lesson based on traditional methods. The research lasted for 6 weeks and during that time Social studies attitude scale was applied to the students. Scales were applied to the students before the practice as a pre-test and after the practice as a post-test. T-test was used to analyze the data. According to the pre-test and post-test results of control group, to whom traditional approach is applied and experimental group, to whom Project-based Learning is applied, there isn't a significant difference between students' attitudes to the Social studies course.

Key words: Project Based Learning, Social Studies, Attitudes

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Leadership as Experts by Experience in Professional Education

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Abstract

Purpose: This paper shares the learning from a new course to explore and develop leadership by experts by experience involved in health and social care education provision, research and policy.

Method: A Knowledge Café approach was used to provide opportunities for participants to explore and reflect together on shared experiences of what it means to be an expert by experience, and the extent to which the role can be understood in terms of grounded concepts of 'leadership'.

Findings: The paper discusses how involvement as a service user emerged out of a personal drive to challenge and change appalling experiences of health and social care services. The paper goes on to illustrate this dynamic concept of leadership; the importance of networking with other users and carers, and, skills in enabling professionals to change.

Argument and Conclusion: 'Professional leadership' is one of the domains of the UK Professional Capabilities Framework for social work defined as facilitated learning to include service users, carers and others involved. The call for a learning culture is not new and its application in complex practice and crisis points remains a current challenge. In contrast, the concept of Leadership discussed in this paper is grounded in experience and resonates with aspects of contemporary ethical, distributed and complex models of leadership but extends beyond organisations. Finally the paper raises the issue of learning opportunities available to experts by experience and the responsibilities for higher education and service providers to strengthen and support people in this complex role.

Key words: Leadership, Experts by Experience, Health and Social Care Education, Knowledge Cafe methods;

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Using e-Portfolio on Social Media

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Abstract

Portfolio is one of the tools for assessing of the learning in authentic assessment method. When the technology moved ahead, the characteristics of portfolio can be changed to be e-portfolio. Social media has become more influence in everyday life and in learning also. Therefore, the e-portfolio can be used on social media. This paper aims to develop the use of e-portfolio on social media for under graduated students in Thailand. How can we use e-portfolio on social media? It was found that there are 5 components of using e-portfolio on social media: objectives, contents, related persons' roles, social media and evaluation. There are 6 stages of process: defining objectives, creating e-portfolio, collecting e-portfolio, self-evaluating, related persons' evaluating and publishing e-portfolio.

Key words: e-Portfolio, Social Media.

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Analysis of music education objectives in learning domains

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Abstract

The purpose of the study was to find out the extent to which Slovenian general education teachers follow the principles of a balanced music objectives planning in the prevailing affective, psychomotor and cognitive domains. The research sample involves 372 Slovenian student and current general education teachers who, working in pairs, prepared 186 lesson plans for music education. The research results showed that the majority of the musical objectives planned in this study, pertained to the psychomotor domain, followed by the cognitive objectives and by the least represented objectives of the affective domain.

Key words: affective, psychomotor and cognitive domains; balanced music education planning; general education teachers.

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Teaching and Learning Enhanced by Information and Communication Technologies

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Abstract

This article reflects on significant changes in teaching and learning enhanced by constantly emerging new information and communication technologies (ICT), which have altered common approaches to teaching and learning. The purpose of the article is to explore three striking phenomena such as learner centeredness, interactivity and mobility which underpin current non-traditional teaching and learning that is becoming a norm. In addition, blended learning as a new methodology exploiting all these phenomena is examined.

Key words: ICT, learner centeredness, interactivity, mobility, cloud computing, blended learning.

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Teaching Sport Philosophy Online: a Case Study in Italy

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Abstract

Teachers and educators have raised many concerns about teaching philosophy online. They worry that the non-physical human interaction required in the on-line, computer-based, way of communication could alter the dialogic, interpersonal, and relational nature of philosophy. Starting from this, we analyze a particular case in which open sources were used for teaching sport philosophy to a group of Italian sport sciences university students. Our aim is to show that teaching philosophy online is as effective as face-to-face teaching. Moreover, the teaching and learning of philosophy online encourages reflection, critical thinking, and the development of learning communities by fulfilling students' educational needs and giving them the opportunity to organize their learning time and adapt it to their needs. This is a particularly relevant issue in an emerging contemporary philosophical field such as the philosophy applied to sport. Modern day sport lacks critical and philosophical reflection. Thus, the diffusion of a discipline such as the philosophy of sport through new technologies of teaching and communication not only encourages and fosters the critical analysis of sport as a social practice, but also benefits those students who would not have access to face-to-face education.

Key words: Teaching, Philosophy, Sport, E-Learning, Open Content.

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Self-Knowledge Skills of Educational Administrators (Kyrenia Example)

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Abstract

This research was prepared as a Master's thesis at the Administration, Inspection, Economy, and Planning of Education Main Branch of the Educational Sciences Institute at the Near East University with the aim of establishing the self-knowledge skills of educational administrators. Opinions related to what extend administrators know themselves were gathered from administrators working at Kyrenia District kindergartens and primary schools, using a questionnaire. Their perceptions of self-knowledge skills were examined through the dimensions of gender, place of work and professional experience, and it was attempted to establish whether there was a significant difference among them. The questionnaire is made up of two sections. The first section comprises personal information. The second section contains statements showing self-knowledge skills of administrators in open fields, special fields, blind fields, and individual fields. 48 statements are presented, related to these behaviors. The questionnaire was applied at 14 primary schools and 3 kindergartens in the Kyrenia District of the Turkish Republic of North Cyprus and was administered to 14 headmasters, 14 assistant headmasters, and 1 teacher in charge; a total of 29 administrators. Frequency, percentage, arithmetical average, and Johari Window Assessment Form of the descriptive statistical methods for interpretation. It was established from the findings of this research that in the skills of self-knowledge of administrators gender factor did not make a significant difference, place of work did not make a significant difference, professional experience did not make a significant difference, and that 'Fields Known by Self' are greater than 'Fields Unknown by Self'.

Key words: Administration, educational administration, administrator, administrator roles.

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Teacher Candidates' Views On Public Personnel Selection Examination

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Abstract

The Public Personnel State Examination (PPSE) has affected the lives of many teacher candidates. This study aimed to determine the views of teacher candidates studying at an education faculty on PPSE. In the study, survey method was used and the participants consisted of third and fourth year students (n=497) at different departments of Pamukkale University Education Faculty. In data gathering, "Questionnaire of Identifying Teacher Candidates' Views towards PPSE" developed by Atav and Sönmez (2013) was used. The results revealed no significant difference based on gender and having taken PPSE previously. Besides, the teacher candidates had an anxiety of getting employed.

Key words: Teacher candidates, state personnel selection examination, teacher employment.

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Model of Virtual Leadership, Intra-team Communication and Job Performance Among School Leaders in Malaysia

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Abstract

Leader of modern school organization faces more frequently due to the dynamics of the workplace and situation, make them difficult to practice face to face leadership style. The study was conducted to develop a computer model of virtual leadership, intra-team communication and job performance among school leaders in Malaysia. Data of 1082 respondents were collected through the online survey and were analysed by structural equation model (SEM). The finding shown that the virtual leadership using mobile technology is significantly contributed to intra-team communication ($CR=7.899$, $\beta=0.299$, $P=0.00$), while the intra-team communication was also positively predicted towards job performance ($CR=8.179$, $\beta=0.301$, $P=0.00$). The finding also shown that the intra-team communication had fully-mediated to the relationship between virtual leadership and job performance, where the model with intra-team communication as mediator was fit better ($\chi^2=351.889$, $\chi^2/df=3.628$) than the model without mediator ($\chi^2=507.617$, $\chi^2/df=5.127$). Finally, this study has successfully developed a virtual model of leadership that can be practice by school leaders in parallel with the rapidly development of mobile technology.

Key words: virtual leadership; mobile technology; intra-team communication; job performance

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The University Situation Centre for Socio-Economic Development as a Source for Innovations in Economic Education

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Abstract

The main purpose of the most universities is to increase their educational process quality. It leads them to the necessity of searching of the new tools for the forming of the graduates practical competencies. For the solution of this problem we have created the object of the research as a development of the theoretical substantiation, information data base, software and educational tools of the university situation center. The approximate to reality socio-economic situation center in the university structure can be used as a base for innovations in high economic educational process.

Key words: on-line monitoring, socio-economic development, statistical database, forecasting, innovations in economic education

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Comparison of "school experience" and "teaching practice" activities in teacher training systems of Turkey and England

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Abstract

The aim of this study is to compare "school experience" and "teaching practice" activities in teacher training systems of Turkey and England. Similar and different aspects of "school experience" and "teaching practice" activities were tried to be described with this comparative study. The study is important as it will contribute especially to the activities of combining theory and practice in teacher education because unlike Turkey, England is claimed to have a school-based teacher education system. Data about the study was collected through literature review and analysed through descriptive analysis. According to research findings it was seen that in teacher training systems which have been implemented in England, in practice theoretical knowledge is combined expertly with skill directed learning while "school experience" and "teaching practice" courses are added to theoretical ones but cannot be combined with these courses in Turkey. The most important reasons of this problem are that practical courses cannot be integrated into the teacher training system and inadequacy of school based teaching in terms of practicum. The events such as teachers recognizing the school organization, examination of new teaching techniques, observation made by experienced teachers and education experts, attending courses and teaching activities seem to be different when teacher training systems of both countries were compared.

Key words: Teacher training, school based, school experience, teaching practice, comparison.

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Development of Teacher Autonomy Scale for Turkish Teachers

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Abstract

The purpose of this study was to develop a valid and reliable instrument in order to measure the level of autonomy of Turkish classroom teachers. For this purpose, an 18-item 5-point Likert type scale was developed and tested. Data were collected from 292 classroom teachers (teaching at grades 1 to 4) working in state elementary schools located in five main districts of Ankara, and analyzed through Exploratory Factor Analysis (EFA) in order to investigate the factor structure of the instrument. EFA resulted in three factors named as (1) autonomy in instructional planning and implementation, (2) autonomy in professional development, and (3) autonomy in determining the framework of the curriculum. Also, Cronbach's Alpha coefficients were calculated for all subscales and the whole scale. The Cronbach's Alpha coefficients for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd factors of the instrument were calculated as .91, .80, and .86 respectively, and the Cronbach's Alpha coefficient for the whole scale was calculated as .89. While the reliability of the 1st factor was considered as 'excellent', the reliability coefficients of the 2nd and 3rd factors, and the whole scale were considered as 'very good'. This study was the first step of an instrument development. Second step will be taken for the verification of the validity and reliability of the scale.

Key words: Teacher autonomy, scale development, Turkish classroom teachers.

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Emotional intelligence and attitudes towards foreign language learning: Pursuit of relevance and implications

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Abstract

Research into second language acquisition (SLA) has confirmed the inadequacy of Intelligent Quotient (IQ) in accounting for success in second or foreign language learning (L2). Many studies conducted on the role of intelligence in successful learning, especially in English as a foreign language (EFL) classroom settings in different contexts, have shown that there are other areas of intelligence that contribute to quality learning. Thus, the present study investigated the possible relationship between perceptions of Emotional Intelligence (EI) and attitudes towards foreign language learning among university students majoring in English as a foreign language in a Turkish context. A total of 159 EFL learners participated in the study. The Emotional Intelligence Scale (SEIS) and the Attitudes towards Foreign Language Learning (A-FLL) Scale were used to collect data. The findings revealed high levels of overall EI (95%). There was a statistically positive correlation between components of EI and A-FLL. Perception of emotion was found to be the strongest predictor of cognitive and behavioral/personality, and utilizing emotions the strongest predictor of affective/evaluative components of attitudes toward foreign language learning. The magnitude of mean differences between male and female participants reached a significant difference between male and female students only in teacher influence and exhibition subcomponents of A-FLL, with females scoring higher than males. It is concluded that an awareness of the importance of students' emotional intelligence and its role in shaping their attitudes towards learning an L2 will yield more insightful implications regarding quality language learning and better educational outcomes.

Key words: Emotional intelligence; inhibition; tolerance of ambiguity; foreign language learning

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Driving schools to automation through Kimkëlen software

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Abstract

The aim of this paper is to introduce Kimkëlen, a student information system -SIS- that allows educational institutions to automate its managements processes in a simple, practical and audited way. This software has been developed to meet the needs of pre-university level schools of Universidad Nacional de La Plata and Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina. Released to open source community in 2013 under GNU GPL v2.0, Kimkëlen was built on the premise that each school usually has its own teaching scheme following different rules, therefore the level of adaptation and customization had to be high. After deployment of Kimkëlen it was demonstrated that the best way to create, improve, expand and integrate spaces related to school administration is through their computerization. Management of the schools where it was implemented were potentially improved in several ways and after surveying users the results were encouragingly positive. Kimkëlen helps educational institutions to evolve into a new model that goes after bases adopted by modern organizations.

Key words: management; student; schools; computerization; SIS

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Industry engagement, peer learning, networking and technology - strategies to engage MBA students

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Abstract

MBA programs are challenged by massive open online courses that provide global access to higher education. However, local universities that offer MBA programs on campus provide students with valuable learning experiences that are not attainable by open online courses. This paper surveys contemporary graduate students and through appreciative inquiry seeks to understand why they have enrolled in their current studies. The research investigates innovative programs offered by the Queensland University of Technology Graduate School of Business. The study reveals that MBA students value a complex suite of learning strategies that include industry engagement; networking; peer collaboration; and innovative technology.

Key words: MBA, industry engagement, peer learning, networking, technology, innovation

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Outside the Classroom Thinking Inside the Classroom Walls: Enhancing Students` Critical Thinking Through Reading Literary Texts

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Abstract

Developing critical thinking is one of the crucial objectives of university education worldwide. However, current research in the field suggests that university students in different countries of the world lack the ability to read in-between the lines and to think critically. Therefore, developing critical thinking skills in university students is of major concern in contemporary educational research. The following paper discusses the question of how to enhance students` critical thinking through reading a literary text as it is in the essence of a literary text to challenge the critical thinking of the reader who, by means of differentiating between the denotative and the connotative meaning, finding correlations between specific events of the plot, identifying the tone of the text, etc. practices the crucial critical thinking skills such as problem solving, decision making, interpretation, logical reasoning, and metacognition with the aim to uncover the message hidden between the lines. The present paper illustrates some specific strategies of practicing critical thinking which were employed in an American Literature Course. The paper suggests that because a literary text could be considered a reflection of the real, "outside-the-classroom" world, it can be an effective means of how to prepare students "inside the classroom walls" for outside the classroom thinking.

Key words: Literature, American Literature, critical thinking, critical reading, poetry

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Understanding Military Pedagogy

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Abstract

There are not many military tertiary institutions in the world. The famous military tertiary education providers include the ones located in the United States such as the United States Military Academy (West Point) and the United States Naval Academy; the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, United Kingdom; the Special Military School of St Cyr, France; and PLA National Defence University, China. In fact, each country owns at least one higher education provider for its future defenders. In Malaysia, the National Defence University of Malaysia (NDUM) is the sole provider of education at tertiary level for future military personnel. In comparison to other higher learning institutions, not many writings are done on military education and pedagogy. As such the learning environment and experience becomes such an interesting idea to be studied. This paper aims at discussing the concept of military pedagogy, which is argued to be the basis of teaching and learning at these military tertiary institutions. As a concept paper, the arguments revolve around the importance of military pedagogy, its similarities and differences with the normal pedagogy as a whole and the implementations of military pedagogy at the NDUM. The paper concludes the discussion with what may constitute military pedagogy at the NDUM that can help to enrich students' learning experiences.

Key words: military education, military learning environment, military pedagogy, NDUM, teaching and learning

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Development of Personal Safety and First Aid, Hygiene-Self-care, and Nutrition Subscales in Health Education Scale for Preschool Children

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Abstract

Aim of the research is to develop a scale to support the healthy development of preschool children's personal safety and first aid, hygiene and self-care, and nutrition supported in the light of detailed investigation and compilation of the programs of 5-6 year-old pre-school children and analyze reliability and validity of these subscales in Health Education Scale. In the research, SPSS 20.0 software package for Exploratory Factor Analysis, LISREL 8.71 software package Confirmatory Factor Analysis were used and Cronbach Alfa reliability coefficients of subscales found as ,95; ,93; ,94 respectively. Results of the analysis show that scale has best results in terms of validity and reliability.

Key words: Early childhood education, health education, validity, reliability.

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Exploring the relationship between global personality traits and attitudes toward foreign language learning

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Abstract

The present study aimed at investigating the relationship between global personality traits and attitudes towards foreign language learning in a Turkish context. The participants were 157 university students majoring in English as a foreign language (EFL) at a state university. Goldberg's (2001) International Personality Item Pool (IPIP) was used to assess the participants' perceptions of global personality traits and the Attitudes towards Foreign Language Learning (A-FLL) scale (Vandewaetere and Desmet, 2009) was employed to measure their attitudes towards foreign language learning. Findings demonstrated statistically positive correlations between five big personality traits and attitudes towards foreign language learning. Findings also showed statistically significant relationships between cognitive component, affective/evaluative, and behavioral and personality components of attitudes towards foreign language learning (A-FLL) and Big-Five personality traits. Additionally, openness was the strongest predictor of cognitive component; conscientiousness, agreeableness, emotional stability and openness were the predictors of affective/evaluative component, and emotional stability, agreeableness and openness were found to greatly contribute to the prediction of behavioral/personality component. Gender differences were also observed in exhibition subcomponent of behavioral component. Based on the findings of the present study and the diagnostic implications obtained regarding the participants' personality it becomes evident that getting a clearer picture of students' personality traits and their attitudes towards language learning at the beginning of the course might lead to better learning outcomes.

Key words: traits, agreeableness, openness, foreign language learning.

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The Place and Importance of Classroom Management in Education Self Knowledge Skills of Education

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Abstract

Classroom management comprises all the preparations and applications necessary for creating the suitable environment in the classroom in order to realize teaching and learning. Therefore, classroom management can also be defined as containing teacher behaviors such as increasing student motivation, providing active participation of students in activities, and supporting social interaction. Designing time, space, organizing materials, and ensuring student participation in all kinds of learning activities are parts of classroom management. In this study, principles that teachers have to follow in the classroom, and various dimensions of classroom management are examined in detail. The aim of this study is to increase the perception of teachers on classroom management and to enable teachers to have an effective role in the classroom management process. Factors affecting classroom management positively and negatively are examined in the research. The research was carried out qualitatively and data was collected through literature review. Classroom management is important for the students making a productive use of the time allocated for learning, developing their sense of responsibility, and acquiring the skill of behavioral control. Defining the teacher as the person conducting learning, and teaching learning, enhancing the classroom management skills of teachers forms the importance of this study. The study is limited with the resources in literature. It can be said of classroom management that it coordinates the complexity and diversity of the classroom, creates a more effective learning environment, in short, it is related to all of the applications in the classroom. In view of this, it is concluded that as the preparer and director of applications, teacher behaviors are important factors in

reaching the learning goals, and teachers need to possess variable roles within the framework of student needs.

Key words: Classroom Management, Role of the Teacher, Student Behaviors

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Healthy Schools Promotion: An Experience in Thailand

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Abstract

The promotion of health education in schools has been operated continuously in Thailand with expecting to enhance a healthy society based on the definition of health under the new trend "A comprehensive and integrated health and social dimensions of body, mind and soul into a lifestyle linked and interrelated the human relationship with a physical and social environment". This research aims to remove the lessons on building health and well-being to children and youths in schools from nine development projects, and then to determine a platform of healthy schools in order to provide a framework to supporting the improvement of healthy children and youths in the context of schools in Thailand and to make it going in the same direction.

Key words: Healthy Schools, Healthy Schools Promotion, Health Education

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Investigating Learning Challenges faced by Students in Higher Education

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Abstract

This research investigates learning challenges faced by students in Higher Education. The population of the study consisted of undergraduates, postgraduates and instructors in a School of Education in a selected university in the United States of America. The researchers adopted qualitative approach which involved the use of questionnaire, interview, and document analysis to triangulate the data. The sample population comprised 181 undergraduate and postgraduate students and 22 instructors from the School of Education. Questionnaires using a 6 point Likert-scale were administered to all 203 respondents whilst interviews were conducted with 5 undergraduates, postgraduates and instructors. In addition, document analysis was also conducted on the syllabus used for the 12 courses. Data analyses indicated eight main learning challenges faced by students in higher education namely: cognitive challenge, becoming an active learner, coping with reading materials, instructional problem, language barrier, time management, burden of assignments, and culture difference in higher education. Based on the findings, it was suggested that higher learning institutes should emphasize on the construction of knowledge through active interaction between lecturer and the students which became a platform for the students to cope up with the learning challenges they were facing in higher education.

Key words: Learning challenges; students; higher education

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Primary Teachers' Perceived Challenges in Teaching Science in Abu Dhabi Public Schools

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Abstract

In 2010 and as a part of the education system reform, Abu Dhabi Education Council (ADEC) launched the 'New School Model' (NSM) that aimed at providing high pedagogical standards and an outcomes-based curriculum. The science curriculum had to be taught through the medium of English and within a student-centered learning environment. A mixed-methods research design was used in this study and data was collected from 248 teachers in primary ADEC schools using an online survey. This paper identifies some of the challenges faced by teachers possibly hindering them from teaching science effectively and suggests recommendations for ADEC and for school administrators.

Key words: Science teaching, English Medium Teachers, primary school, challenges.

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Comparing Reported Classroom Practice in Public and Private Schools in the United Arab Emirates

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Abstract

This is a comparative study of science classroom practice in public and private schools in Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates. The vast majority of science teachers in these schools are expatriates, specifically recruited from overseas to teach through the language medium of English. Since both groups of teachers come from a diversity of international backgrounds (though predominantly from 'Western' countries) it might be fair to hypothesize that the range of classroom practices of private and public teachers would be broadly similar, accounting for differences in individual school systems such as resources, class sizes, training opportunities etc. We surveyed 248 public school teachers and 66 private school teachers, and asked them to rate statements about their science classroom practices, such as whether they encouraged students to work collaboratively, employed inquiry based learning strategies, adopted hands-on student centred approaches to learning in science, applied science to real life and drew connections between science and other subjects. Contrary to our hypothesis, it was found that there were extremely significant differences between the responses of the private and public school teachers. Some of these differences could be explained by a reported lack of resources in the public school system, but other differences in pedagogical responses require a deeper examination. We make some suggestions for why there might be such a chasm in reported practices of public and private school teachers.

Key words: United Arab Emirates, Science Teaching, Public Schools, Private Schools

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Principal Leadership Styles And Teacher And Principal Attitudes, Concerns, And Competencies Regarding Inclusion

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Abstract

The purpose of this study was to examine leadership styles of elementary school principals and their attitudes toward inclusion. The study also examined the perceptions of their teachers regarding the leadership style as well as teachers' attitudes toward inclusion, their concerns, and perceived competencies needed for successful inclusion.

Participants were 15 principals and 81 classroom teachers in the respective elementary schools in Israel. Most of the participants were women, most reported limited training in special education and some experience teaching exceptional children. Three major leadership styles emerged (using the Bass & Avolio MLQ Questionnaire, 1993): Transformational, Transactional, and Laissez-Faire.

Significant relationships were found between years of teaching in special education and leadership styles. Favorable attitudes towards inclusion as well as several concerns were also noted. Both principals and their teachers felt that they had major inclusion competencies. Several, however, received a low rating.

The discussion and implications elaborate on the results and stress the need to develop more effective leadership styles at our elementary schools; develop more supportive attitudes and competencies and reduce the inclusion concerns.

Key words:

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An overview of the needs of technology in language testing in Spain

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Abstract

Over the few years, computer based language testing has become prevailing worldwide. The number of institutions the use computers as the main means of delivery has increased dramatically. Many students face each day tests for well-known high-stakes decisions which imply the knowledge and ability to use technology to provide evidence of language mastery. However, this situation is not the same everywhere. While countries like the United States or the United Kingdom are spearheads of this tendency, others like Spain, lag way behind. This paper addresses the needs of use of computer based language testing in the new Spanish educational system. To do so, this paper introduces the current situation in Spain, then proceeds to do a SWOT analysis emphasizing the lacks and opportunities for language based assessments and concludes by stating the positive issues involving them.

Key words: testing; computers; educational system; SWOT analysis.

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Education, Teaching and School As A Social Organization

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Abstract

Generally, school is on the top of the centers where educational institutions become concrete and active. Actually, schools are the indispensable part of the general social system of the societies. All kinds of innovations and changes in the society or in the world directly have an effect on education and school in terms of process, organization, structure and functional dimensions. Accordingly, schools cannot be considered independent from the social structure of the society as well as innovations and changes in the world. In order to understand and appraise the structure and function of the school, it is necessary to have an idea on the dynamics of the relational networks and the role of the school in the society. Regarding this fact, the present study intends to figure out the function of the school on theoretical and functional bases, its foremost problems and their possible solutions through a sociological perspective.

Key words: Education, Teaching, Organization, School and Teacher, Family

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Teaching and Assessing Meeting Skills

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Abstract

The purpose of this article is to describe the way of developing and assessing the meeting skills in the teaching of Business English at the Faculty of Informatics and Management in Hradec Kralove, Czech Republic. This form of communication supports and reveals not only students' language abilities but also contributes to interdisciplinary relations because students can apply their theoretical knowledge of the core subjects (management or economics) and develop their skill of team work. The article firstly gives brief characteristics of Business English; secondly, it depicts the methods of assessments at the faculty as far as the teaching of English is concerned; and thirdly, it explains how the meeting skills are taught and assessed.

Key words: Developing, assessment methods, Business English, meeting skills

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Distance Learning: An Educational Methodology or an Educational Philosophy

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Abstract

The diversity of viewpoints in a specific field has always led to its enrichment because it generates a variety of concepts, goals and techniques. However, it can also create obstacles that hinder its progress. Thus, it's probably the diversity of viewpoints that causes controversy regarding the concepts, goals and techniques of distance learning in our country. Like any other educational system, distance learning is based on a certain philosophy, but it is not one on its own, unlike open education. Unshackled by time or place, distance learning is an educational methodology used to overcome some problems in educational systems, such as some students' low absorption capacity, the remoteness of some areas, and cultural issues of women. Moreover, distance learning is one of the ways to support the philosophy of open education and fulfill its goals through its great capacities. Thus, open education can be in the form of distance learning but distance learning is not equivalent to open education. Therefore, educational institutions should keep its distance learning programs up to the standards and requirements of quality, including the standards of admission. Those admission standards must not be overlooked, and they should include conditions like those in usual admission systems. This is essential due to the common concern nowadays regarding distance learning as the organizations of academic accreditation take the admission standards of distance learning programs into consideration.

Key words:

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Analyzing Semantic Properties of Political Lexica from Bulgarian-Slovak EUROPARL 7 Corpus

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Abstract

The paper presents analysis of semantic properties of political lexica using parallel Bulgarian-Slovak EUROPARL 7 Corpus. It uses statistically-based approaches mainly statistical properties incorporated in the Sketch Engine software to generate concordances, co-occurrences and collocations and offers comparative analysis of semantic structure of political lexica investigating synonymic, attributive and reciprocal semantic relations of the most frequent key words from parallel corpus for both Bulgarian and Slovak language. It, also, address some issues related to correct term translation and their use in political speech. Finally, more general conclusions about semantic properties of political speech are presented.

Key words: Knowledge Discovery, Extracting Lexical Semantic Relations, Intelligent Search, Political Lexica

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Integration of students into European Business Communication through Foreign Languages Competences development

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Abstract

The paper deals with the issue of teaching Russian students (bachelors and masters) business communication abroad. It requires developing a range of foreign language competences, which can be done with the use of efficient technologies in the teaching-learning process. The effectiveness of some competences of bachelors was revealed empirically. The positive results of experimental work proved that the above mentioned competences are significant for integration of the Russian students/graduates into European business communication.

Key words: business communication, European identity, integration, competence, transnational business personality educational technologies.

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Teaching English Abstract Writing Effectively

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Abstract

The knowledge of formal writing is very important in present global world. However, it is the skill which usually receives little attention. Therefore the aim of this article is to demonstrate how to teach formal writing, particularly the writing of abstracts in English. The author of this article provides clear guidelines how to write an abstract in English while reflecting on the most common errors the Czech students and academics make when they write their abstracts in English. In addition, she presents a video which supports her statements about writing a good abstract in English.

Key words: Writing, abstracts, English, strategies, effectivity

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CONFLICT MANAGEMENT STYLES OF STUDENT TEACHERS

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Abstract

The aim of the research is to investigate student teachers' conflict management styles according to their ages, gender, branches and birth places. Convenience sampling is used and 403 student teachers who have registered Yıldız Technical University teaching certificate program participated in the research. ANOVA and t-test are executed by using SPSS 16. The results of the research reveal that compromise and integrating styles are more commonly used compared to other conflict management styles. Student teachers' conflict management styles don't differ significantly in regards to their gender, branches and birth places. While student teachers avoiding, dominating and obliging styles don't differ significantly according to their ages, integrating and compromising styles differ significantly according to their ages in support of student teachers aged between 21-25 and 26-30.

Key words: conflict, conflict management styles, student teachers.

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The socio-psychological determinants of faculty members' work motivation

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Abstract

In this paper we describe the socio-demographic and a role and social status determinants of work motivation of university teachers.

From the position of social psychology, motivation is seen as a system of the factors that motivate people to the realization of certain actions. According to the Leontiev's theory, a motivational sphere constitutes a core area of the individual and is determined by the activity of the individual, and is subjected to objective social laws of activity system development. Work motivation of teachers is determined by socio-psychological factors, such as personal peculiarities, working conditions, and needs realization possibility in professional work.

Modified methodology of V.I.Gerchikov was used in the research, aimed at identifying the socio-psychological characteristics of teacher's work activity motivation. According to this method, there are four types of achievement motivation: instrumental (INS), professional (PRF), patriotic (PTR) and take-charge (TCHR), and one type of escaping motivation – a lumpenized one (LMP).

The content of these basic characteristics, such as gender, age, and work experience have an impact on the structure of employee motivation. In the research was revealed the interrelation between the work experience and professional dominant type of motivation (PRF).

On the whole there is a tendency of the "patriotic" motivation type increase depending on the work experience. The higher the position held, the lower the rank of instrumental type of motivation.

Key words: Motivation type, work activity motivation, professional activity of university workers, types of achievement motivation, type of avoidance motivation

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The determination of Trainee teachers' Notional Frameworks About Urban

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Abstract

The aim of this study is to determine the notional frameworks of geography Trainee teachers about urban subject. Data of the study has been obtained by applying word association test on 85 undergraduates who studied urban geography lecture. The obtained data has been categorized and classified by their semantic relations respectively by the researcher. It was given as table and frequency by these categories. Examining the categories, it can be seen that the notions with high frequency are mainly the notions such as malls, population density, becoming substructure and service center, development with regards to education, health and cultural utilities, metropolises, sorts of urban, type of structure and industry.

Although trainee teachers studied urban geography lecture, the fact that providing notional integrity in perceiving is hard is revealed. Notions, which are not related to each other very much, revealed about urban which is among the subjects discussed in the others category. The result shows that notions visualising in trainee teachers' minds about urban are mainly related to their reminiscence which they experimented in their daily lives, then they were taught during their lectures.

Key words: Geography, urbanizasyon, urban geography, conceptual frameworks

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Problem Fields That Psychological Counselors Experience While Working with Children

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Abstract

Aim of this study is to determine how often psychological counselors who work in preschools and primary schools face various problem fields. This research is made by using descriptive survey model. The data obtained by the survey was analyzed and interpreted upon using the SPSS program with the percentage, frequency. Total 244 psychological counselors consisting 183 female, 61 male participated in this study. 73 of participants work in preschool, 171 of them work in primary school. As the results show, 145 of psychological counselors experienced school adjustment problems, 117 of them experienced peer relation, 84 of them experienced conflict with parents, 74 of them faced anger management, 73 of them faced oppositional defiant disorder at least six and more times in the last six months while working with children. Also results showed that 229 of psychological counselors haven't experienced alcohol addiction, 208 of them haven't experienced drug dependence, 193 of them haven't experienced smoking dependence 192 of them haven't experienced risky sexual behaviors, 188 of them haven't experienced sexual identity indicate in last six months while working with children. Implications for and frequency of problem fields are discussed.

Key words: prevalence of problems, problem field, counselors, children

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School policy in Russia and the challenges of a multicultural society

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Abstract

The paper analyses major importance factors of multicultural education in Russia aimed at the cultural dialogue, reviews answers of the official school policy to challenges of multiculturalism, points to a need to balance interests of the Federal Center and the regions, as an instrument to develop common Russian identity, the Russian “super-ethnos”. The ideas of ethno-cultural (ethno-pedagogy) and multicultural (poly-cultural) education, as being developed by Russian experts, the practices of international education and the threats to international dialogue in the Russian-society education are presented also.

Key words: School policy in the multicultural Russia, ideas of education in the multicultural Russia, experiences of intercultural education in Russia

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Analyzing The Professional Concern Levels Of Physical Education And Sports Teacher Students’ In Terms Of Different Variables

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Abstract

Purpose: In modern times, it’s generally accepted that students experience professional concern in finding job after graduating from the university. The purpose of this study is to analyze anxiety levels of physical education and sport teachers’ in terms of different variables such as sex, class level, age, the sports type and level of family income.

Method: 93 students (32 female and 61 male) took part in the study. As the data collection tool, “The Professional concern scale for teacher candidates”, developed by Cabi and Yalçınalp (2013) and composed of eight sub-dimensions was used. For the data analysis; descriptive statistics, the Mann–Whitney U test, and Kruskal-Wallis test were applied.

Findings: At the results of analysis, there was statistically significant difference ($p < 0,05$) between two groups at the sub-dimension, coherence-centric, of the Professional concern scale for teacher candidates according to the sex variable while a statistically significant difference was not found in terms of sex at others sub-dimensions of the scale. There was no statistically significant difference in terms of the variables such as the class level, the sports type and level of family income at any sub-dimensions of the scale.

Result: In this study, the Professional concern levels of physical education and sport teachers’ in terms of different variables such as sex, class level, age, the sports conducted and level of family income were analyzed. While there was a statistically significant difference at the sub-dimension, coherence-centric, it was seen that there was no statistically significant difference at others sub-dimensions in term of any variables. That there wasn’t much difference at concern level of the students may result from the education levels of students, closed to each other.

Key words: The Professional concern, Physical Education, Prospective teachers

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Factors Contributing to Effective Mathematics Teaching in Secondary Schools in Brunei Darussalam

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Abstract

This study examined, ascertained and described the factors that contribute to have an influence on the capacity of schools to provide quality Mathematics education, as perceived by school administrators and upper secondary Mathematics teachers in Brunei Darussalam. There were two methods of data collection used, a pen-and-paper questionnaire and lesson observations of two teachers who were purposively selected from the total sample of upper secondary teachers. The findings showed that teachers are at the heart of effective Mathematics education. However, the findings also revealed that there are negative factors affecting teachers' effectiveness in teaching Mathematics. An awareness of these factors can help increase a teacher's effectiveness if they are dealt with successfully.

Key words: Effective teaching, Mathematics education, Secondary schools, Influential factors

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Emotional intelligence as a predictor of second or foreign language communication

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Abstract

The aim of the present study was to investigate the viable relationship between English as a foreign language (EFL) learners' emotional intelligence and communication in English in a Turkish context. A total of 165 EFL learners were recruited for the study. Data were collected using the Emotional Intelligence Scale (SEIS) and the Willingness to communicate (WTC) Scale. The collected data were analyzed through both descriptive and inferential statistics. Findings revealed that proportionally a great majority of the participants (96%) had high levels of EI; 19% high WTC, 68% moderate and 13% low levels of WTC were also observed among the participants. Levels of emotional intelligence significantly correlated with EFL learners' WTC in the study sample. Moreover, a significant amount of correlation was found between the four sub-scales of EI and subcomponents of WTC. Perception of emotions and managing emotions were found to be the strongest predictors of WTC. Findings may serve as insights for EFL instructors to reappraise their teaching methods on a par with their students' emotional intelligence and WTC levels and also might help them opt for appropriate teaching materials which address students with diverse abilities and desire for second or foreign language communication.

Key words: Willingness to communicate; emotional intelligence; individual differences; perception of emotions, utilizing emotions; Turkish EFL context

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A Review of Research on Classroom Management in Turkey

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Abstract

This study aimed to review and critique classroom management research in Turkey, and present the emerging themes and findings of the selected studies on classroom management undertaken through 2002 to 2014. This paper reports on a content analysis of 46 classroom management research papers published in selected national and international journals and 8 peer-reviewed master/Phd thesis. Selection and then content analysis of the selected 54 studies in total were done in considering pre-determined criteria. Firstly, the findings indicated that teachers' ability to create this interactive classroom environment was influenced by some variables such as teacher beliefs and teachers' expectations of the students. Second, it demonstrated the complex nature of classroom management as it was investigated through a rich set of variables in the study. Third, it provided implications for teachers and teacher trainers on classroom management. Finally this study outlines the critical areas of research on classroom management and identifies areas of further research.

Key words: Classroom management, content analysis, Turkey

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Training Personalization for Operators of Complex Equipment

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Abstract

The efficiency of complex technological equipment operators depends on many factors such as a development level of professionally important qualities, skills, professional experience, etc. Therefore, it is critical to define the attainment level of trainees and to assess the possibility of their permit to professional activity at the stage of training. The paper deals with a new assessment method of operators' attainment level and offers an approach for determination of an individual training path. In this connection the model of vocational aptitude on the basis of fuzzy logic was developed, this model allows to assess the integral level of the vocational aptitude and define the professionally important qualities (PIQs) to be developed. The professionally important qualities are differentiated into developing, conventionally developing and undeveloping ones. Such differentiation enables to form the quality functional of training in the manner that provides development of the developing PIQs and compensation of the undeveloping PIQs. The formation of a rule base for a certain operator's activity is performed by using special methods of expert assessment for each case. It allows to transfer the general vocational aptitude model to the specific spheres of operators' labour. A special complex of methodology and hardware&software for measurement and assessment of PIQs has been developed for a practical application of the abovementioned method. For assessment of PIQs the following techniques are used: the quality assessment of a hand-eye tracking, a hand-eye coordination, response, an ability to sensory analysis, the examination of cognitive characteristics and peculiarities of the nervous system of trainees. The developed assessment system was used in the experimental investigations of the vocational aptitude of operators of transport-technological machines in the Interregional Forestry Resource Centre. It was found out that a choice of an individual training path based on the results of the assessment system under discussion provides improvement of training effectiveness and further development of professional skills.

Key words: operator, professionally important qualities, professional skills, individual training

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E-Mentoring 'MentorTokou': Support for mentors and mentees during the Practicum

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Abstract

Building on the different components of effective mentoring, 'MentorTokou' has been developed to compliment face-to-face mentoring. 'MentorTokou' is designed to foster and provide mentoring support for students in a local university in Malaysia. This portal provides the opportunity for mentors and mentees to interact online. Two major features are public discussions and private chat. The purpose of this study is to investigate the preliminary outcomes of the 'MentorTokou' portal that was implemented during the practicum. A qualitative case study was employed to explore the experiences of two mentors and twenty three mentees who participated in the preliminary study using focus group discussions and individual interviews. The preliminary results indicated that the impact of using the e-mentoring 'MentorTokou' was generally positive, however, there were some constraints faced during the implementation. The final emerging themes were mentoring support covering both instructional and personal social support. The instructional support were benefits of e-mentoring in terms of accessibility and availability, peer coaching, communication, scaffolding provided by mentor for enhancement of current progress and practices in teaching and learning strategies and outcomes. The personal and social support indicated motivation and building and establishing rapport. A higher preference of utilization the 'public discussion' feature was dominant in this study. The constraints highlighted were the lack of accessibility to the internet connection and a preference for personal contact and communication. The initial outcomes of this study implied that e-mentoring is an alternative way to compliment face-to-face mentoring during the practicum.

Key words: E-Mentoring, mentors, mentees, instructional support, personal social support.

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Teachers ICT competence and their structure as a means of developing inquiry-based education

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Abstract

Increasing application of inquiry-based education, as one of the pupil activating methods, is no doubt one of the most significant tendencies in current attempts at education improvement across education fields at elementary and secondary schools. As the process of teaching itself and problem situation solving are becoming more important nowadays (Framework Educational Programme for Basic Education, 2007), the role of the teacher, especially his knowledge and skills, is becoming more important as well. This article introduces the initial part of the project dealing with the detailed elaboration of the link of teacher's ICT competence in the 21st century within the innovated approach to education – inquiry-based education. Authors discuss the questions of ICT competence in constructivist education and the development of the structure of the competence in modern conception divided into three sub dimensions. Further attention is paid to the identification of these areas.

Key words: ICT, competence, inquiry-based education

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Human resources and gender equality in education of the western Balkans

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Abstract

The subject of this work is to strengthen the impact of human resource management and gender equality. The main objective of this paper is to understand the problem of gender equality and its equalization with identification of important factors that accompany this process. High degree of inequality points out to the existence of institutional and structural factors that influence such situation in our society. Willingness of men to include women, the process of inclusion and the prejudice against women are at the heart of this problem. The connection and unity to overcome the adverse effects of inequality is needed. As already presented, fundamental changes are required such as monitoring state of the education system as well as the identification of behavioral differences between men and women. The base of data on the division of roles and responsibilities in the educational system would make process better for genders equality. By following equality between states, methodologically grounded analysis will be the initial stimulating factor relevant to the activation of elements of the strategy with aim of building and developing human rights and gender-equal potential in the education of the Western Balkans. Appropriate strategic plans are priority objectives in the future.

Key words: human resources, gender equality, education, leadership, monitoring.

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Views of Psychological Counselor Candidates About Psychological Counseling and Guidance Education

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Abstract

Four years undergraduate education has an important effect on offering proper services that are given by psychological counselors. For this reason, deficiencies in psychological counseling and guidance's programs need to be confirmed and reorganized in this way to be high quality, contemporary and meet to the needs of the country. The aim of this study is to determine psychological counselor candidates' opinions about psychological counseling and guidance education that they receive. The 149 university students (71.1%' (n=106) female, 28.9% (n=43) male) who receive education in 39 different university are included within the context of the study. It was examined that opinions of participants about psychological counseling and guidance programs and the results were discussed in the light of literature.

Key words: psychological counseling and guidance program, university students, strenghts and weakness

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Digital device ownership, computer literacy, and attitudes toward foreign and computer-assisted language learning

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Abstract

The current study sought to investigate the relationship between computer literacy, attitudes towards foreign language learning and computer-assisted language learning. A total of 123 university students majoring in English as a foreign language from a major state university participated in the study. Data were collected using the Attitudes towards Foreign Language Learning (A-FLL) Scale and the Attitudes towards Computer-Assisted Language Learning (A-CALL) Scale. The findings revealed that there were statistically positive correlations between attitudes toward foreign language learning (A-FLL) and attitudes toward computer-assisted language learning (A-CALL), indicating that 28% of attitudes toward CALL could be predicted by attitudes toward FLL. Moreover, computer literacy was a significant determinant of attitudes toward CALL. Gender differences were also found to potentially affect computer literacy and prior CALL experience. It is concluded that inquiry into language learners' levels of computer literacy and their attitudes towards foreign language learning might provide useful insights into the nature of technology-based L2 learning, which can, in turn, greatly contribute to the betterment of L2 learning programs and better educational outcomes.

Key words: computer literacy; attitudes; foreign language learning; computer-assisted language learning

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In-House Monitoring over Student Competence Formation

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Abstract

The paper offers a special model of monitoring over dynamics of student competence formation that deals with the connection between the study performances of a student and/or a student group and the quantitative assessment of the student competence level being formed during the whole training period of the major educational program. The methodological approaches to the competence formation assessment in the Final Certifying Examination of graduates have been considered in many researches. However, the control over competence formation within a coursework, search for the tools effecting on a timely correction of teaching methods and techniques aiming at individualization of a competence-based portrait of a student also make an essential task of a higher education institution. Such a task can be solved on the base of the competence-oriented curriculum with the main component being a matrix of the competences to be formed and the subjects to be studied. The model of monitoring system over competence formation is founded on integration of the subject study performances (including their weighted contribution) into competence formation. The monitoring over a competence formation level is an integrated part of an education system and fulfills two main functions. The first one is a control function over provision of educational performances, i.e. dynamics of competence formation in the mastery of an educational program. The second one is a forecasting function for a qualification level after completion of the educational program. The model of the assessment of the competence formation level on the different stages of education allows to assess the performance both of a student and a student group, to build up an individual curriculum, to improve the efficiency of an employersponsored education.

Key words: matrix of competences, credits/units, results of proof-testing in disciplines, assessment rate setting, monitoring over competence formation level

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Development of Attitude to University Students Family Communication Scale: Validity and Realibility Studies of Scale

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Abstract

This study aims to develop a measurement tool that evaluates the attitude of university students family communication and also to conduct the validity and reliability of this measurement tool. Study group comprised of 355 students, 144 (40.56%) of whom were females with a mean age of 20.58 and 211 were males (59.44%) with a mean age of 20.26. Exploratory Factor Analyses were used in order to test the validity of the scale developed for this study. In addition, internal consistency analysis were used in order to evaluate the reliability of the scale. As a result of the factor analysis study, the Attitude to University Students Family Communication Scale consisted of 28 items and 3 factors. Study findings revealed that this measurement tool can be used for Turkish university students as valid one.

Key words: Attitude to University Students Family Communication Scale, university students, validity.

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The methodology of teaching Russian as a foreign language to Slavonic speaking students

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Abstract

The article deals with the specific character of the educational process connected with studying of Russian as a foreign language by the Slavonic speaking audience. Words phonetically close in related languages pose special difficulty for students. To learn them in the best way it is necessary to establish the reasons for such similarities, to define the character of semantic differences within separate groups of words, to describe the effects of common semantic laws. Using a number of methodological techniques helps to optimise the educational process and promotes creative activity of students. The aim of the investigation is to heighten an interest in learning colloquial Russian. To achieve the aim we have settled such tasks as to identify the reasons for similar sounding of such words in kindred languages (especially Russian and Polish), to investigate the character of semantic divergence within particular groups of words, to search for the ways to overcome difficulties while teaching a kindred language. Here we apply not only a comparative method but also a method of the componental analysis, which predetermines the identification of the common and different in the semantics of related Slavonic lexical items. The statistical method used in the work helps to reveal the degree of affinity of such languages on the lexical level and also to determine how certain common semantic laws operate.

Key words: communication, methodology, paronyms, interference, semantic laws, loan words

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An investigation of how Chinese university students use social software for learning purposes

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Abstract

Social software (also called "social networking sites" or "social media sites") is used by people of all walks of life around the globe, and a variety of research studies have been conducted regarding its use for learning purposes, as the pedagogical value of the informal communication space has been recognized by researchers with different perspectives. Facebook and Twitter, which are very popular social software in many countries, are not available to general users in mainland China, where alternatives, e.g., QQ and WeChat are widely used. This paper reports findings of a study that investigated how students from three Chinese universities of different geographic locations (one from Northeast China, one from Northwest China, and another from Southwest China) use the social software for learning purposes. Data were collected from interviews with some of the users, and observation of how the spaces are used, in the past two years. Based on a review of the relevant literature and the analysis of the research data, the authors' reflections and recommendations are presented with the hope to offer educators of higher education some useful reference to consider when they design curriculum and courses that could provide students with an enriched learning experience

Key words: Chinese university students, social software, learning

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Not the Ghost in the Machine: Transforming transdisciplinary patient data into e-cases within a blended learning framework for undergraduate medical education

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Abstract

Emergent and dynamic challenges in medical education support the implementation of trans-disciplinary case-based learning. We propose a case-based blended learning framework, synergistically combining text book, e-learning cases and the classroom course in undergraduate medical education. The novel server system architecture allows patient data to be automatically transferred from the Vienna General Hospital to the Medical University of Vienna, and then imported into an interactive moodle e-learning template. We present one example of an imported, transformed and completed anxiety disorder e-learning case, currently implemented in the pre-clinical psychiatry course. This framework facilitates the creation of up to date teaching content, while addressing difficulties in combining bedside teaching with theoretical knowledge, especially in domains which profit from a structured learning approach in understanding both functional morphology and clinical presentation in parallel.

Key words: Blended learning, case-based, evidence-based curriculum, simulated patients, clinical reasoning processes

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Development of Attitude to University Life Scale: Validity and Realibility Studies of Scale

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Abstract

This study aims to develop a measurement tool that evaluates the attitude of university students to university life and also to conduct the validity of this measurement tool. Study group comprised of 355 students, 162 (45.63%) of whom were females with a mean age of 20.72 and 193 were males (54.37%) with a mean age of 20.93. Exploratory Factor Analyses were used in order to test the validity of the scale developed for this study. In addition, internal consistency analysis were used in order to evaluate the reliability of the scale. As a result of the factor analysis study, the Attitude to University Life Scale consisted of 25 items and 4 factors. Study findings revealed that this measurement tool can be used for Turkish university students as a valid one.

Key words: Attitude to University Life Scale, university students, validity.

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The draft of the competencial model of the teacher in the context of the inquiry-based instruction

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Abstract

The article follows on the studies by the prominent authors inquiry-specialized on the teachers' competences, and it further processes their findings emphasizing the inquiry-based instruction. The competences that are essential for the teacher to realize the quality inquiry-based instruction are empirically stated on the inquiry basis. It was empirically discovered that the most important competences are, among others, the competences to: motivate the pupils to learn through the inquiry-based activities; connect the inquiry-based activities with the practical life; demonstrate the inquiry-based activities to the pupils; interpret the process and the results of the inquiry-based activities; guarantee the safety during the realization of the inquiry-based activities; develop the pupils' unaided discovery through the inquiry-based activities; develop the thinking of the pupils through the inquiry-based activities; connect the inquiry-based activities with the theory; and realize the inquiry-based activities in connection to the pupils' existing knowledge and their concepts.

Key words: inquiry-based instruction, competence, teacher

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Determination of Science Teacher Candidates' Views on Electronic waste Pollution

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Abstract

The purpose of this study, determination of the science teacher candidates' views on electronic waste pollution. Science teachers' views on the data of electronic waste pollution. The participants of the study were determined with a purposive sample which enables researcher to choose the ones who are believed to find to solutions to the problems of the researcher. Total 75 teacher candidates that first, second and third grade from uludag university and different universities are participated to study during the 2013-2014 academic year, summer school courses. Data were collected open-ended questions which developed by the researchers. Students were answered the related seven open ended questions in almost 30 minutes. The qualitative data obtained from the study were analyzed using a phenomenological method. According to results of the study it was determined that teachers candidates are not sufficiently knowledgeable about the electronic waste and damages to the environment and human health. It was recommended that teachers candidates need to be aware of this issue.

Key words: Electronic waste, science education, teacher candidates, environmental pollution;

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Integrating of Soft Skills in Teaching Professional Training of Malaysian Public Universities: Novice Teachers' Perspectives

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Abstract

This paper focuses on issues related to soft skills and teaching professional training, part of a research project on developing an integrated soft skills training module for teacher education program in Malaysian Public Universities. In which, during its early stages, 15 novice teachers from the five identified Malaysian public universities were interviewed. This study aims to explore to what extent soft skills has been integrated in the teaching professional training from the novice teachers' perspectives. The issue of unemployment and lack of quality among the teachers is associated with the notion that teachers have not adequately acquired employability skills and soft skills during their training in universities. These soft skills are communication skills, critical and problem solving skills, team work, life-long learning and management of information, entrepreneurship skill, ethics, moral and professional skill, and leadership skill. There are a total of three focus group interview cycles have been carried out among 15 novice teachers who have graduated from the five identified public universities for not more than three years. The findings showed that all the seven components of soft skills except entrepreneurship skill are important and relevance to their teaching tasks. However, respondents still found insufficiently acquired those soft skills from teaching training to assist them in their work place. Since soft skills fulfill an important role in shaping an individual's personality, it is recommended that teacher educators should utilize the integrated soft skills training module during teaching professional training.

Key words: Teaching professional training, novice teachers, soft skills, public universities.

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Gender Stereotype Analysis of the Textbooks for Young Learners

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Abstract

Visual images are often treated as decoration, although they are much more than that. Young learners learn through illustration which helps them to formulate their own roles in the society. Books and textbooks are role models for our children who can form stereotypes by the age of five. Children's books are important source of gender stereotype because they present a model to children on which they organize gender behaviour. The gender stereotype analysis of three textbooks for young learners (Playway to English 1, Magic Adventure 2, Cookie and Friends) showed that these textbooks need some corrections according to child's cognitive development and their visual perception. Textbooks all include a lot of gender stereotypes. Male characters are much more presented than females in all textbooks. What is more, in all textbooks males present more active and females present quiet, socially approved roles.

Key words: gender stereotype, textbook's illustration, young learners, gender role.

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A journey through the isomorphism of three simulation games for learning geometry in primary school. An analysis of the design model

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Abstract

In order to construct efficient and motivational learning environments for the primary school, this paper proposes a design model for geometry-based simulation games. It is structured on the basis of the isomorphism found in the didactic process among three simulation games purposely conceived, designed, and developed: Cardland on the isometries, Similand on the similarities and angleland on the angles.

The paper presents and compares Cardland, Similand and Angleland, and highlights their structural characteristics and the isomorphism in the didactic process, that is invariant in respect to the content of each simulation game. The references take into account the theoretical framework and methodological choices, drawn from the recent research findings on the literature of the simulation games, and on the theory of learning, on the basis of which the simulation games are designed.

On the basis of observed analogies, the paper describes the important elements of the design model developed, and explains the conceptual diagram, the design and assessment criteria, that have been assessed and validated in previous research carried out with Cardland.

Key words: Simulation games; Design model; Teaching geometry; Design criteria; Primary school; Isomorphism

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Elementary School Teachers' Views on Game-based Learning as a Teaching Method

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Abstract

Game based learning (GBL) help students improve problem-solving skills and make it possible for them to interpret their society, nature and the world around them through experiences. Games provide information in a relevant context or setting. That is why it is very important for the social studies courses, in-class leisure activities, games and physical activities which aim to train students as active members of a classroom. Using games in courses encourage reflection and comprehension of the learning.

The purpose of this study is to understand elementary school teachers' views on game-based learning related to elementary school courses. 24 elementary school teachers from the schools located in districts with low, middle and high socio-economic levels in Ankara/Turkey participated in this qualitative study. The data of the study were collected by using semi-structured interviews and analyzed using descriptive analysis.

According to the findings of the study, the elementary school teachers believe that content of the social studies course; in-class leisure activities, engaging child literature, games and physical activities were suitable for using game-based learning in the classroom. (GBL) activities were exemplified as e-learning activities, creative drama activities, digital games, values education and character education. Teachers experienced problems about time planning, students' non-cooperative behaviors, and teachers' insufficient background about organizing and designing games as well as economic problems and technical obstacles in related to game-based learning.

Key words: Game-based learning, elementary school teachers' opinions, elementary education

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Education 2.0: E-Learning Methods

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Abstract

Abstract: Information and communication tools (ICT), Web 2.0 applications and the impact these resources are having on education are rapidly creating new challenges for teachers and learners faced with learning online. Teaching and learning in an e-learning environment happens differently than in the traditional classroom and can present new challenges to professors and learners participating in this online learning environment. Objectives: The purpose of this article is to provide a framework for teachers for a better e-interaction with students. Approach: It shows the literature and research that focus on e-learning statistics. Results: Continuing to learn and try new methods of communication will aid in improved learning and foster teacher-student respect and collaboration. Value: There are effective techniques to presenting face-to-face material in the online environment that will allow the student to achieve a higher level of satisfaction of learning and cognitive understanding of the course material.

Key words: e-learning, education, communication, challenges, access, flexibility

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Decreasing Student Violence in School by Mediator: A Case Study of Ban-kam-kaen School under the Office of Khon Kaen Educational Service Area 2

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Abstract

The objective of this research is to identify guidelines to alleviate student violence in Ban-kam-kaen school by a mediator. Thai people especially children and youth are facing the changes that occurred rapidly, violently and complexly. Therefore, children and youth were the victim of those social and cultural changes which lead to undesirable behaviour in both failure of their study and insecure future. The target group of this study included 7 administrators and teachers, 43 parents and 56 students. A mixed mode method consisted of survey, observation and interviews was employed in this study. Quantitative data was analysed using frequency and percentage meanwhile qualitative data was analysed using content analysis. The results of this study revealed that (i) For physical violence, students were both offenders and defenders until they were injured by fighting caused by the nagging of friends or parents, or by being assaulted; (ii) For sexual violence, it was found that they were sexually violated by touching or fondling or viewing pornographic media. The place of the assault was the home of their boyfriend or other trusted person; (iii) For mental violence, most students and teachers agreed that it was caused by a misunderstanding, for example students lacked of self-discipline to concentrate on their lesson, and finally students found to be neglected due to poverty. In addition, a set of guidelines comprised of providing training of awareness to teachers and students, getting students involvement, organizing a field trip to local police station, and conducting a follow up and evaluation.

Key words: Student violence; mediator; guidelines

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Teaching remedial math courses: Challenges and teaching philosophy

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Abstract

Students coming from high schools have different background and different problems: those who have never been taught how to face challenging problems, those who only know how to follow algorithm or even recipes to solve problems without questioning themselves why this method or this algorithm works, those who don't know how to study and how to make their work and energy more efficient, those who completely depend on the help of a tutoring service, those who without calculator are completely enable to do any math work and those who are simply in lack of self-confidence. In my presentation, I highlight some of these problems and give an overview of the principals of my teaching philosophy

Key words: Teaching Mathematics, teaching remedial courses, Education

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Development of Community Participation on Water Resource Conflict Management: Case Study of the Pong Watershed

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Abstract

This study was an action research of community participation on water resource conflict management of the Pong Watershed. Three villages were used as the study samples including Huai Jode, Nong Bua Noi, Non Kham Par villages, Kud Namsi Sub-District, Pong District, Khon Kaen Province. This study consisted of three phases by studying current situation, problems and needs of community, analysing the factors affecting to community conflict on the use of water resources by focus group discussion, and developing community participation on conflict resolution of water resource by community dialogue. The study samples were 170 households. Methods of data collection comprised of survey, focus group discussion and community dialogue. The first phase findings indicated insufficient data on water use provided by the governmental sector, and the villagers need an equity principle on water use in order to attain the users' purposes. The significant factor affecting to conflict was the one who took advantage of water use from the Pong river. In conclusion, a mutual agreement of tri-sectors should be made to accomplish water use management to solve water conflict. Participatory action research is very significant to solve conflicts of water use and other problems. There are more hands-on techniques to be identified that contributing to the conflict thus on how to address it. Finally there is a need to learn how to handle difficult participants in public meetings around conflict arising over watershed management planning.

Key words: Action research; conflict management; community participation

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The Quality Initiative of E-Learning in Germany (QEG)- Management for Quality and Standards in E-Learning

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Abstract

Quality in E-Learning is a critical success factor that is not easy to determine and achieve. In this paper, we aim to describe the challenges in quality development and show as solution approach, an innovative process management for planning, production and application of e-learning and the importance of quality standards. We will focus especially on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), because in the SME sector, the special optimization potential is what the introduction of explicit quality strategies concerns.

This paper illustrates at first the problematic and defines its quality development in education and training. Subsequently, appropriate tools and aids, used by both providers and users, will be demonstrated. The focus will be on quality standards and instruments for their application, which will be developed by the Quality Initiative E-Learning in Germany. In particular, the reference process model of PAS 1032-1 and the subsequent constructive first standard for quality management in education and training (ISO / IEC 19796-1) and the type of Quality Management Support Systems (QSS) are explained.

Key words: quality development, quality standards, innovative process management, e-learning

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The Impact of Organizational Culture on Teacher Learning

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Abstract

Learning society should be encouraged in order to fulfil the rapid change of the world. Since teachers play a great role in the students' learning, a study has to carry out to investigate the impact of organizational culture on teacher learning in municipality school. A total sample of 148 respondents consists of 16 principals and 132 teachers were selected from Nongkhai municipality schools in Thailand applying stratified random sampling. This study employed quantitative method survey design to collect data using questionnaire as an instrument. The data was analysed by using computer program to calculate mean value, percentage, standard deviation, correlation Pearson, and Stepwise multiple regression analysis. The results showed that the organizational culture and behaviour of teacher learning are at high level ($\bar{x} = 3.81$, $SD = 0.43$) and ($\bar{x} = 3.81$, $SD = 0.47$) respectively. The relationship between the organizational culture and the behaviour of teacher learning indicated a positive correlation ($r = 0.554-0.726$) with a statistically significant at the level of 0.01. All the four types of organizational culture are significant predictors which contributing 71.30 per cent variance in teachers' learning. In conclusion, the kinship or clan organizational culture should be adopted since it is the most significant predictor in improving teachers' learning and thus encourage teachers to be effective learners.

Key words: Organizational climate; teacher learning, impact

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Reflective writing: Articulating an alternative pedagogy

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Abstract

The concept of the reflective practitioner has been widely embraced by the international academic community with innumerable professional courses in many disciplines and countries claiming to ascribe to this educational orthodoxy. However, there is a considerable lack of empirical evidence to guide the facilitation of reflective writing particularly in practice based disciplines such as nursing. The purpose of this paper is to review the empirical evidence relating to reflective writing in nurse education, while simultaneously advocating for an alternative pedagogy of reflective writing. The discussion begins with an exploration of the extent to which educators have tended to adopt a hierarchical "levels of reflection" approach where critical reflection is seen as the *raison d'être* of the reflective writing process. This traditional view is then challenged by proposing an alternative pedagogy where student's reflective ability is classified in terms of domains of reflection with each domain being viewed as important and necessary. This "domains of reflection" approach embraces the notion that reflective writing is developmental in nature and that each type of reflective writing is of intrinsic value. The paper concludes by articulating the primary elements of this alternative pedagogy and advocating its use in the teaching and facilitation of reflective writing.

Key words: Reflective writing, critical reflection, nurse education, pedagogy

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The Influence of Teacher Competency Factors and Students' Life Skills on Students' Learning Achievement

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Abstract

This research aimed to investigate the influence of teacher competency factors and students' life skills on student learning achievement. The student learning achievement from the O-Net (Educational Testing Institute, 2002) found to be lower than national average score. A total of 100 teachers and 2,967 students under the Office of Bueng Kan Primary Educational Service Area are involved in this study using multi-stage sampling method. This study employed quantitative method survey design. The data was analyzed by utilizing descriptive and inferential statistic, namely mean value, standard deviation and Hierarchical Linear Model. The result revealed that the overall teachers' competency level and students' life skills are at high level ($M = 4.18$, $S.D. = 0.31$) and ($M = 3.97$; $S.D. = 0.36$) respectively. According to the fixed effect, researchers found that the independent variable teacher competency factor that is curriculum and learning management has positive effect while self-development has a negative effect at 0.05 significant level, the regression coefficient was 0.14625 and -0.14655 accordingly. Besides, morality and ethics in professional code of conduct has influenced on the analytical thinking, decision making, and creative problem solving at significant level of 0.05, the regression coefficient was -0.24505. All of the two independent variables related to teacher competency, can jointly explain the variance of learning achievement for 6.10 percent. In conclusion, school administrators should promote teacher competency and student life skills since these two variables have successfully contributed in student learning achievement.

Key words: Teacher competency factors; student life skills, students' learning achievement.

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Teaching mixed-level classes with a Vygotskian perspective

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Abstract

One of the biggest challenges that teachers face is the mixed-level classes, where students have different abilities, backgrounds and interests. All classes can be defined as 'mixed' since no student is the same as the other and this makes it difficult for teachers to meet each student's needs. The purpose of this study is to identify this problem by using Lev Vygotsky's 'Zone of Proximal Development' (ZPD) theory as a background and suggest solutions for teachers by making use of Vygotsky's ideas such as peer tutoring and scaffolding. While the starting point of the problem is English language classes at universities in Turkey, suggestions offered for effective teaching are in a more global context.

Key words: mixed-level classes; language teaching; Vygotsky; Zone of Proximal Development; scaffolding

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The Influence of Administrative Factors on Performing Primary Care Unit Standard Evaluation by the Chiefs of Primary Care Units in Khon Kaen Province, Thailand

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Abstract

The aim of this research was to study individual attributes and administrative factors that influencing Primary Care Units (PCUs) standard evaluation by the chiefs of Primary Care Units in Khon Kaen province, Thailand. A total of 172 respondents was involved utilizing systematic sampling. Researchers employed cross sectional descriptive design using questionnaire as an instrument to collect data. Data collection was implemented after conducting a pilot study and ethical investigation. The methods of analysis employed including percentage, mean, standard deviation, Pearson correlation and Stepwise multiple regression analysis. The demographic factors of samples revealed that majority of them are female (51.7%), average aged 43.8 years old (S.D. = 6.90), married status (85.8%), bachelor degree holder (89.2%), average income was approximately 24,424 baht. They have approximately 13.1 years of working experience as the chiefs of PCUs. Besides, they have an average 4.2 years (S.D. = 5.20) of experience being an assessor using PCU standard evaluation. Quantitative findings indicated that chiefs of PCUs were provided high administrative resource (M = 3.50), with two extremely high resources namely information technology and time with a mean value of 3.98 and 3.59 respectively. However, the lowest mean score was man (M = 3.25). Findings from in-depth interviews indicated that health personnel, who work in PCUs should be a multidisciplinary team consisted of physician, chief of PCU, public health technical officer, registered nurse, public health officer and dental public health officer. The PCUs standard evaluation indicates a low and positive relationship with income factor at the significance level as 0.001, ($r = 0.289$). In addition, man, money, materials, information technology and time have moderate and positive relationship with r value as 0.465, 0.569, 0.616, 0.555 and 0.617 respectively. Finally, findings showed that there are four significant predictors that successfully contributed 58.90 percent of the total variance of PCUs standard evaluation. The four predictors are time, materials, information technology and income.

Key words: Primary care unit; standard evaluation; administrative factors, individual attributes

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Integrating Blended Learning in Higher Education

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Abstract

Diversity, gender, cultural and personality differences among students have made University teaching a more challenging job than in previous years. Learning styles and preferences vary; and considering these differences while planning lessons ensures the effective delivery of learning. Besides, students' nomophobia has put more pressure on how instructors plan their lessons. For these reasons, instructors in the higher education sector have been thinking of ways to make learning more interactive and motivating. One of the ways, which is on everybody's lips nowadays, is integrating an online component with traditional face-to-face instruction. It is such integration, which simply explains what to blend learning means. Many instructors are in favour of blended learning while others are not. This poster presentation discusses what blended learning is, its pros and cons, and finally provides some hands on experience and classroom activities to help instructors integrate blended learning in higher education.

Key words:

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Techniques developing Intercultural Communicative Competences in English language lessons

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Abstract

Mutual understanding and intercultural competences are very important in the today's global world, because they allow us to overcome prejudice, discrimination and misunderstandings between people of different cultural backgrounds. Intercultural communicative competences (ICC) in English language education permit learners to understand and communicate successfully with representatives of the target language cultures. Acquiring ICC is a complex matter, which involves a new approach not found in traditional language lessons. Additionally teachers find it difficult to identify themselves with and apply intercultural aspects of the target language. Even though, all the curricular documents emphasise importance of development of ICC for learners, the recommendations are mostly only general and do not provide specific guidance for teachers. Consequently, teachers are often confused and the question of content, materials and techniques often arises. Also ICC next to grammar or vocabulary are less tangible and more difficult to comprehend, but on the other hand ICC are very much needed for real life usage. Traditional classrooms provide systematic presentation and acquisition of knowledge and skills under the guidance of a teacher, but offer very little chance to develop skills for interaction in real world scenarios. The aim of acquiring intercultural communicative competences is prepare learners to act appropriately and successfully in real life situations in a foreign language. This paper gives brief guidance to teachers on how to manage developing ICC in English language lessons. Several techniques (comparison method, cultural assimilation, cultural capsule, drama, TPR, cultural island, reformulation, noticing, treasure hunt, prediction, role plays, research, songs, games, portfolio, field trip) are suggested, with examples of how to deal with various aspects of intercultural communicative competences.

Key words: intercultural communicative competences, teaching English as a foreign language, techniques for teaching culture

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Factors Affecting the Public Health Performance Evaluation of Sub-district Health Promoting Hospital Directors in Nakhon Ratchasima Province, Thailand

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Abstract

The aim of this research is to study individual attributes and administrative factors that influencing on the Public Health Performance Evaluation of sub-district health promoting hospital directors in Nakhon Ratchasima province, Thailand. This research is imperative to study due to all sub-district health promoting hospital directors in this province are required to lead their public health services towards the Sub-district Health Promoting Hospital Development Plan Project. This cross sectional descriptive design was employed and conducted for duration of time from year 2011 to 2012. A total of 220 samples drawn from a population of 350 sub-district health promoting hospital directors by using systematic sampling technique. Research instrument is a self-administered questionnaire which developed by researchers. The questionnaire contained of four session including seven items on general information, 36 items and 30 items five-rating Likert scale on administrative resources and public health performance evaluation respectively. In addition, respondents are required to give problems and suggestions at the last session of the instrument as three open ended questions. Findings revealed that the level of administrative resources was high (mean value = 3.86 ± 0.61). When looking at each

resource, it was found that method possessed the highest mean score (4.05 ± 0.61) while money was at the lowest mean score (3.73 ± 0.79). The level of public health performance evaluation as a whole was high (mean value = 3.91 ± 0.61). The highest mean score was data defining (4.00 ± 0.59) whereas the lowest mean score was interpreting and reporting (3.79 ± 0.72). Specifically man, money, materials and method had moderate and positive relationship with the performance evaluation with r value ranged from 0.493 to 0.672 at the significant level as 0.001. Finally, findings showed that there are three significant predictors which contributed 60.90 percent of the total variance of the Public Health Performance Evaluation. The three significant predictors are method, materials, and man.

Key words: Individual attributes; administrative factors; performance evaluation, public health promoting hospital director

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Maths in-service teacher training and the restructuring of secondary education in East-Timor

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Abstract

East Timor is undergoing a profound restructuring of its secondary education. For its success, it is crucial that foreign entities maintain their support regarding in-service training of secondary school teachers.

In this context, we defined the following research questions: Under which conditions is in-service teacher training in Mathematics (Maths from this point onwards) being implemented in East Timor? How is it being done, mainly regarding the curricular materials produced - curriculum, syllabus, textbooks and teacher's guides? What are the trainer's representations of the secondary educational context and of the teachers' pedagogical practices?

We opted for a qualitative case study framed within a constructivist paradigm. Regarding the technique of data collection, we chose the inquiry through a semi-structured interview, informal conversations and the direct observation of training sessions, which were audio recorded. Data collected were submitted to content analysis, which was guided by categories that emerged from the research questions and objectives.

As main results, we highlight that resources, beyond those produced in the scope of international cooperation, are still very scarce. The training course is mainly focused on the resolution of the tasks proposed in textbooks, though curricular, didactical and mathematical aspects are also discussed. The pedagogical practices of Timorese teachers are still based on a very traditional paradigm, but some changes are emerging. So, we can corroborate that change is a slow process, especially with regard to the educational context. In-service teacher training can be vital to support an adequate implementation of the restructuring of secondary education. However, many other initiatives need to be developed, from a macro (educational policies) to a micro school level.

Key words: curricular restructuring, secondary education, East-Timor, maths, in-service teacher training.

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Radical Pedagogy: Theoretical Concept and/or Alternative Practice?

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Abstract

The article is devoted to theoretical problem of methodological character that is how to the form a new pedagogical concept, dubbed "radical pedagogy". The authors note the ambiguity of the definition of this term and the various vectors of considering the problems of radicalism in pedagogical projection. On the basis of theoretical and historical analysis it is shown that the ideas of the radical reconstruction of the education system and teaching practices have deep historical roots. In modern pedagogy the concept of "radical pedagogy" is understood in two ways. It is defined by some theorists as the notion that secures the changing views about cognitive capacities, conditions, and factors forming human exposure that indicates the system of pedagogical measures and solutions. The second group of researchers interprets this term as an uncompromising commitment to achieve real transformation in accordance with the views on the development of socio-political, ideological and economic spheres. On the basis of content-analytical study of special publications of the journal "Radical Pedagogy" it is shown that currently, this conceptualization is in the stage of intensive growth.

Key words: radical pedagogy, radicalism.

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Crossing boundaries: teacher trainers and science curriculum implementation in East Timor

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Abstract

In-service teacher training is being implemented in East Timor in order to help Timorese teachers, who are ill-prepared to exploit new educational resources, as part of the restructuring of the secondary education curriculum in Portuguese. Such in-service teacher training has been implemented for all 14 disciplines, including the science and technology ones. Taking into account such issues, the purpose of the study is to i) characterize the Chemistry, Geology and Physics teacher training being implemented, using the new educational resources; ii) identify changes in the pedagogical practices of Timorese teachers resulting from such training and iii) identify possible constraints on quality pedagogical practice.

The research paradigm adopted in this study is constructivist-interpretative, with the qualitative study as its organizing perspective. In conducting this study, semi-structured interviews were carried out with three Portuguese trainers at the beginning of 2014 and some training sessions were directly observed and audio recorded. Content analysis, guided by specific categories, was used to analyse the collected data.

Findings show that the in-service teacher training developed in all of the three areas focused on subjects and teaching and learning methodologies regarding the new educational resources produced. The Timorese teachers have introduced some changes in pedagogical practices, such as group work and questioning. However, there is still much to do. The in-service teacher training needs to continue to support an appropriate

use of these resources. It is also important to simultaneously focus on improvements in Timorese school infrastructures, and on the continuous training of Timorese trainers in the Portuguese language.

Key words: East Timor; In-service teacher training; Secondary education curriculum; New educational resources; Pedagogical practices

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Translation of German and English Human-Denoting Compound Nouns into Russian

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Abstract

The authors provide a comparative analysis of human-denoting compound nouns in the word-building systems of the German, English and Russian languages. The analysis of the given group of words is carried out on the onomasiological basis pursuing the goal of revealing general and specific tendencies in the development of the given word-building categories of kindred and non-kindred languages. The qualitative and quantitative analysis of the given phenomena is aimed at revealing the general tendencies in the word-building system of human-denoting compound nouns (especially names of a man as a doer of an action) in the German, English and Russian languages, and also the regularities of their translation in the contrastive aspect. Among the word-building types the authors have singled out general and specific word-building meanings compound nouns of the given languages possess. Having analyzed the word-building meanings the authors single out two groups of compound human-denoting nouns (compound nouns based on action, compound nouns based on an attribute) and carry out their structural and semantic analysis to reveal the regularities of word-building of complex lexical units and their further translation. The authors also provide a table summarizing the received results.

Key words: word-building, human-denoting compound nouns, translation, onomasiological approach

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Maximizing Student Motivation: A Course Redesign

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Abstract

This paper explains the process of redesigning a course to maximize student motivation, satisfaction, and learning. The process is applicable across all disciplines in any institution. Student evaluations from the old design garnered complaints of irrelevance, inefficient use of class time, and a lack of student engagement. The redesign was grounded in motivational research. The redesign included eliminating the textbook, individualizing assignments, providing direct application, and offering student choice; the course evaluations improved.

Key words: student motivation, student choice, course evaluation, student satisfaction, course revision

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Competence management of medical staff in Polish public hospitals

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Abstract

The paper is aimed to describe the status quo and current changes of competence management in public hospitals in Poland. The range of checked issues had covered: participation in management, adequate knowledge basis, transparent career paths, protection programs during transformation, using professional knowledge and experience, flexibility of time working, determinants of shaping competencies during executing medical profession. Research methods covered secondary data from documentation contained to human resources policy of public hospitals in three polish regions (Pomerania, Warmia- Mazury and Wielkopolska) and results of own surveys done in years 2008-2012 on a sample of medical professionals – doctors, including directors of hospitals (N= 8975) from 104 public hospitals. In conclusion gains and gaps and theirs determinants in core competencies of medical professionals are indicated as well as the whole system of management competence is evaluated.

Key words: human resources management, competence management, core competencies of medical staff

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An Overview of Young Adults' Opinions into Cyber Relation: Turkey Sample

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Abstract

Social media consumption is increasing in Turkey day by day as in whole world. Nowadays, individuals contact with emotional attachment and have romantic relations with people who they meet on internet and social media. People's perception and their messages to those who have online relationship could affect the relationship's quality. Aim of this study is to determine the opinions of young adults about cyber relations that contacted with social media. 244 volunteer young adults participated in the present study. The sample was comprised of 85 female, and 55 male. Young adult's perception of cyber romantic relationship was discussed according to literature.

Key words: Cyber relationship; young adults; social media

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The Role of Education in the Participation of Turks Living in Europe in Labor Markets

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Abstract

This study aims to investigate the role of education in Turkish people living in Europe for the participation to labor market. Unemployment among approximately 5 million Turks living in European countries is above the average of countries where they live. While the percent of manufacturing sector in labor market decreased after the period of industry, the percent of sectors requiring qualified labor increased. As the demand for qualified labor increase, Turks being unqualified for the sectors employing qualified labor have to face with unemployment issue. A considerable part of Turks living in Europe being unqualified for the demands of labor market in information society and the education they receive being inadequate when confronted with unemployment is leading cause of this result. Every generation among Turks living in Europe has a better condition than the former one in terms of education. The successful ones in entrepreneurship by taking a good education and others enhancing their status by means of working in white collar occupations were seen. So, to be more successful in participation to the labor market and to have qualifications demanded by labor market changing structurally will be possible for Turks living in Europe with the help of receiving the same education as people whom they live together, studying in better schools and completing education process successfully

Key words: Turkish People Living in Europe, Labor Market, Education, Unemployment.

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The rating system of the rural school pupils' assessment of the Republic of Kazakhstan

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Abstract

Currently, comprehensive school pedagogues of the Republic of Kazakhstan pay special attention to assessment system of pupils' knowledge, based on personally oriented approach. In this article we present the results of the pilot study on assessment system of rural schools in the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Aktobe region, Kenkiyak village. Defining the theme of the experiment: "Control and evaluation activities in the transition to 12-year education system" working group of teachers-experimenters had chosen for detailed study one of its directions - the rating system evaluation.

At present at all territory of Kazakhstan is introduced a five-point assessment system, which may not always estimate each child's development individual trajectory.

The new evaluation system is introduced in order to create optimal conditions for efficient tracking of individual pupils' achievements using a rating system of evaluation.

Key words:

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Health Behavior's deference in Intended and unintended pregnancies

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Abstract

Most of unintended pregnancies occur in developing countries that cause mortality and morbidity in the number of mothers every day. In unintended pregnancies, women Show different health behaviors such as late initiation of prenatal care or supplement taking. This case-control survey conducted on 240 parturient presenting for vaginal delivery. Samples were selected using a continued method and accordingly unintended or intended pregnancies were placed in two groups: case (n=80) and control (n=160). Health behaviors were recorded using given questions, and prenatal care clinics. Statistical analysis was performed using man-Whitney, Students` t-test, and chi-squared test where appropriate. Finding of present study showed a meaningful statistical difference evidences for maternal health behaviors. There was statistical difference between two groups in preconception counseling, entry into prenatal care, and supplement taking. According to the findings of the present study, unintended pregnancies are more likely to result in adverse health behaviors. It is recommended that health services be delivered effectively to women to make them aware of unintended pregnancy morbidity and to encourage family programming in their life.

Key words: Health behavior, unintended pregnancy, intended pregnancy

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Adult Education for Sustainable Development. An Analysis Study

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Abstract

This Paper seeks to analysis the role of Adult Education in Achieving of Sustainable Development through studying the theoretical sides of Sustainable Development and all the related principles and sides that surrounding it. Moreover, this research attempts to understand the interactive relationship between different components of Sustainable development. On the other hand, this research will examine the nature of related literature which belong to Adult Education. In fact, The important of this research was emerged from the its subject's itself that is tend to describing the role of Adult education in Sustainable development achievement which consider now one of the promising forms of education set parallel with the whole changes in the world especially after scientific and technological revolution, Also the ability to make balance between adult education and the sort of development which consider in this context being an important part takes part inside societies, civil societies and all shapes of non-profit organizations, along with its influence in creating Sustainable development and its impacts on the societies. Therefore one of the present study goals is to enumerate and describe characteristics of adult education processes which lead to create the sustainable development status. According to the field study, this research depended on description method as methodological framework which provides us with clear understanding the actual role of adult education in sustainable development based on designing scientific questioners for applying and testing it according to some literature statement of Sustainable development and adult education. For more clarification, this study will depend on qualitative approach which help us to portrait and suggest new effective strategies to reach to the implied education which has remarkable impacts on sustainable development. It is concluded that a great deal of adult education plays an essential role in achieving sustainable development.

Key words:

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Architectural Guidelines for Building a Special Learning Environment for Children in Need

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Abstract

The study environments are the problem analysed from an educational point of view, but closely correlated to the architectural, psychological and social principles. This article starts from the idea that a learning environment adequate to the children's requirements represents the key to their better development and implicitly investing in our children's education we invest in our future as society. A challenge for the educational environment is the rehabilitation of the children living on the street. They are facing addictions, and they have developed a vicious behaviour, determined by their life on the street, they survive in unhealthy environments and they do not enjoy even the minimal hygiene conditions. Numerous studies in the field of resilience have proved that, the ambient environment and the learning environment have a determining role in this process. The purpose of this article is that to analyse educational programs dedicated to them from architectural, psychological, political, economic and social point of view, trying to identify the main positive and negative factors in the centres dedicated to them and stating a few architectural principles for a better development of their learning and rehabilitation environment.

Key words: children in need, learning environment, Rudolf Walther Children's Village, resilience

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The Alteration in Woman Imagery in Different Time Periods

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Abstract

Problem Statement: Art education, in undergraduate level is structured as a process of exploring existing images and learning how to create compositions. In this process, it is necessary to understand the placement of that very image within the time periods economical, sociological, cultural conditions that the image has been emanated. In that sense, setting a sample study that mirrors "how and under which effects a sign changes throughout time?" is worth investigating.

Purpose of Study: The aim of this study is to explore the traces of symbolic existence of emanating surrounding circumstances in a composition and reflect that the composition is structured by these circumstances. In that sense, this study is a brief review of the history of woman imagery and its current position, in relation with art education, in order to trace the links in between meaning making and meaning reading processes with the basic assumption that any sign's meaning differs according to its position among surrounding dynamics; Understanding and using the sign in art education has to abide to the awareness of that variation of meaning and position.

Methods: The research concluded was qualitative in nature, structured as an analytical articulation of the documentation of woman imagery in between time period of Paleolithic age, till 1990, in relation with its surrounding circumstances of various sorts by taking the framing of Saussure's definition of language as a system of pure values which are determined by nothing except the momentary arrangements of its term.

Findings and Results

Woman imagery has been taken as a sample model to reflect upon the idea that any sign is a shape shifter among other elements that it surrounded with and gain value, meaning by that position. Throughout the history, woman images reflected that time period's cultural, socio political, economical condition. This study presented a series of documentation of the changes in woman imagery and the supporting effects.

Conclusion

In arts and visual studies, any sign's, symbol's, image's meaning differs according to its position among the time line's dynamics. All visual productions have purposes that have direct links to its peripheral elements. In that cycle, the sign becomes a construction of these emanating elements, at the same time one of these construction elements. In art education, images have to be explored with a circular analysis, an analysis that encloses structural, composite components of that very image. This process can bring out a better reading and creation of existing and new visual compositions

Key words: image, surrounding conditions, art education, meaning making, meaning reading.

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Comics Projects of the International Cultural and Educational Organizations in Youth Forums Devoted to Anti-Terrorism's Issues

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Abstract

In this article the questions connected with possibility of use of the comic book as the didactic text combining verbal components and a graphic representation for formation of anti-terrorist world outlook installations of the studying youth are considered. It is shown that in modern educational process art means of the graphic short story can be effectively used. On the basis of experiment it is proved that the comic book is successful language for conversation with youth on complex problems of youth extremism and radicalism. Development of adventurous plots of comics draws attention of youth and it's the accelerator of process of sense generation. The comic books make the readers think, reflect, analyze the cultural differences, look for ways of their overcoming and finally, think about importance of development of civil ideology, strengthening multicultural and multiconfessional society of the European countries.

Key words: antiterrorism; radicalism; youth; comics; mobile exhibition; experiment

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The post-normal governance condition and the consequent challenges of a 'green' university of applied science

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Abstract

In order to provide education that is fine-tuned not only to an individual's interests and needs but also to the challenges that society presents future professionals with, a University of Applied Sciences (UAS) is presented with three distinct but interrelated challenges: a didactical, a practical and a scientific challenge. In this position paper we explore these challenges in light of the post-normal governance condition in which a UAS is operating. This condition is typified by two interrelated shifts. The first is the shift from normal to post-normal science that emphasizes joint knowledge production in order to address real problems that are characterized

by uncertainty, contested values, risks and urgency. The second shift is from government to governance in which a multitude of public and private actors influence policy and practices. The post-normal governance condition is especially applicable to the issue-driven field of nature conservation for which VHL University of Applied Sciences (VHL) in the Netherlands aims to educate and train future professionals. By elucidating the practical, didactical and scientific challenges the VHL staff faces in relation to the practice of Dutch nature conservation, we sketch an integrative approach to the post-normal governance condition. We hold that this integrative approach requires UAS staff to participate in the forefront of this complex practical reality. With the analyses presented in this paper we want to challenge and inspire researchers and lecturers in their post-normal domain, but we also aim to elicit experiences and best practices of other UAS's

Key words: higher education, post-normal science, governance, nature management, applied research

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Development and Validation of K-ICT (Korea-Integrative Creativity Test) for Elementary and Secondary School Students

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Abstract

Recently creativity to be a most interested concept to many people around the world and especially Korea. In education, even though teaching or learning creativity may seem to be very challenging tasks for educators, it is possible to discover the creativity of an individual and to develop this potential eventually. First of all, to develop the creativity it needs to be identified along with the developmental potentials for each individual student. The concept of creativity has been defined by various scholars. Lee (2002) suggested that creativity is a factor comprised of personal creative thinking ability and creative personality. It could produce new and unique forms of personal thinking ability and personality over developmental periods. According to the previous studies of the development of creativity, the tendency of development in elementary level students and secondary level students is not consistent. The study of discontinuity of developing creative traits might be related with cultural and social condition. However, to make sure this is the case, one needs to be confident about the test implementations and measures before taking a look at developmental aspects. Most of the existing tests implementation occurred abroad and rarely reflected Korean cultural values, and lack of consistent theory about creativity development and logical model for measuring test development. In this study, "Integrative Creativity Test (K-ICT) for elementary school and secondary school students." was developed and validated. This test is standardized for Korean students and it was developed on the basis of the "Volcano Model (Lee, 2002)" and "3-3-3 Model for Creativity Measurement (Lee, 2004)". The volcano model is a concept model of creativity and the 3-3-3 Model is designed to measure the creativity of students. It consists of subject domain, creative thinking ability, and creative personality. The "K-ICT" involves two domains as language and drawing and creative thinking ability involves fluency, flexibility, originality, imagination, sensitivity and. Elaboration. Creative personality includes curiosity, sensitive personality, task commitment, humor, adventure and problem-solving leadership. The participants of this study were elementary school and secondary school (middle and high) students in order to develop and validate the test and then standardization in Korea. They (3005 elementary school students, 1669 middle school students and 1714 high school students) have randomly sampled from big cities, medium and small sized cities. The results of this study will offer three significant meanings for educators and researchers as follows. Firstly, the developmental trends of creativity for students from elementary level to high level will be identified using the test instrument that was developed through this study. Secondly, it will help to develop the curriculum and teaching program for fostering the creativity for students in Korea and other countries. Thirdly, as yet most of the existing most of the tests were implemented abroad and rarely reflected Korean cultural values. The study, then, would contribute to generalize test developed for measuring the creativity of Korean students and will help to comparative researches of creativity with Korea and other countries

Key words: K-ICT(Korean Integrative Test), creative thinking ability, creative personality, elementary and secondary school

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Crossing boundaries: teacher trainers and science curriculum implementation in East Timor

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Abstract

In-service teacher training is being implemented in East Timor in order to help Timorese teachers, who are ill-prepared to exploit new educational resources, as part of the restructuring of the secondary education curriculum in Portuguese. Such in-service teacher training has been implemented for all 14 disciplines, including the science and technology ones. Taking into account such issues, the purpose of the study is to i) characterize the Chemistry, Geology and Physics teacher training being implemented, using the new educational resources, ii) identify changes in the pedagogical practices of Timorese teachers resulting from such training and iii) identify possible constraints on quality pedagogical practice. The research paradigm adopted in this study is constructivist-interpretative, with the qualitative study as its organizing perspective. In conducting this study, semi-structured interviews were carried out with three Portuguese trainers at the beginning of 2014 and some training sessions were directly observed and audio-recorded. Content analysis, guided by specific categories, was used to analyse the collected data. Findings show that the in-service teacher training developed in all of the three areas focused on subjects and teaching and learning methodologies regarding the new educational resources produced. The Timorese teachers have introduced some changes in pedagogical practices, such as group work and questioning. However, there is still much to do. The in-service teacher training needs to continue to support an appropriate use of these resources. It is also important to simultaneously focus on Timorese school infrastructures, and on the continuous training of Timorese teachers in the Portuguese language.

Key words:

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Educational innovation: interaction and relationship inside a sub-module

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Abstract

In this paper authors will expose a work developed with the aim to submit an educational innovation project proposal to a competitive call for Educational Innovation Projects 2013-2015 of the Education Advisory Service of the Basque Country University (UPV/EHU, Spain). This project is being carried out in the Computer Structure and Computer Architecture sub-module of the Degree in Computer Management and Information Systems Engineering of the University College of Engineering of Vitoria-Gasteiz, University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU). The project is based on the active learning, more specifically, on cooperative learning. In this paper

we have given deeper insight the dependencies between all the subjects belonging to the analyzed sub-module, which is composed of two subjects named Computer Structure and Computer Architecture. We have included in such analysis a previous subject named Principles of Digital Systems Design, which does not belong to that sub-module, but plays an important role in the acquisition of the knowledge and competencies of the two previously referenced subjects.

Key words: Active Learning, Cooperative Learning, Computer Engineering, Computer Structure, Computer Architecture

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An Investigation on In-Service Trainings of the Ministry of National Education (MONE)

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Abstract

It is getting difficult day by day to comply with the sweeping changes in our age. In such an age, it is necessary that teachers being responsible for educating students, follow the developments, overcome the deficiencies and bring contemporary approaches into classrooms. And this could only be achieved via well-structured in-service trainings/professional development programs.

Trainings about different topics in different durations are realized for the professional development of the principals, deputy principals, teachers and school staffs by contracted institutions under the heading of “in-service training”. Aim of this study is to analyze the in-service trainings being held for elementary and secondary school teachers. For this reason, these questions are searched for an answer: “Which topics are mostly covered in elementary and secondary school teachers’ in-service trainings held by MONE?”, “In which areas were the teachers’ knowledge/skills/attitudes intended to be developed in the last 10-year-period?”, “What is the satisfaction level of teachers about these trainings?” In the research, content analysis has been carried out and the trainings are classified under 8 main categories. The research results obtained from the Council of Higher Education - Thesis Center and EBSCO, which includes school teachers’ opinions about in-service training, introduced that the in-service training quality in Turkey doesn’t meet the expectations.

Key words: In-Service Training, National Education, Teacher Training.

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Educational innovation in the Computer Architecture area

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Abstract

In the present work authors give a detailed description of the previously performed analysis carried out to formulate a concrete educational innovation project proposal in the area of the Computer Architecture, more specifically, in the Computer Structure and Architecture sub-module. That project was submitted to the competitive Educational Innovation Projects Call 2013-2015 of the Basque Country University (UPV/EHU, Spain), and fortunately, it was elected and granted by the Education Advisory Service of the same university. This project follows the way started by another similar project but in other knowledge area of Electronics in the same University College. In this paper, the specific problems of the Computer Structure and Architecture sub-module in the University College of Vitoria-Gasteiz (that is the place where it is being carried out) are analyzed, the framework in a wide sense is described (University, University College and syllabus) and the specificities of the current project are explained. All the analysis is done taking into account the competences point of view (both specific for each subject and transversal for the degree).

Key words: Active Learning, Cooperative Learning, Computer Engineering, Computer Architecture

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Pathways to change: improving the quality of education in Timor-Leste

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Abstract

After more than 400 years of Portuguese colonization and a 24-year period of Indonesian occupation, Timor-Leste became a fully independent state on May 20, 2012. Independence followed a period of extreme violence caused by the Indonesians, who destroyed homes, livelihoods and infrastructure and devastated schools before leaving the country. Since 2012, the country has resorted to international aid to reconstruct the country and rebuild its education system. Following the restructuring of the basic education, the country has recently implemented a new general secondary education curriculum, through international cooperation with Portuguese institutions. This article presents the new curriculum developed and puts forward some of the challenges regarding its implementation. Based on interviews conducted with several policy makers, findings suggest challenges related with the use of Portuguese language, the scientific and pedagogical training of teachers and the pedagogical and administrative management capacity in most secondary schools.

Key words: Curricular restructuring; general secondary education; Timor-Leste

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AN INVESTIGATION ABOUT 6TH GRADE STUDENTS' ATTITUDES TOWARD

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Abstract

The purpose of this study is to investigate 6th students' attitudes towards mathematics, the gender effect on attitude and the relationship between attitude and achievement. The data were collected from 120 6th grade students. Participants were assigned to complete mathematics attitude scale which is developed by Aşkar (1986). In addition students were grouped as low, medium and high achiever with respect to their grades. Students' attitude scores were computed, descriptive statistics were examined and scores were compared with respect to achievement and gender. The results indicated that students have relatively positive attitudes towards mathematics. The difference between high and low achiever students' attitude scores is significant. Hence there is a relationship between attitude and achievement. On the other hand no gender difference was found in this study.

Key words:

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Development of Leadership Soft Skills Among Educational Administrators

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Abstract

Leadership soft skills are very beneficial for administering organization effectively and efficiently. The aim of this study is to measure the development of leadership soft skills among educational administrators using the guidelines. The school administrators need to complement hard and soft skills while working with organizational staff and community. A total of 477 school administrators and teachers are involved in this study. In addition, there are 15 school administrators and teachers who have participated in a focus group discussion. This study utilized mixed mode method, comprised of quantitative and qualitative design. Quantitative method using questionnaire and qualitative method using interview protocol to obtain data. The statistical data analysis that employed in this study including percentage, mean value, and standard deviation meanwhile content analysis is used to analyse qualitative data. The results of this study indicated that the level of leadership soft skills among educational administrators is high. This finding is further supported by qualitative findings revealed that educational administrators have to improve their communication skills, using technology to monitor and evaluate teachers' teaching strategies, promote team work spirit and healthy interpersonal relationship. In conclusion, educational administrators' leadership soft skills should be highly adapted in their administration in order to ensure the positive change of the teachers' attitudes and behaviours

Key words: Leadership soft skills, educational administrator, guidelines.

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IMPORTANCE OF MODE TETRACHORDS IN THE TONAL AND MODAL MUSIC EDUCATION

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Abstract

The concepts of modality and tonality which are often confused with each other have indubitable importance in music education. Unlike the concept of tonality which indicates the pitch of the sounds, modality is used in the different cultures' music as well as in western music culture. In case, Tetrakorts systems which constitute the basis of modes also constitute the major stones of tonality.

Opposing to hard and strict rules of Western music, makam Tetrakorts in eastern music don't remain in the same place, and further show differences as descending and ascending scales. Apart from that tonic (durak) and dominant (guclu) called maye istinat in Azerbaijan has always come to the fore. Therefore, all compared scales on the base of these important pitches and handled music differently in every culture.

In this study, firstly, tonal music modes and their combinations tetrachord methods are examined, secondly it is aimed to compare the modal music of Azerbaijan and Turkey according to their scales, but also this study examines their importance in the music education system. This study is important to shed light on students' in the educational process and also provide the opportunities to compare the examples of folk music with western music.

Key words: Music education, tonality, modality, tetrachord

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The Impact of Leadership Styles of School Administrators on Affecting Teacher Effectiveness

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Abstract

Currently, most of the administrators are facing problems of applying suitable leadership style in their administration, reported by the Educational Work Unit. Therefore, applying suitable leadership may assist administrators to solve the confusion due to the overlapping of work occurred in work practice, administration, and ordering or commanding among the top level of management team work unit. The Path-Goal Theory was used as the main theory to support this study. The objectives of this study were to investigate the leadership styles of school administrators that affecting teacher effectiveness. This study employed quantitative method survey design using questionnaire as an instrument. Simple random sampling technique was utilized in this study. A total of 254 administrators and teachers from schools under the Office of Kalasin Primary Educational Service Area 1 were involved as respondents. Data was analyzed using frequency, percentage, mean value, standard deviation, correlation Pearson product moment, and multiple regression Stepwise method. Findings showed that there are two types of leadership styles of school administrators, namely supportive leadership and participative leadership styles has significantly affecting teacher effectiveness. In addition, both leadership styles has been jointly predicted teacher effectiveness at 56.80 percent at the significance level as 0.01. In conclusion, in order to increase teachers' working effectiveness, administrators should promote, practice, and improve these two leadership styles, that is supportive leadership and participative leadership styles regularly.

Key words: Leadership styles; school administrators; teacher effectiveness

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Using The Internet to Enhance Teaching Process at Institutions of Higher Education for the Development of Human Capital Professional Creativity Competencies

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Abstract

Contemporary educational process is subject to constant evolution, whose driving force is the process of technological development. The institution of higher education is also perceived differently, namely as a place of acquiring knowledge virtually rather than in a traditional way. Changes, which aim at using the latest communication and information techniques, provoke controversy among both the faculty and students. The quality of human capital professional creativity competencies is determined by knowledge and the ability to acquire it from various sources already at university student level. Today it is believed that creativity is one of the most significant factors of human capital development. One must bear in mind that creativity is directly connected with knowledge.

The primary scientific objective of this article is to learn and investigate the frequency of the Internet use in the teaching process at selected institutions of higher education by means of scientific procedures and appropriate methodology in order to define the influence of on-line teaching on human capital professional creativity competencies.

The findings have given basis to formulate a research hypothesis: The higher and more advanced ability to use the Internet in the teaching process, the higher level of human capital professional creativity competencies, which as an element of intellectual capital constitutes a major factor for development on micro and macroregion scale.

The following article is a literature and empirical study based on various methods of data processing and systematizing. Methods of economic phenomena analysis such as descriptive, qualitative (comparisons), quantitative as well as methods of sociological research (primary and secondary) have been implemented to a large extent. In order to achieve the objective and verify the research hypothesis 232 students from three Pomeranian institutions of higher education have participated in the research. The article is concluded with findings stemming from theoretical deliberations and the conducted research.

Key words:

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Learning and Teaching in Portugal: an analysis of TALIS 2013

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Abstract

The OECD Teaching and Learning International Survey (TALIS) is the largest international survey of teachers. Among other aspects, TALIS aims to identify the teaching strategies adopted by teachers, as well as the teaching beliefs they hold. In this paper it is proposed to (i) analyze the TALIS 2013 data regarding the teaching strategies used in the classroom by Portuguese teachers; (ii) compare the teaching strategies adopted by Portuguese teachers with those used by the other European teachers; (iii) characterize Portuguese teachers' teaching and learning beliefs, and (iv) compare the teaching and learning beliefs held by Portuguese teachers with those held by the other European teachers.

Key words: Teaching, Learning, TALIS, Portugal, Europe

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University Students' Resilience Level: The Effect of Gender and Faculty

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Abstract

This study aimed at revealing university students' psychological resilience level and its relation with some selected factors (gender and faculty). The participants consisted of 596 university students (216 males, 378 females and 2 no response) selected from various fields in the faculties of Education and Theology. Data was collected through using of "Resiliency Scale" (Gurgan, 2006) with eight sub-scales. Two factor ANOVA was run to examine the effects of gender and faculty on students' resilience level and also sub-scales of resilience. Students' resilience level was higher than average score ($M=187$, $SD=30.57$, $Range=50-250$) Male students showed significantly higher resilience level than did female students [$F(1, 590) = 10.053$, $p < 0.05$]. Furthermore, the interaction effect of gender and faculty on resilience was also significant [$F(1, 590) = 5.98$, $p < 0.05$]. Male-female difference was significant for the sub-scales of "Being Powerful" [$F(1, 590) = 10.16$, $p < 0.05$], "Being Entrepreneur" [$F(1, 590) = 16.25$, $p < 0.05$], "Foresight" [$F(1, 590) = 7.32$, $p < 0.05$], "Achieving the goal" [$F(1, 590) = 8.07$, $p < 0.05$], "Being a leader" [$F(1, 590) = 4.71$, $p < 0.05$] and "Being a researcher" [$F(1, 590) = 6.27$, $p < 0.05$] in favor of male students. Faculty differences was only observed to be significant for the sub-scale of "Being a leader" [$F(1, 590) = 5.12$, $p < 0.05$] in favor of faculty of education. The implications of the study will be given during the presentation.

Key words: University students, resilience, gender

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Ethics and effectiveness in promoting entrepreneurial programs in Romania and the EU

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Abstract

Currently, the intensification of competition in the labor market, outsourcing production in economic fields that have greater comparative advantages in terms of production costs, increasing social costs caused by phenomena such as aging population, declining share of working age population in the total population, the increasing share of inactive persons arising from degradation of living standards and quality life appears - as a priority - the formation of entrepreneurial skills with an active role in the establishment and revenue assurance as a prerequisite for being.

Innovating entrepreneurship is centered on acquiring specific innovation management research methods, human capital development and establishment of a business incubator, as support for the implementation of business ideas and entrepreneurial spirit.

The purpose of innovating entrepreneurship is to increase the competitiveness on the internal and external market of potential beneficiaries- technical- economic effects leading to increased productivity, accessibility to labor markets, increased interest in business and entrepreneurship idea. By applying the innovating entrepreneurship specific principles, it will be assured the evaluation and the development of the entrepreneur's economic performances.

Key words: entrepreneurship, decision, education, entrepreneurship knowledge

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Pupil's self-concept in inquiry-based technical education

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Abstract

The paper responds to current educational trends in polytechnic education and presents inquiry-based education as the one of the opportunities for the development and the pupil's self-evaluation. On the basis of this contribution is an attempt to present the context of self-concept in relation to technical education. At the same time it presents the pupil's self-reflection as an integral part of their self-image. On this basis, we present a framework for teacher-driven self-assessment activities. The article contains a research probe which was realized by SEIQoL method. The research maps teacher's point of view of the pupil's self-concept development. The main aim of the probe was to reflect the key topics related to the development and formation of pupil's self-concept and identify teacher's personal look at their structure. Research results pointed to the fact that respondents considered evaluation and self-assessment of the pupil as a key category in the creation and development of its self-concept.

Key words: Pupil's self-concept, pupil's self-reflection, technical education, inquiry-based education, SEIQoL method

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A Proposed Conceptual Framework to Increase the Capacity of Saudi Universities

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Abstract

The aim of this study is to examine the issue of the educational gap caused by the weak capacity of Saudi universities, and how it leads to aspects of waste beside other negative consequences that have their own influences on students (of secondary outcomes), their families and the labor market. The study conducts a descriptive method style to deal with the gap issue and determine its nature and evolution. Also, it analyzes the status to the current relationship between the outputs of secondary education and the capacity of Saudi universities. The study uses the systems approach to develop its own perspective on how to bridge the gap between the outputs of secondary education and the capacity of Saudi universities through making a modification to the system of higher education and recognizing its relation to the system of secondary education and the labor market. In this regard, the study presents a number of alternatives that provide practical solutions serve to increase the capacity of Saudi universities and of which are applicable to the conditions and circumstances of the Saudi society.

Key words: educational gap, capacity, waste.

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The importance of cooperation in chorus training

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Abstract

Cooperation is a kind of learning style that provides communication and helping each other in a group of students. This research is needed due to the fact that cooperation learning style is much more effective than the other approaches. According to Uçan (2001), there are five basic rules:

- Shouting together, speaking and singing are needed
- Becoming together
- Being together
- Organizing
- Shouting with the group in a musical form, speaking, singing

In this research, the principles of cooperation learning are analyzed and compared with the traditional method and proved that it is more influential. Three works are given to experiment and controlling group for singing. Cooperation style is taught to the experiment group and traditional method is told to the other group. As a result, the experts of the branches evaluated and said that cooperation is more influential than the traditional.

Key words: chorus training, cooperation learning, traditional learning.

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Academic and demographic factors related to assessing quality of educational services in Lorestan University, Iran

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Abstract

The purpose of the current study was to recognize relationship between quality of educational services of Lorestan university (Iran) as well as its dimensions i.e., tangibles, avouchment, responsibility, assurance and empathy and students' academic and demographic variables such as gender, faculty, schooling year, native and non-native and mean score of students. The final sample included 330 under graduate students who were selected by randomized stratified sampling method. In order to collect the required data, questionnaire of measuring the quality of educational services were used. In addition, to analyze the data inference statistics such as one way analyze of variance, independent sample t-test and Pearson correlation coefficient were used. Results showed that there were significant differences among different faculties with regard to the quality of educational services. In addition, Results indicated that there was a significant difference among first, second, third and fourth year students in connection with the quality of educational services. Results demonstrated that generally there was a significant difference concerning the quality of educational services among the native and non-native students. Moreover, outcomes indicated that generally no significant difference was found between the male and female as well as mean scores of students regarding the quality of educational services.

Key words: quality of educational services, academic, demographic, university, Iran.

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Inquiry-based instruction in the context of constructivism

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Abstract

The education goes from its utter beginning through some changes whose momentum factors are the needs laid on the individual in a relation to his/her integration into the society, the living in it and its prospective development. During the historical development the needs change as well as the social values, therefore during the different historical eras it is possible to encounter differently focused education emphasizing the physical development, the artistic development, the acquiring of the vast amount of knowledge, the development of the manual skills, perception, thinking, and the possibility of applying the acquired knowledge in the common life. The current social needs emphasize the education of an individual (with the creative thinking), who is not only able to find the problems, but also to solve them effectively. He/she should be cooperative, active, competitive, but also tolerant and defending the weak ones.

The article reacts on the tendencies in the field of education, obvious within the international context and manifesting themselves in the use of the inquiry-based instruction. Furthermore, it is focused on the description of the development of the pupils' competencies focused on the problem solving in a relation to the constructivism. These competencies are often seen as the non-linked to the particular subjects, or as competencies superior to the subjects, however, used in the concrete activities. During a life, people have to apply what they have learned in the new situations, and for that they have to master the basic thought and other general skills which are essential for the individual competencies for problem solving.

Key words: inquiry-based instruction, constructivism, education, pupil.

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The Effect of Strategy-based Instruction and E-Portfolio Assessment via Blogs on the Writing Proficiency of Iranian Upper-Intermediate EFL Learners

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Abstract

This paper investigates how the use of blogs within a portfolio framework in an EFL writing class which implemented strategies-based instruction (SBI) affects writing proficiency. For the purpose of this study, 45 upper-intermediate female learners were divided into three groups: Electronic-based portfolio, paper-based portfolio and non-portfolio writing classes. Two Essay writing tests (A and C) adapted from the Interchange/Passages Evaluation and Placement Package (Lesley and et al., 2005) were administered at pre-test and post-test phases of the study to the experimental groups in order to gain an understanding of the difference in the writing ability of the learners prior to applying the treatment and then at the end of the study. The pre and post-tests were administered along with a writing strategies questionnaire (Petric and Czarl, 2003) to gain an understanding of the differences in using strategies before and after the treatment. In all 3 groups the procedure used for teaching writing was the same, including writing first, second and last drafts, and focusing on the writing process. The difference among the three groups was that the experimental groups received strategy-based instruction as well, whereas the comparison group did not. Also, the e-portfolio group utilized weblogs for their portfolios. Four writing strategies were employed in the experimental groups, comprising: clustering, identifying an audience and purpose for writing, writing an outline, and reading the writing aloud to see where pauses would naturally occur. The "traditional" non-portfolio writing group did not receive instructions on strategy use, and did not make use of technological aids. The Peer Conferencing Notes form (2000, Online source), Six +1 Traits Analytical writing Assessment Model Scoring Rubric (NWREL, 1980) and the Writing Self-Assessment form (2000, Online source) were used as the instructional aids of this study in the experimental groups. To analyze the data, a one way ANOVA was used. The results of ANOVA (analysis of variance) tests demonstrated that the participants in the e-portfolio group, who used not only strategy-based instruction but also e-portfolio assessment via blogs, performed better than the two other groups. A system consisting strategy-based instruction or e-portfolio assessment, or a combination of both can be helpful with regard to improving learning and accomplishing quality. These findings imply that language instructors should promote direct and explicit strategy instruction in English writing classes along with applying blogs to make efficient and e-portfolios and reliable assessment and by this way suggest new avenues for approaching the teaching writing more effectively in Iran.

Key words: Strategy-based Instruction (SBI), E-portfolio assessment, Writing proficiency, Writing strategies, Weblog-based Instruction

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Using of T-Flex CAD program for creation of 3D models of security systems

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Abstract

The paper deals with the possibilities of implementing the T-Flex 3D design program into the teaching process of the study programme Management of Security Systems at the University of Security Management in Košice. The article analyzes the possibility of using the T-Flex program as a separate subject within security education that would allow students to design and subsequently model security systems.

Key words: T-Flex 3D design program, security education, teaching process.

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Mediation in entrepreneurship

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Abstract

In Romania, the mediation has become a mandatory prior procedure, together with the direct conciliation in disputes of a commercial nature, following the amendments to the Code of Civil Procedure by Law. 202/2010. Mediation occurs both in the extra-procedural, ie before the onset of a trial before the court, and also in the trial stage, ie once someone had claimed summons, calls or appeals. The need for cooperation with the entrepreneurial environment in order to increase his competitiveness and his assertion at European and global level effort leads to increasing the EU Member States efforts in order to offer their citizens some clear and convincing answers regarding the business environment and their own business.

The need for mediation occurs in a conflict with the business partner, in contract implementation problems (large delays in payments, non-delivery or delay in delivery of goods / services requested, etc.), where the firm is threatened with insolvency, foreclosure or other proceedings likely to put own business in difficulty. If no one wants to go to court or, even if already reached, mediation may be the most advantageous way to end as soon as possible the conflict which is likely to damage the business. In this context we will show, in what follows, the advantages and the benefits of mediation in the context of voluntary dispute resolution within the business environment.

Key words: mediator, entrepreneurship, entrepreneurial environment, commercial conflict, business

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The technology-supported Learners' Activity towards Promoting Teaching/Learning

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Abstract

The paper deals with a students' activity within the teaching technology-supported English for specific purposes (ESP) for engineering students. First, the background and motivation for running such type of activity is introduced; second, the design is described in detail; third, the samples of students' activities are introduced, and finally data reflecting students' feedback (satisfaction with the activity) are presented. Students involved in the projects were matriculated in the part-time study at the Faculty of Informatics and Management, University of Hradec Kralove in Applied Informatics and Information Management study programmes. They created a teaching/learning aid on the CD-ROM using the Internet as the main sources of information and called it "IT Reader for university students". The reader contained more than 200 professional texts focusing on informatics and related problems and their recordings in mp3 format. Each student provided two texts of one-A4 page length and translated selected professional expressions which s/he considered difficult for other students using tools Insert, Comments. As students' level of IT English knowledge differed, the provided texts included all levels and each student could choose the appropriate one to gradually improve their knowledge in ESP. Both the texts and recordings worked as tools/means towards improving the listening comprehension skill. This activity has been included in the ESP syllabus since 2008/9 academic year. Students' feedback on using such a method of independent work is presented in conclusion.

Key words:

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Using digital technologies: implication for education and learning

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Abstract

The advent of ICT and digital technologies (DT) has seen a rise in the use of digital technologies in our day to day life couple with an increasing use for education and learning. This study is confined to DT and the rationale for conducting this study lies in the National e-Learning Policy which determines that 50% of courses offered by universities should be conducted in Blended Learning format via online. This paper aims at determining the use of DT with emphasis on education and learning. This is a nation-wide study using survey. Some 4500 respondents were sampled for the study and data was collected using a questionnaire as instrument. Data was analysed using SPSS 20.0 and the analysis is both descriptive and inferential. The findings reveal that in terms of authenticity and believability the digital technologies are found to be satisfactory ($m=4.69$, $SD=1.51$). However, using DT for reading newspaper ($m=1.48$, $SD=.93$), searching for information ($m=1.75$, $SD=.94$) and teaching and learning ($m=1.34$, $SD=.96$) is found to be moderate. From the correlation analysis, information search, research, reading newspaper and education and learning have a significant but low relationship with authenticity and believability of the internet. More than two-thirds of the respondents downloaded reading materials for two to four hours in a day. Malaysians in general are satisfied with the authenticity and the believability of the internet and this should have positive implications for blended learning. However, the use of DT for education and learning has to be stepped up in order to derive the full benefits of using DT.

Key words: education, teaching, learning, digital technologies, ICT, Internet, blended learning

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Academia and Practitioner Perspectives on Competencies Required for Technical and Vocational Education Students in Malaysia: A Comparison with the Astd Wlp Competency Model

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Abstract

The aim of this paper is to explore the competencies perceived important by academics and practitioners in order to prepare graduates for workforce environments. Moreover, this paper examines the competencies that are perceived to be important by university faculty and practitioners in Malaysia. This paper is a qualitative study. Therefore, an interview has been used as an instrument to gather the data. Interviews with university faculty and workforce practitioners were thematically analyzed to compare and contrast their perspective on competencies. Additionally, this paper also examines the relationship between competencies and organization performance. Academia and practitioners from Malaysia were identified and a set of electronic interview questionnaires were sent through e-mail to them to be answered. Findings show that both academic faculty and workforce practitioners agree that graduates need to possess the necessary competencies before entering the workplace. It appears that most workplaces need graduates who are highly motivated and willing to learn within the organization. Additionally, the practitioners urge that practical training or internships are an important element that has to be embedded into programs offered in universities.

Key words: Human Resource Development, Competency, Organization Performance

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My Philosophie of Teaching Foreign Languages

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Abstract

Virtualization and integration of the modern world community has caused virtual intercultural interactions in foreign languages. In turn, new forms of communication require innovative methods of teaching foreign language. The main argument of this need is the changing of the language. There are new rules of netiquette, mental images of cultures and individuals, words to the realities of the online world, practiced simultaneously oral and written form of speech. This article focuses on the concept of teaching to communicate in foreign language based on reflective learning of the students. The concept is a system with the aim, methodology, content, technologies for learning and assessment of communicative and cultural competence. The basis of my philosophy are approaches and methods of learning foreign languages and cultures through intercultural interactions, which will be considered in this article. The study focuses also on factors of effective learning process and targets of the teachers for developing students' language proficiency.

Key words: Personalized approach, communicative approach, reflective methodologies, e-learning.

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The application strategic planning and Balance Scorecard modeling in enhance of Higher Education

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Abstract

In the past few years, many models and approaches to quality improvement experienced in commercial organizations, such as total quality management, continuous improvement and EFQM model have been accepted and used by universities and other research and educational institutions and the results also have been used effectively. Strategic Planning and Balanced Scorecard (BSC) model are also among the approaches and models that deals with planning and performance assessment of organizations and corporates with a great broad vision . But some questions are raised here: How these two approaches make enhance the quality of universities and higher education institutions? Is it as much useful for organizations and commercial institutions as it is for higher education institutions and universities? What are the necessary requirements and infrastructures for deployment and implementation of these two approaches in higher education institutions? And whether they really are used in higher education. This is a descriptive research which aims at answering the above questions concerning the application of strategic planning models and balanced scorecard in higher education quality improvement.

Key words: Balanced Scorecard, Strategic Planning, Higher Education, EFQM Model

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Authoritative approach and student empowerment among university students

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Abstract

This study examines the role of instructors' authoritative attitudes on learner empowerment among university students. Study sample comprised of 322 university students attending a faculty of education in Turkey. Their ages ranged from 17-25 years (mean age: 20.34 years). Multiple regression analysis results suggested that authoritative attitudes of the instructors positively predicted all three dimensions of learner empowerment. More specifically, instructors' authoritative attitudes accounted for the largest variance in meaningfulness (48.8%), followed by impact (21.4 %) and competence (13.2%). These results suggested that instructors' authoritative approaches to the classroom management have impact on learner empowerment.

Key words: Learner empowerment; authoritative attitudes of instructors; higher education

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Developing Sustainable Thainess Indicators for Promoting Sustainable Thainess of Non-formal education Students

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Abstract

The purpose of this study was to develop sustainable Thainess indicators for promoting sustainable Thainess of non-formal education students. On duty of Thai non-formal education was to promote sustainable Thainess in order to enable Thainess to exist in the world society with dignity. But in the course, there is no apparent pattern to promote sustainable Thainess manner made affecting non-formal education students in serious condition for promoting the sustainability of Thainess, which have to foster a sense of a mutual dimensions balance between economic, political, cultural, social, psychological resources and environment. These factors will make Thai people have a better quality of life. The research was divided into two steps: 1)to develop sustainable Thainess indicators 2)to develop program for non-formal education students to sustain Thainess. The design of this study was surveying with exploration factor analysis and systematic reviewing. The results showed that the characteristics of the Thailand Sustainable comprises 68 indicators in four components : 1) a proudness of Thailand (Eigenvalues = 18.43.) 2) Faithfulness of Thailand (Eigenvalues = 12.17) 3) behaved Thailand (Eigenvalues = 10.57) , and 4) culture of Thailand (Eigenvalues = 6.86). The process of learning to achieve the sustainable Thainess consists of the investigating experience, the paradigm shift, planning the transmission of knowledge, building the network to exchange knowledge and integrating the knowledge into their way of life. In conclusion, the learning process to promote sustainable Thainess should intense on proudness, faithfulness, behaved and culture of Thailand, Furthermore, each community should encourage the establishment of learning networks for the sustainable Thainess and supporting the establishment of a learning center for the sustainable Thainess to serve as Thainess information technology center. It would help encourage the Thai youth has a sustainable Thainess manner

Key words: Thainess, sustainabe, non-formal education

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Applying innovative trends in the process of higher education security personnel in order to increase efficiency

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Abstract

Article deals with the security education in the conditions of universities, the implementation of innovative trends into this process due to increasing its effectivity. When solving the problems in the area of security, the important aspect is education and professional training of the employees of security services, but also workers and managers at different levels in the area of security, where high knowledge demands are required. In the context of education at universities, security awareness of people coming from schools to work may help to increase better conditions in this area. Deepening their knowledge and skills connected with the security, increasing qualification and training of graduates, preparation for solving crisis and emergency phenomena in different areas of security (civil, economic, environmental, technical and technological, logistical, and etc.) may also help to increase better conditions in this area. If we use security education as intensive factors of economic, social growth of the companies to, it is important to know how such methods, forms and means in

which the intensity and under what circumstances it is necessary to work on learning to achieve effectiveness of the resulting learning.

Key words: Security, security education, teaching process, effectiveness, colleges.

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The application of Thai wisdom in Self-Development Program to Enhance Potential in Lifelong Learning Management of Non-Formal Education Facilitators: An Opportunity of Sustainable Community Development

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Abstract

Recently a lifelong learning has been important factor in the knowledge-based economy and learning society. In Thailand, The National Act of 1999, the National Education Act of B.E.2542(1999), The Promotion of Non-Formal and Informal Education Act, B.E.2551(2008) and the Eleventh National Social and Economic Development Plan(2012-2016) indicated lifelong learning was one of the ways to sustain community development and conserved Thai way of life. Thereby the non-formal education facilitators had to acquire knowledge and skills for their students and people development. Therefore facilitators must be improved their self-development process to acquire knowledge with 7 concepts: 1)Desire to learn 2)Self-diagnosis 3)Set goals 4)Finding appropriate resources 5)Recruit of other people 6)Attempt to do 7)Self-evaluation. So the suitable self-development pattern improved their potential in lifelong education management for community development. The purpose of this study was to develop self-development program to enhance non-formal education facilitators' potential in lifelong learning management by applying Thai wisdom for sustainable community development. The design of this study was qualitative research, which was divided to 2 steps: 1)systematic reviewing to find lifelong learning process and self-development to enhance potential of non-formal education facilitators 2) surveying of best lifelong learning management center by applying Thai wisdom. The results showed that Thai lifelong learning management consisted of educational services, fundamental education management, management for career and life education, management for society and community development and Thai wisdom conservation. It should be start from social capital and Thai wisdom application in the program was the most possibility to success in potential enhancing and community development. In conclusion, The sustainable community development by lifelong learning management started from social capital and Thai wisdom application in the program led to human and monetary capital development. This will sustain community development not only social and economic development, but also resources using as necessary.

Key words: Lifelong learning management, Self – development, Non-formal facilitator's potential, Thai wisdom

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Innovation technologies in diplomats training

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Abstract

Training specialists in international relations is of great significance in the modern age of a new world geo-economic order aimed at demands of the real labor market. Forming common cultural and professional competences of future diplomats is a paramount problem. Modern realia prescribes introduction of subject-oriented modules into the academic activity including definite competences depending on the future field of postgraduates' work. The vital task of higher educational institutions with field in international relations is forming teaching process in accordance with modern demands of diplomatic practice.

To form necessary competences of future diplomat it is crucial to introduce active and interactive teaching methods. Herewith, the following quality characteristics are required: defining basic concepts, skills to analyze, synthesize, structure information, leadership and managerial skills, decision - making. Professional competences in modern diplomatic practice means ability to fulfill work - related tasks in conformity with high standards.

Key words: modern diplomacy, innovation technologies, training, case-study

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CLIL, Cooperative Learning and Theatre as Active methodologies in learning language

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Abstract

This paper presents the study and research hypothesis about relations between some active methodologies and teaching languages. Today multicultural society and the push towards the mobility of students - and more generally of the working population - as a strategy for a more complete European integration, requires a greater fluency in at least one other language than the native one. Similarly, if the linguistic and cultural diversity of the European Union is a great resource, it becomes a challenge among challenges, which necessarily involves teaching language L2 starting from childhood. The theories about learning languages stress the fact that they are always learned inside of a given context, which profoundly affects the learner. Implementing contexts based on Cooperative Learning and on CLIL, Content and Language Integrated Learning, becomes therefore a perspective that seeks to respond to the demands of innovation and training to agentivity. It also means re-define the role of teachers in conducting classes. CLIL is characterized by the use of the vehicular language in teaching and it has got its own physiognomy and its approach aims to stimulate learning language through activities that orient the interest in learning the content of a non-language subject based on cooperative learning. Using a Theatre setting (drama and theatre) as an alternative learning, holistic environment, means achieving the best conditions of a communicative and innovative way of teaching.

Key words: CLIL, Cooperative Learning, Theatre Setting.

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Using Water Level Control Model to Enhance Learning in Control Engineering Theories

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Abstract

Control theory is one of the most challenging courses in electrical engineering in which pedagogies used in this subject tends to distract students from practical applications. To improve the effectiveness of learning activity, many instructors have adapted physical models of control systems to explicitly demonstrate how to bridge complicated theories to actual implementations. In this study, we develop an industrial water level control model and a STEM education based teaching technique for enhancing learning ability of engineering students enrolled in control engineering theory related classes. The proposed model is used to explain how real industries properly speed up or slow down water flow rate to maintain the appropriate fluid level in the tank by tuning gain parameters in PID algorithm. This method is evaluated by interview and preliminary results show that target students achieve higher level of understanding in industrial water level control compared to traditional methods which employ only one-way lecture.

Key words: water level control, control engineering, model, PID

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The importance and optimization of the educational process of environmental management and environmental engineering for security managers

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Abstract

The aim of this paper is highlight the importance, relevance and need for the learning process Environmental Management and Environmental Engineering for security managers. It also deals with possibilities of innovation, improving this field through changes in content, the use of modern teaching methods and technical and information systems.

Key words: Safety education, environment, environmental safety, Environmental Management Environmental engineering, innovation, methods

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The effect of emotional intelligence training via method psychodrama on marital satisfaction of patients with MS.

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Abstract

MS is progressive and chronic disease of the central nervous system with symptoms that can be debilitating. Appropriate interventions including emotional intelligence training improve the quality of life MS patients. The aim of this study is to determine the effect of emotional intelligence training through Psycho-Darama methods on marital satisfaction of patients with MS . this study is a one-group, before-after, quasi-experimental study. A total of 22 patients were enrolled in this study. The samples were selected through non-random sampling based on the goal of study among visitors of MS society, Kurdistan province, Iran. Data collection tool was questionnaires with two sections: 1) demographic information and 2) ENRICH-B marital satisfaction questionnaire including 47 items. Intervention was conducting 20 sessions of 2-hour training. Questionnaires were filled by patients before and after intervention. Methods for data analysis were descriptive statistics (tables of relative frequency distribution, the mean, and standard deviation) and inferential statistics of paired t test . paired t test showed a significant difference in total scores of marital satisfaction before and after training sessions ($P < 0.05$) . finally, we concluded that, designing and applying emotional intelligence training programs via psychodrama method is effective on marital satisfaction in patients with multiple sclerosis

Key words: multiple sclerosis, emotional intelligence training, psychodrama, marital satisfaction

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Possibilities of application of geographic information systems to security education

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Abstract

The basis of security education consists in analytical work which is aimed at averting or minimizing safety risks of different forms and their causes. The security environment is dynamically evolving environment and its changes can be very effectively monitored by geographic information systems tools (GIS). GIS systems are commonly used worldwide as an effective tool for analysis and visualization of data, and are widely used in the field of security and security sciences.

Key words: security education, crises management, security environment, GIS

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Education – a key concept for e-administration

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Abstract

The paper aims to investigate the link between the actual level of e-administration at the county level in Romania and the educational system at the same level (I refer here especially to the education in the field of IT&C) in order to verify if there is a connection between those data. I will start from a previous research in which I radiographed the Romanian e-administration (January 2014), based on the Mark Holzer study about Digital Governance in Municipalities Worldwide. I will correlate it with data collected from all the Romanian ECDL centers (European Computer Driving Licence) knowing the fact that ECDL is an engine for what is called “intelligent citizen” (Stoica 2009). For having an accurate image on this topic I will look onto every county in Romania (41 in number) analyzing the official Web sites of municipalities as well as those from ECDL centers. The results I count on are a strong connection between education (on the field of IT&C) and a good e-administration, suggesting by this some new investments in the field of education. It is understood that the existence of Web platforms very well maintained doesn't imply that they're also used by the citizens or the business society. The new methods of administration don't need only innovative solutions but also “intelligent citizens”. The value of this paper is the comparison itself. There are a lot of studies in Romania about the education, about the local administration but rare those studies are connected. More and more researchers stated that “education should come first”, so I suggest that before investing in IT platforms and so on, to invest firstly in education. It is not only the personnel of public administration that need to benefit from IT&C education, but also those to whom these platforms address (the citizens).

Key words: IT education, e-administration, local administration

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Common activities of parents and preschool children strengthening their relationship

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Abstract

The paper deals with the theme of common activities of parents with children of preschool age. Attention is focused on activities strengthening the relationship between adult and children. The text presents the results of research. Research questions: What activities do parents together with their preschool children? What activities from the perspective of parents do strengthen the relationship between parent and child? The research group consists of parents of children attending kindergartens (occasional selection, N = 96). Methods: weekly schedule and questionnaire of our own design. Results: description of parent activities carried out together with the children throughout the week, during weekdays dominate interest clubs and hobby groups (often associated with preparation for school), staying out (walk, hike, playing on the playground) and reading (often before bedtime), on the weekend occur more frequently playing on the computer and watching TV. Activities strengthening relationship are characterized by the following features: good atmosphere (whatever kid laugh) and body contact. Parents also expressed as to which activities should in this context be recommended for other parents. The obtained information may be useful to teachers of kindergarten for several reasons: 1) teachers know what to follow, what children do with their parents outside of kindergarten, 2) list of activities may serve as inspiration for teachers, what type of activities can be suitable for collective education, 3) knowledge teachers can use in the consultation and advice for parents.

Key words: parents, preschool children, common activities, relationship

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Titular ethnic group in Kazakhstan: psychological aspects of valuable sphere

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Abstract

The article describes the results of valuable sphere structure's studies of the titular ethnos of Kazakhstan. The analysis reveals the factorial structure of value orientations of the titular ethnos of Kazakhstan. This analysis allows approach to the study of ethno-psychological features of valuable sphere of the Kazakh people in modern social and cultural conditions.

Theoretical foundations of the research are primarily the concepts of values of S. Schwartz and M. Rokeach. The methods used: value questionnaire (VQ) of Schwarz, method of studying the value orientations of M. Rokeach, technique for diagnosing system of value orientations by E.B. Fantalova in modification of L.S. Kolmogorova and D.V. Kashyrskiy, modification of Kuhn technique "Who am I?".

100 respondents from 20 to 55 years old participated in the study. Latent factors in order of their relevance to the structure of the value sphere of the titular ethnic group in Kazakhstan are: competence; purposefulness, orderliness; focus on environmental appropriateness, no opposition between man and nature; diligence and commitment, a conscious preservation of traditions; harmony (balance between internal and external conditions); equality; activity aimed at the realization of their own and others' interests; the right to liberty; permanent physical and spiritual perfection; wisdom; employment; ability to act for themselves and others; spirituality from a sense of community, usefulness to others; self-confidence; perseverance; ability to defend their views; national treasure belonging to the titular ethnic groups in Kazakhstan; initiative.

Thus, the results of the factor analysis allow us to conclude that the structure of the titular ethnic group valuable sphere of Kazakhstan is multifaceted and includes both individual and group, social values.

Key words: Value sphere, values, factor analysis, the structure of the value sphere, ethno psychological features of valuable sphere

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Examining the Relationship Between Reading Comprehension And Academic Achievement of Secondary School Students

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Abstract

The present study examines the relationship between reading comprehension and academic achievement of secondary school children. The study is conducted via survey research method. 160 male, 186 female; a total of 346 students participated in the research.

In order to collect data about the personal information of the students “Student Information Form” developed by the researcher, and “Reading Comprehension Scale”, also developed by the researcher, are used.

In the present study, Pearson Correlation Coefficient calculation is used in order to determine the relation between the general academic achievement, Turkish lesson academic achievement average, and reading comprehension.

The findings of the study reveal that the students with high reading comprehension scores have also high general academic achievement scores and Turkish lesson academic achievement scores averages compared to the students with low reading comprehension scores

Key words: reading, comprehension, academic achievement, Turkish instruction

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Network learning as educational principle in higher education

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Abstract

The traditional way of educating nature management students, in which students are trained to solve relative simple and technical problems, is no longer sufficient. Societies are changing towards a network society, which makes nature management more complex.

This asks for new competences and new learning strategies in nature management education. Therefore, VHL University of Applied Sciences started two pilots in 2012. The goal of these pilots was to create a network of lecturers and students, nature conservationists and local stakeholders to create sustainable and innovative nature management strategies within a local context. Network learning was the leading learning strategy in both these pilots.

In this paper we use these pilots for an evaluation of network learning as an educational principle for higher education. The pilot will be assessed on criteria based on three perspectives: 1) the changing society, 2) educational theories and 3) theory on learning networks. The paper results in recommendations for further use of network learning as educational principle in general.

Key words:

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Analysis of music education objectives in learning domains

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Abstract

The purpose of the study was to find out the extent to which Slovenian general education teachers follow the principles of balanced music objectives planning in the prevailing affective, psychomotor and cognitive domains. The research sample involves 372 Slovenian student and current general education teachers who, working in pairs, prepared 186 lesson plans for music education. The research results showed that the majority of the musical objectives planned in this study pertained to the psychomotor domain, followed by the cognitive objectives and by the least represented objectives of the affective domain.

Key words: affective, psychomotor and cognitive domains, balanced music education planning, general education teachers

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The Unidentifiable: Primary School Children of Czech Citizens Whose Mother Tongue Is Not Czech

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Abstract

Discussions on integrating students whose mother tongue is not Czech into the Czech education system tend to concentrate on foreign nationals but often fail to take into account those students whose parents are Czech citizens but whose mother tongue is not the language of majority society. Data from the Czech population census confirm that there are a significant number of such people in the Czech Republic. It is therefore possible that at least some children who have Czech citizenship in fact grow up in a foreign-language environment and therefore may have difficulties with the Czech language when they start school. Nevertheless, there are very few measures designed to support the linguistic integration of those children whose mother tongue is not Czech. By analysing the statistical data from population censuses the article aims to show that the potential number of such children currently significant and may even increase in the future.

Key words: Pupils; Czech mother tongue; minority; nationality; foreigners

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Students' attitudes towards different team building methods

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Abstract

Purpose of Study: This study examined attitudes towards different teamwork constructs and team-building methods in a sample of university students enrolled in either Bachelor's (N=157) or Master's (N=85) in Science programs in Extreme Psychology. Attitudes towards teamwork and three different types of team-building methods were assessed twice, once before the team-building training course, and a second time after participation in team-building activity.

Methods: Questionnaire completed and returned within a week.

Findings and Results: On the whole, students gave positive evaluations to the efficiency of team-building methods and were willing to be involved in team-building activities. They highlighted the fact that the team formation process was an adequate model of professional relations and interactions for extreme psychologists. Results also indicated a number of significant mean discrepancies in groups of respondents, but no systematic pattern appeared to underline these differences: At the same time, moderate to high pre-test - post-test convergence pointed to considerable changes of student attitudes toward teamwork after going through team-building exercises.

Conclusions and Recommendations: It is important that psychologist training programs incorporate team-building methods, and are designed to take actual professional tasks into account, as well as areas in which students may feel less confident.

Key words: Teamwork; cooperation; collaboration; attitudes; team building types; team based education; educational outcomes; efficiency

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The perception of primary stress in initially extended simple sentences: A demonstration by computer in foreign language teacher training

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Abstract

The perception of primary stress in initially extended simple sentences: A demonstration by computer in foreign language teacher training

Key words: Primary stress; suprasegmental phoneme; accuracy; intelligibility

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Didactical Phenomena of Unusual Geometry Tasks in Teaching of Stereometry

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Abstract

The National Program of Education Mathematics – ISCED 3A specifies the mathematical standards at Slovak secondary schools. In the curriculum of stereometry, the topic of the planar sections of solids is included due to the development of the spatial imagination of students. For this purpose, the students solve the selected types of tasks by using special methods and strategies. Obvious different forms of visualisations are used, though the results are not satisfactory. The cause of this phenomenon seems to be insufficient training of the future teachers of mathematics due to different reasons. It appears the first one is the problematic usage of different didactical software for the transformation of the educational process. The second one is the impact of motivational factors of non-standard tasks and their solutions. In our paper we continue the research which was already carried out. We analyse in detail the conclusions of Slovak and Czech mathematics experts and university teachers whose research field is focused on the development of spatial and geometric imagination. Based on the findings that the subject area is developed mainly through planar sections of solids, we propose a new inspirational type of task on sections of cube building special solids constructed from multiple cubes. We aim to show the possibilities of using geometric software Cabri 3D to attain the problems' solutions, and we also analyse various aspects of the educational process in regard to the implementation of using appropriate geometry software in teaching support.

Key words: stereometry, tasks, cube buildings, planar section, students, solution

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Psychological research of perception features of a parental position and self-relation in different cultures

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Abstract

The relation to the self is the basis of construction of the attitude towards other people and is one of the most actual cross-cultural aspects

The culture is the set of behavior models which person acquires in the process of a growth and acceptance of self cultural role [2]. Novelty of work is caused by the lack of experimental data in the field of self-relation and its interrelation perception of a parental position in different cultures. In the present study following methods were used: 1) method of "Self-attitude" of S.R. Pantileeva-"MIS"; 2 . Technique "Teenagers about parents" (L. I. Wasserman, I.A. Gorkova, E.E. Romitsyna - ADOR), 3. Technique "The child parental relations of teenagers" (DROP).

Scales named as "Cooperation, democratism, empathy, and acceptance" - all these factors are on one pole and positively influence to the subjects. Because these factors are positive and closely connected with each other, they are more suitable and desirable for young men in respect of the self-relation and stabilizing the relations with their parents ($r_s \geq 0,5$; $p \leq 0,01$).

As a results of the study the features of parental education perception, the self-relation in various cultures showed that in general young men possess rather positive attitude towards themselves, self-confidence and safe idea according to perception of people around. Thus, the self-relation scale has significant differences among two cultures, and that character of the self-relation is caused by features perception of a parental position.

Key words: self-awareness, self-attitude, cross-cultural psychology, child-parent relationships, self-concept, perception of parental position, identity formation.

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Non-verbal Communication in Music Lessons

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Abstract

In our study, which we carried out with a group of primary-school children aged between six and nine, we were interested in how musical language is shaped through group improvisations. Narrative dimensions of improvisation were studied through activities of Orff-Schulwerk, the specific music-movement education approach which, apart from music activities, puts great emphasis on development of social competences. The research was designed as a phenomenological case study. The findings show that, contrary to Orff-Schulwerk premises, children had yet to learn musical language and how to use it. It also turned out that teacher's expectations regarding the use of non-verbal communication are inversely proportional to the successful use of musical language. In line with Orff-Schulwerk's principles, rhythm proved to be the primary musical language parameter, as it was through rhythm that children first reached the sensations of others and reflectively depicted events from everyday life.

Key words: group impovisation; mucic language; non-verbal communication; Orff-Schulwerk

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Communicative approach and Grammar Translation Method in Teaching Vocabulary

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Abstract

The purpose of this research paper was to answer the question of how vocabulary should be taught and learned in a communicative way. Illustrating a comparison table between the traditional and communicative vocabulary teaching from the theory of two methods (grammar translation method and communicative language teaching) to practices, this paper showed that vocabulary should be taught communicatively

Key words: vocabulary, communicative vocabulary teaching, traditional vocabulary teaching

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Parents in Gifted Teenagers' Perspective

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Abstract

The main goal of the present article is to study teenagers' attitude to their parents. The awkward age is known to be the most difficult time both for growing children and their parents. The poll we have conducted shows how children think about their parents and it is "Teenagers about Parents" (the Russian variant). It was created by E. Shaefer in 1965. This questionnaire studies parents' mindsets, behavior and parenting practices as teenagers see them. The adopted version of the poll was offered by Z. Mateychik and P. Rzhichan in 1983. During the international scientific cooperation of clinical psychological laboratory at the Institute after V. M. Bekhterev with the psycho-diagnostical Institute (Bratislava, Slovakia) this poll was tested on 13-18 year-old teenagers in Russia as it had been provided by the authors of the modification. We conducted the survey among the students of IT-Lyceum of Kazan Federal University. It is the specialized high school with profound studying of natural sciences: Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Informatics for intellectually gifted students of 7-11 classes. The results of testing were processed and submitted in the article.

Key words: upbringing, family education, gifted children, gifted teenagers, family relationship, parents of gifted children.

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The position of students – foreigners in Czech primary schools

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Abstract

The first extensive research, which charts the position of students - foreigners in Czech primary schools, revealed a number of interesting facts. The Czech Republic becomes the state which is aim for many people

who start there their new life, in these days it is necessary to flexibly react to this situation. Currently Czech education has not comprehensive conception of care for these students. Although the number of these students is increasing. It turns out that the problems they have to face are not small. By far the problem is not only the language barrier. Different sociocultural background, traditions, religion and others ethnic specifics have influence on the life of foreigners in our country. Classroom is important socialization environment for every child. They learn there communication, cooperation, they experience prestige arising from social status in the hierarchy of the class group. The research focuses on the sociometric status of students – foreigners. It examines the factors which affect this position. The research launching an open discussion about possibilities how we can influence the present situation in the Czech primary schools and how to create a favourable climate for entry of students – foreigners into Czech classes.

Key words:

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The Impact of Social Networks on Undergraduate Students Learning Foreign Language

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Abstract

The aim of this paper is to identify under which circumstances undergraduate students use social networking sites in order to learn foreign language. The study was conducted with students studying at the Near East University, Department of Tourism and Hospitality Management, Department of Computer Education and Educational Technology, Department of Teaching for the Mentally Retarded, Department of Music Education and Department of Mathematics teaching. In total 85 students agreed to take part in this study. Research was conducted during the fall semester 2013-2014. Students were asked to express the extent of their feeling while learning foreign language through social networking sites for each of the 16 positive items on a 5-point Likert scale. The reliability of the questionnaire was measured through Cronbach Alpha, yielding a score of 0.89. The findings of the study indicate that even though students learn foreign language through social networks, they are still apprehensive in communicating with one another.

Key words: Language, Social Networking, Learning

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THEORITICAL VIEW TO THE APPROACH OF THE EDUTAINMENT

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Abstract

INTRODUCTION

Edutainment is a derived word that states a mixture of entertainment and education or marriage of education with entertainment (Colace and co., 2006). The main purpose of this application is to support education with entertainment. The first person who first suggests the idea of edutainment is Robert Heyman from American National Geography Academic Union. David Buckingham who is an expert of mass education in England indicated that the concept of edutainment which needs visual material is a style of teaching type mixed with game or mixed with 'the game of describing with least word' (Wang and co., 2007). The main purpose of

Edutainment is to attract student's attention and to make him focus on events and teaching materials during learning (Okan, 2003). The purpose of this study is to present the importance of the edutainment approaches.

METHOD

In this study, a general assessment is made of edutainment approach. As a research tool to researchers of the survey method was used.

RESULT

When learners needs are taken into account, teaching methods which will be chosen in the direction of qualities which is wanted to improve in learners, cost of education and training, physical conditions of teaching environment, experience and the level of knowledge which is had, attitudes about teaching methods have importance in reaching the aims which are wanted to be used.

CONCLUSION Edutainment approach provides students with having a good time and experiencing the way of creating, using information resources and teaching methods. Students' enthusiasm and excitement can be increased in order to teach them information and subjects which are difficult to learn thanks to Edutainment approach which appeared from combination of education and entertainment. Teaching can be made more easily by attracting learners' attention and making subject and information which will be taught with Edutainment approach more enjoyable.

Key words:

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Curriculum and Instruction: From the Perspectives of Academicians

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Abstract

The purpose of this study is to investigate graduate programs in the field of curriculum and instruction depending on the professors' opinion. This study is a descriptive research and qualitative data are used during the analysis process. Participants of this research are the professors who instruct at the universities in Turkey in which the graduate program of curriculum and instruction actively works. With this scope, phenomenological design is applied to this study. In phenomenological design, researchers aim to analyze situations deeply in order to understand and describe the experiences of the participants. In qualitative studies, during the data collection and data analyses periods, the experiences, the skills, the history, the knowledge and even the stereotypes of the participants are very important resources for the researchers (Gay, Mills, Airasian, Peter, 2009,176). Among 27 academicians nine of the academicians participated voluntarily. For data collection a structured interview form has prepared by the researchers. In the form there are 13 questions four of them are open ended questions and nine of them are demographic information questions. Interview form has sent to the participants via e-mail. As a second step descriptive content analysis is done by the researchers. Open ended questions are about the purpose and the function of the graduate programs, besides professors answered the questions about the problems related with the programs and its trajectory in the future. According to the results of this study, the purpose of the curriculum and instruction department is to raise specialists, academicians, researchers and intellectuals who contribute to the field of educational sciences with their studies. Designing, implementing and evaluating the curriculum has been indicated as the most important function of this department. In addition, participants highlight the problems about employment and low quality of the studies conducted in the curriculum and instruction department.

Key words: Curriculum, instruction, academic staff, graduate programme

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Exploring undergraduate student teachers' perceptions about their professional identity formation. A case study in Greece

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Abstract

In this empirical study, we sought to explore undergraduate student teachers' perceptions about specific aspects of their professional identity formation, based on the current literature on the topic. Research data were collected from the two Departments of Education at the University of Patras, Greece, by using anonymously filled in questionnaires, which were distributed to undergraduate student-teachers at their fourth (last) year of study, who were found in the classes during the days of the survey. We then distributed 250 questionnaires to undergraduate students and received 205 of them (response rate: 82%). Two complementary approaches of quantitative and qualitative analysis were applied. Both approaches revealed that the majority of students underlined their personal willingness and motivation to become teachers. They also highlighted the importance of specific pedagogical aspects of the professional identity formation, which were mainly related to their moral, social, and emotional involvement in the everyday school life. In addition, they reported that emotional identity exists interdependently with the prescribed role, which, according to the relevant discussion, entails their occupational duties that they have to carry out. Finally, they stressed the importance of their practice at schools as they were offered the opportunity to get experienced about their future role as teachers.

In conclusion, it can be pointed out that the undergraduate students of our sample seemed to perceive themselves as teachers. Our data are in accordance with other research findings, which support the idea that teachers' professional identity formation, which appears to be a complicated process, begins from the undergraduate studies. Insights into undergraduate student teachers' perceptions about their professional identity formation, who are coming from different cultures and environments, provide important information to the field and contribute to the investigation of this issue in a comparative and international context.

Key words:

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Examination of Student Control Ideologies and Leadership Behaviors Of Physical Education and Sports Teachers in Terms of Different Variables

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Hakan YAVAŞ,

Abstract

Purpose: Teachers are usually said to have problems about classroom management and student behaviors at instructional mediums. Each teacher develops a control mechanism of his or her own to overcome these problems. The aim of this study is to examine student control ideologies and leadership behaviors of physical education and sports teachers in terms of gender and job experience variables.

Method: Participants of the study were 45 female, 69 male, totally 114 volunteer physical education and sports teachers working for Ministry of Education. Data collection tools used for the study were "Leadership Behaviors Scale" developed by Yılmaz (2007) and "Student Behavior Control Approaches Survey". Data were analyzed by using T-test and MANOVA.

Findings: As a result of the analysis, it was found out that there was a significant difference at supportive leadership sub-dimension in terms of gender at the comparison of gender and job experience variables. However, there was not any significant difference in terms of peremptory leadership. As for occupational seniority, there was a significant difference at peremptory leadership sub-dimension; nevertheless, there was no difference at supportive leadership sub-dimension.

Result: Student control ideologies and leadership behaviors of physical education and sports teachers in terms of gender and job experience variables were analyzed in this study. The reason for having significant difference at supportive leadership between female and male teachers at the scale might stem from females' being more understanding than males by birth. As to the results about occupational seniority variable, the reason for having significant difference at peremptory leadership sub-dimension might stem from teachers' being more controller as they spend more time in their occupations.

Key words:

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Determining the cause of financial information timeliness

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Abstract

All stakeholders need a timely financial information to make their decision, especially in an environment where information asymmetry exist. Moreover, it is not a timely financial information that is needed by stakeholders but also a good quality of financial information. Our research, using samples of all listed mining corporations in Indonesia, are determining the cause of financial information timeliness. Incorporating corporation related information and quality of financial information related information, we found that profitability and auditor opinion have influence over financial information timeliness where profitable corporation and corporation with unqualified audit opinion tend to disclose their financial information faster.

Key words: Financial information, timeliness, information asymmetry, profitability, auditor opinion

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Using Drama Therapy and Storytelling in developing social competences in adults with intellectual disabilities of residential centers

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Abstract

The paper approaches the problematic of the adults with severe intellectual disability who are institutionalized for a long time in residential centres. The subjects included in our study are aged between 20 and 42 years old and have been institutionalized from early ages. The long-term institutionalization effects are reflected in language development, social abilities, mental sanity, progressive personality transformation. The most known

phenomenon associated with the effects of institutionalization is “hospitalism phenomenon” manifested through passiveness, apathy, lack of interest. As the subjects we are studying show this panoply of characteristics, specific to children abandoned in state institutions, we’ve set ourselves to make the effects of drama therapy sessions and storytelling relevant for the social competencies of adults with severe intellectual disability, institutionalized in residential centres. For this, we used Innsbruck Social Competence Questionary for Adults with learning difficulties or mental disabilities (I-S-K-I-E). The therapy sessions have been constructed following the base structure: the warm-up, main event and closure. The results revealed an increase in social and communication skills (in the field of language acquisition) and a decrease in disturbed behavior. Creative work sessions offered alternative ways of communication for the nonverbal adults and opportunities to work in group. Through art, an adult with severe intellectual disability can explore the physical and social environment, address past and current emotional issues, can create a role and reach a state of satisfaction from imaginary events.

Key words: adults with intellectual disabilities, institutionalization, residential centers, drama therapy, storytelling

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Teachers’ facilitation between work and family roles: myth or reality?

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Abstract

With the Italian school system undergoing important changes, administrators are faced with several issues, such as how to sustain teacher performance, motivate their collaborators and smooth the attrition between work and family roles. Teachers are usually expected to experience high levels of work family facilitation. Facilitation is defined as the extent to which participation at work (home) is made easier by virtue of the experiences, skills, and opportunities gained or developed at home (work).

The purpose of the present study is to shed light on the facilitation between work and family roles experienced by teachers. We posit that different types of facilitation experienced in the direction work to family will have a positive impact on organizational (i.e. organizational citizenship behavior) and personal outcomes (i.e. work satisfaction).

124 teachers were interviewed in the study. The self report questionnaire was structured in two parts: the first one included demographic variables (e.g. gender), the second was dedicated to work family facilitation and work outcomes (e.g. work satisfaction). Hierarchical multiple regressions were performed to test the hypotheses.

Findings show that teachers work satisfaction is influenced by psychological facilitation, while organizational citizenship behavior benefits from time-based facilitation.

Our results confirm the general belief that teachers experience a certain amount of facilitation between work and family roles. School principals may take into account especially the importance of time-based facilitation on the performance of pro-social behaviors.

Key words: teachers; work family facilitation; work satisfaction; organizational citizenship behavior

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Involving of parenting through informal education for children less than three years of age in the Czech Republic

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Abstract

This paper presents informal education through parent and child activities. Phenomenon of early education became a Czech policy priority and there is few processes, which proceeding nowadays as a curriculum reform and social, political and pedagogical problem, how to put children two years old into kindergartens although institutional pre-primary education starts in age of three. It covers the context of family and community learning. The article brings view into a variety of informal activities for parents and children less than three years of age at the beginning of the educational path in Czech Republic from point of view of parents.

Key words: childhood, family, family culture, learning family as learning society, parent education, informal education, early educational activities for children zero-to-three, parenting style, grounded theory.

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"Studying The Effect Of Mental Sets In Solving Of Anagram Problems"

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Abstract

Introduction : Mental sets are clues in which these are coded and stored in people's memory already, and retrieval is now necessary. The present study investigated the mental sets role in solving of anagram problems.

Method : This study is experimental with repeated measurement design. The population was master of science students of clientele's central library. A sample of 20 male and female students selected by accidental sampling. Each of them were under taken four of different varieties of measurement by anagram card as experimental instrument. Research data were analyzed by appropriate statistical descriptive procedure and repeated measurements ANOVA test.

Results : there was significant discrepancy between names of people and names of country with and without set ($P < 0/05$). But, there was no significant difference between names of people and names of country with set and names of people and names of country without set.

Conclusion : Mental sets and clues effect on the solving of anagram solving and facilitate the solving them.

Key words: mental sets, clue, problem solving, Anagram

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The Importance of Motivation Theories in Terms of Education Systems

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Abstract

Due to the nature of organizations, every organization have certain goals that are need to be realized. It can be said that realization of organizational goals effectively, will be ensure easier by highly motivated individuals. Validity of this situation is acceptable for educational organizations that have an important goal as educating individuals who will shape the future of society. Therefore, to achieve the goals of educational organizations; motivation of education employees like inspectors, school administrators and especially teachers is a point to be considered. In this study which will be prepared using literature review, motivation theories take place on working life and scientific studies in educational field about motivational theories will be mentioned. And in the light of these informations the importance of motivation theories in terms of education systems will be discussed.

Key words: Motivation theories, education employees.

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Examination of the Predicting Effect of the Resiliency Levels of Parents on the Resiliency Levels of Preschool Children

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Abstract

The purpose of this study is to examine the predicting effect of the resiliency levels of parents on the resiliency levels of preschool children. The sample group of the study consisted of 110 children aged 5-6 receiving the preschool education, 110 mothers and 110 fathers in the province of Denizli. Data collection tools, used in the study, included The Children's Ego Resiliency Scale for children and the Family Resilience Scale-FRS for parents. The Children's Ego Resiliency Scale was filled out by teachers. The Family Resilience Scale-FRS, on the other hand, was filled out by parents separately. Simple Linear Regression Analysis was used to analyse the data. According to results, mothers' self-efficacy levels significantly predicted children's resiliency levels. Mothers' challenge commitment to life and control levels didn't not significantly predicted children's resiliency levels. Also fathers' challenge commitment to life and self-efficacy levels significantly predicted children's resiliency levels. Fathers' control levels didn't not significantly predicted children's resiliency levels.

Key words: Resiliency, preschool children, mother, father.

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An examination of leisure participation, family assessment and life satisfaction in university students

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Abstract

Families are found to be having important role for providing leisure opportunities for their members and also recreation activities are expected to contribute to family cohesion. Therefore, the aim of this study is to examine the relationship between leisure participation with family, family assessment and life satisfaction in university students of Akdeniz University. Sample of the study consisted of 985 students taking elective physical education courses (mean age=21.67±2.18). A questionnaire consisting of demographic questions, questions concerning leisure participation, family assessment scale and life satisfaction scales were utilized for data collection. Besides descriptive statistics, correlation, MANOVA, student t-tests were applied. According to the results, some subscales of family assessment had significant relations with life satisfaction ($p<0.05$). Life satisfaction was higher in students who participated in recreational activities longer and more frequently than the other students ($p<0.001$). As family is the basic unit of the society, students get their habits of leisure participation in family environment. Thus it is important to gain an understanding of family leisure and its contributions to the student's life.

Key words: Leisure participation, family assessment, life satisfaction, physical education and sport students

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Children's Levels of Comprehending Connectives

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Abstract

Connectives which organize inter-sentence relations are signs of proficiency in textual level. For this reason, the knowledge of connectives indicates a high cognitive level regarding language acquisition. Determination of children's knowledge of connectives might provide information about their levels in the language acquisition process. This descriptive study adopted survey method. The purpose of the study is to determine children's levels of comprehending connectives in Turkish language. Based on this main problem, research questions are which types of connectives children can understand better in terms of structure and meaning, and whether children's levels of understanding connectives differ according to gender, educational background of parents and socioeconomic status of children. The participants of the study are 90 preschool students from two different schools at different socioeconomic status in Antalya. All of the participants are 5 years old. Data were collected via Test of Comprehending Connectives, developed by researchers. Percentages and frequencies were calculated, and independent samples t-test and one-way ANOVA were carried out for data analysis of data. According to the results, participants were most successful at discourse adverbials and least successful at coordinating connectives in terms of syntax. With regard to semantic, participants were most successful at temporal, and least successful at comparative connectives. In addition, the data analyses revealed no significant difference in terms of children's genders, socio-economic status and parents' educational background. However, it was found that participants who do not have siblings were more successful than the ones who have siblings. Based on the findings, content centered instruction is recommended while teaching connectives regardless of students' demographic characteristics.

Key words: Connectives, cohesion, textuality, language acquisition, early childhood education

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The Transmission of Socio-Cultural Codes in Teaching Turkish as a Foreign Language

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Abstract

Having a deep historical background and literary tradition, Turkish language has been a major language of culture and civilization. The power and rich culture of the Turkish nation has affected the language; therefore, Turkish language has survived throughout very different and wide areas. Learning and teaching of Turkish language which is the transporter and transmitter of Turkish culture/id has a major significance in terms of maintenance of Turkish culture. Especially, teaching the people who are especially alien to the Turkish culture Turkish language requires more extensive studies.

Turkish has been begun to be taught as a foreign language hundred years ago and in this particular, a lot of qualified courses have been given to the learner. It is observed that there have been important improvements in the teaching of Turkish to the foreign learners in recent years. The increase of the centers where Turkish language is taught, in either domestic areas or foreign areas, the diversity of sources prepared for the teaching of Turkish, and other studies for this field confirm this view. In this study, by emphasizing the necessity of cultural transmission through the teaching of Turkish language as a second language, it has been discussed which cultural elements should be transmitted in this process, and the significance of integrity of language teaching and cultural transmission has been emphasized.

Key words: Language Teaching, cultural transmission, and Turkish

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Innovation of practical skills in the field of teaching microprocessor technologies

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Abstract

The European labor market requires qualified young graduates in information and communication technologies (ICT). One of the subdomains of ICT is microprocessor technologies, which are necessary in the field of the "internet of things, smart cities, sensor networks," etc. The teaching of this field cannot be properly done without practical seminars and workshops, where students can try elementary and advanced programming techniques on-site with actual hardware. This paper provides detailed information about implementing the actual student development board known as AVS Kit into the Czech Technical University syllabus, mainly in the master's subject of Embedded System Applications. The authors discuss different issues in the teaching of scientific subjects. Recommendations as to how to interconnect theoretical study with practical skills are provided in the conclusion of this paper.

Key words: scientific education, development board, Embedded Systems

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Determining the intonation contours of compound-complex sentences uttered by Turkish prospective teachers of English

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Abstract

In academic speaking and writing, compound-complex sentences are hardest to articulate and write because they are longer and require certain pauses via chunking information into smaller units for nuances of emphasis in the flow of sentence so as to promote the audibility and perception. By structure, a sentence with at least two independent clauses plus one dependent clause is called a compound-complex sentence. Since the compound-complex sentences combine elements of compound and complex sentences, they are the most sophisticated type of sentences that can be used in speech or writing. Native speakers can break clauses in sentences into intonation units (or meaning units) of different lengths by depending on their own intended meaning. The aim of the research is to pinpoint where 30 freshmen of the English language Education Department of Faculty of Education at Hacettepe University in the Department of English Language Education insert the pauses (sustained juncture phonemes) as intonation boundaries in the structure of compound-complex sentences. In this research, the corpus will consist of 15 compound-complex sentences with two main clauses and one subordinate clause. They will be downloaded from Longman Dictionary of English (with CD) by means of Audacity downloading program 1.2.6, which are uttered in 44100Hz in North American English (NAE). By the principles of Error Hunt Approach and Advanced-learner Approach, these 15 sentences will be compared and contrasted with the recorded utterances of 10 PhD students to determine the pausing skills of Turkish professional teachers of English.

Key words: Sustained juncture; pausing; stress; pitch; intonation unit

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Cultivating Leadership into Secondary Mathematics Classrooms: Putting Belief into Practice

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Abstract

As teachers, an effective leadership is critical for the success of an educational organization. Leadership is also one of the key professional responsibilities. However, in facing many administrative tasks, day-to-day problems and issues, students' achievement targets and demanding deadlines, leadership often remains an abstract concept even for those in the leadership positions such as teachers. Therefore, in this study, we aim to identify the most common type of leadership possessed by secondary mathematics teachers in Brunei Darussalam. We also investigated whether mathematics teacher-leaders are putting their beliefs into action in their teaching practice. There were three leadership styles identified in the study: Autocratic, Democratic and Laissez-faire. In order to meet the objectives of this small-scale case study, a questionnaire was adapted and distributed to 17 secondary mathematics teachers in two secondary schools in Brunei Darussalam. Pearson's correlation was used to identify the factors affecting teacher's leadership style. One of the findings from the quantitative analyses indicated that as the teaching experience of teachers in mathematics increases, they are more likely to adopt the autocratic style of leadership. Subsequently, the qualitative part of the study involved two classroom observations and further interviews with two selected teachers from each of the participating schools. The analyses revealed that the two teachers, who practiced democratic and autocratic leadership styles respectively, do put what they believe into their classroom practices.

Key words: Language Teaching, cultural transmission, and Turkish

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The Relationship between Cultural Identity and Learning

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Abstract

Researchers and education theorists have been trying to understand the relationship between the learning and the social world. It has been a challenging research to integrate cultural identity into learning. Identity formation is a long complicated process and is gradually developed in social surroundings. Cultural backgrounds of learners are significant because ethnic, racial, linguistic, social, religious or economic differences can cause cultural disconnection leading corruption of motivation to learning. On the other hand, education inevitably brings shifts, however, learners' cultural identity plays a significant role in transmission of such values. The purpose of this study is to describe the relationship between learning and cultural identity. This research was done in a deductive approach which is a qualitative study and it is a descriptive and exploratory. Available research on learning at schools and cultural identity supports positive correlations between the two as it draws on approaches that utilise learners' social and cultural experiences. Researchers have investigated successful learners and found valuable insights into cultural identity. Teachers should be aware of the cultural identities of the students and should be able to designate their learning characteristics and motivation enhancing their learning achievement.

Key words: Education, learning, cultural identity

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Analysis of Science Teacher Candidates' Environmental Knowledge, Environmental Behavior and Self-Efficacy through a Project called "Environment and Energy with Professional Science Education"

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Abstract

Environmental education can be defined as raising environmental consciousness among every segment of society, bringing for the awareness to environment-friendly, permanent and positive behavioral change. Individuals who are environment-friendly, aware of the environmental problems and seeking solutions when needed can be educated by the teachers who have sufficient knowledge and experience and know the importance of environmental education. In line with this purpose, then a true project titled as 'Environment and Energy with Professional Science Education' has been put into action. As stated in the feedback of the participants, it has been of the opinion that this project is remarkable and useful in regards with supporting applied training and practice. In this context the purpose of this study is to identify the effect and permanence of the TUBITAK (Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey) project titled as 'Environment and Energy with Professional Science Education' on environmental knowledge, environmental behavior and self-efficacy beliefs of environmental education. The study based on quantitative research was carried out in accordance with pre-test, post-test and retention test design. Participants of this study consist of 37 teacher candidates selected through purposeful sampling among 286 students, who applied to the project held between the dates 17th-23rd June, 2014. As data collection tools, "Environmental Knowledge Test" developed by Kışoğlu (2009), reliability co-efficient of which is calculated as (α) 0.64 and "Environmental Behavior Scale" with (α) 0.79, and "Self-Efficacy Beliefs Through Environmental Education Scale" developed by Özdemir (2009) with 0.76 were used. SPSS programme was used to analyze the data and One-way ANOVA for independent variable was applied to demonstrate the differences between the means scores. LSD was used for multiple comparison test. Data analyses reveal that there is a significant difference in favor of post-test and retention test as a result of pre-test, post-test and retention test analyses of the Environmental Knowledge Test, Environmental Behavior Scale and Self-Efficacy Beliefs Through Environmental Education Scale. In the other words, it has been observed that with the environmental education project, statistically significant

increase was found in the participants' environmental knowledge scores, environmental self-efficacy beliefs scores and environmental behavior scores. This case asserts that activities carried out and applied training are effective and permanent. It is expected that teacher candidates will use this experience in their professional and future life.

Key words: Pro-Fe(Science)ssional Education, Environmental Education, Environmental Behavior and Self-Efficacy

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A neuro-educational study of the development of the creativity-based teaching program and its effect

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Abstract

This study aims at exploring a possibility of developing a creativity-based teaching program needed for enhancing prospective teachers' creative potentials based on the theories of Sawyer and Renzulli. Neuroimaging tools such as fMRI were used to identify effects of the program on pre-service teachers' neural activations on divergent thinking measured primarily by the Torrance Tests of Creative Thinking (TTCT). Since the research is still in progress, we present a theoretical model for the teaching program, and preliminary test results of comparing changes of neural recruitments in students' brain participated in fMRI with the TTCT.

Key words: creativity-based teaching programs; divergent thinking; the TTCT; fMRI

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Student assessment strategies in Portugal: an analysis of TALIS 2013

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Abstract

The OECD Teaching and Learning International Survey (TALIS) is the largest international survey of teachers. This survey looks at the features that influence effective teaching, such as teachers' initial training and their professional development, the feedback they receive on their teaching, the climate in the classrooms and schools, their satisfaction with their job, as well as the teaching, learning and assessment strategies they use in the classroom. In this paper it is proposed to (i) analyze the TALIS 2013 data concerning the assessment strategies used by low secondary (ISCED level 2) Portuguese teachers and (ii) compare the use of the assessment strategies made by low secondary Portuguese teachers' with those used by other European teachers.

Key words: creTeaching, Learning, TALIS, Portugal

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Developing creativity in teaching Digital Video courses at the Faculty of Informatics and Management

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Abstract

The paper deals with the issue of developing students' creativity in Digital Video courses at the Faculty of Informatics and Management. Generally, the era of analogue video-recordings has ended; it has been replaced by the new digital era. Companies keep offering new hardware and software, both for amateur and professional use. But the technology is not all; the way how technical and technological features of the new devices are used to their maximum extent is also important. Consequently, new skills are required from the users. This problem was addressed in the syllabus of the 'Digital Video' course at the Faculty of Informatics and Management, University of Hradec Kralove. The syllabus is divided into several parts. First, students learn how to use video-devices and how to design a good script. Second, they have hands-on practice in processing the video-recorded materials: being supported by the teacher they work on their individual semestral projects (in the first semester) or on team projects (in the second semester). They draft a real script, co-operate each having a special task in the process (director, cameraman, sound engineer, editor etc.). They can discuss all problems with the teacher, introduce new ideas and approaches, i.e. develop their creativity. At the end of the semester the teacher evaluates the final result and students present and discuss it with their peers. Students thus get evidence that theoretical knowledge is often not enough and hands-on practice is necessary to master the skills and apply a creative approach.

Key words: Teaching; digital video-recording; team work; creativity

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Images of Scientist: A Comparative Study of Gifted Students and Pre-service Teachers of Gifted Students

SEZEN CAMCI ERDOGAN,

Abstract

Gifted students are naturally drawn to science as a way of thinking because science taps their natural curiosity and imagination (Smutny & Von Fremd, 2004). When we consider their special interest and natural potential about science, gifted and talented students are assumed that they will be prior people who make science as forms of their lives and who contribute science creatively. There are several factors which effect gifted students' attitudes and perceptions on science and scientist. Also teachers' perceptions and attitudes toward science and scientists are dominant factors and these perceptions directly affect students' attitudes and perceptions (She & Fisher, 2002; Sönmez, 2007; Washton, 1971). So it is important to see how gifted students and teachers imagine scientist and stereotypical their imaginations. This study will compare the perceptions (images) of scientists of gifted students and pre-service teachers of gifted student. To collect data within the framework of this research, Draw A Scientist Test- DAST (Chambers, 1983) and open ended questions will be used. Both qualitative and quantitative procedures will be utilized to analyze the data of the study. The results will show more stereotypical side (gifted students or pre-service teachers) about images of scientist and the paper concludes with suggestions for science education and teaching science.

Key words: gifted, images, perceptions, pre-service teacher, scientist

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Cognitive- Behaviour Play Therapy for Children with Generalized anxiety disorder

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Abstract

The purpose of this study was to investigate the effectiveness of Cognitive- Behaviour play therapy in decreasing generalized anxiety disorder of children. In order to selected participates, two preschool of the 2nd educational district of Tehran, Iran were selected by cluster random sampling method. Then, the mothers completed the generalized anxiety disorder items of the Child Symptom Inventory (CSI-4). Based on mother's report, 12 preschoolers were selected and assigned to two experimental and control groups. The research design was pretest- posttest control group. The experimental group received 10 sessions of Cognitive-Behaviour play therapy(60 minutes a week) in groups. . Having finished the therapy sessions, Child Symptoms Inventory (CSI-4), parent's form, as a post-test was administrated for both group(experimental and control). Data were analyses using independent t test. The result indicated that Cognitive- Behaviour play therapy was effective on decreasing the score of the severity factor of generalized anxiety disorder in the posttest phase.

Key words: Generalized anxiety disorder, Cognitive behavioral play therapy, Children

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Body Language Using Skills of Teacher Candidates from Departments of Mathematics Education and Social Studies Education

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Abstract

This study aimed to examine if there was a difference between elementary education mathematics teacher candidates and social studies teacher candidates in terms of their use of body language. The study was carried out in the 2012-2013 academic year with 82 teacher candidates studying at the Departments of Mathematics Education and Social Studies in Faculty of Education, Uludag University. Within the purpose of the data collection, "Body Language Questionnaire (BLQ)" that was developed through benefiting from the questionnaire developed by Bağcı [8] in order to analyze students' opinions in terms of their teachers' use of body language was used in the study. The developed questionnaire was composed of 21 items. In the statistical analyses of the data obtained through administering the BLQ to the participants, independent samples t-test was used. It was found that the teachers' use of body language did not differ according to their gender. However, a significant difference was found between the mathematics education teacher candidates' and the social studies education teacher candidates' use of body language. This difference was in favor of the social studies teacher candidates. While they thought using body language was necessary, the mathematics education teacher candidates felt doubtful about using body language.

Key words: Body language, teacher candidate, communication skill

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RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN INFORMATION SELF-EFFICACY, STUDY HABITS, AND ACHIEVEMENT OF THE STUDENTS TAKING HISTORY OF TURKISH EDUCATION COURSE AT TERTIARY LEVEL

Gülay SARIÇOBAN,

Abstract

The aim of this current study is to see if any possible correlation exists between students' (who take the course of the history of Turkish Education) information self efficacy beliefs, their study habits, and their achievements. For this aim, 2nd year ELT students who have already taken the course of the history of Turkish education in their curriculum will be administered information literacy self-efficacy scale (ILSES) designed by Kurbanoglu, Akkoyunlu & Umay (2006) and the studying approaches scale revised by Biggs, Kember & Leung (2001) and adopted by Yilmaz and Orhan (2011). As to the data analysis, SPSS 20.0 statistical package will be utilized and the findings will be discussed accordingly. At the end of the study some recommendations will be made for both the instructors of this course and the students.

Key words: students' information literacy self-efficacy beliefs, study habits, achievement

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The Strategies used in Solving Algebra by Secondary School Repeating Students

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Abstract

This is a case study investigating ten Year 11 repeating students' strategies in solving three selected sub-topics in algebra; changing the subject of a given formula, factorising quadratic expression and solving quadratic equation using quadratic formula. In addition, students' error patterns in solving these topics were also identified. The qualitative analyses from students' written answers to a given test and their interviews revealed their thinking and strategies used in solving the given algebraic problems. Errors made by the students were analysed for patterns and their causes. Some of the origins of errors were failure to manipulate operation correctly in changing the subject of a given formula, incorrect selection of multiplication factors in factorisation of quadratic expression, and inability to recall correct quadratic formula in solving quadratic equation. There were other psychological factors noted as well such as carelessness and participants' lack of confidence in answering the questions.

Key words: Algebra; Error analysis; Secondary school repeaters; Strategies used

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Teaching backwards: Using computer output as a vehicle for self-directed study of financial theory

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Abstract

This paper presents an example of an approach to teaching financial theory at the college level that I call “teaching backwards”. In the more traditional approach, instructors begin by explaining financial theory, and proceed to give examples of the way this theory can be applied to a business problem, structuring data around the predetermined theory. When teaching backwards we reverse the process, suggesting various ways to organize and report data related to a business problem and then inviting students to analyze these data to identify relationships between the variables that enable them to see potential applications of financial theory, or even to discover the theory itself.

Key words: computer simulation, computer modeling, economics, financial economics, real estate finance, self-directed learning

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Job Satisfaction of the History Teachers At Tertiary Level

Gülay SARIÇOBAN,

Abstract

The ultimate aim of the study is to scrutinize job satisfaction levels of history teachers in relation to various factors such as gender, age, work experience, department types they are teaching in and willingness of choosing their profession. For this reason Minnesota Job Satisfaction Questionnaire with 20 items will be used and the data to be collected from those teachers currently teaching the history course at university level. At the end of the study some recommendations will be made for them.

Key words: job satisfaction, teachers, history, university

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Assessment of a Multi-staged Educational Program on Reproductive Health in Iran

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Abstract

Objective: Despite the availability of contraception in Iran, the rate of unintended pregnancy is still high. An effective educational program through correct deciding can be effectiveness in the decrease of maternal morbidity. The aim of this study was to determine the effects of multi-staged educational program on contraceptive methods in Iran.

Methods: This was a control trial study. By use of multi-staged method, 100 individuals in Hamedan city were selected and divided in two groups (50 subjects in the control group and 50 subjects in the experimental group). Data collection tools was a questionnaire. Data analyzed with use of SPSS software.

Results: In the first visit (pretest), most samples in two groups were used OCPs. Results of post-test showed changes so that the Prevalence use of methods was for OCPS 30%, Condom was increased from %10 to %30,

and Withdrawal was decreased from 16% to 2% in experimental group and it was for OCPS 30%, Condom 12%, and Withdrawal 24% in control group. Chi square showed a meaningful statistical different in frequency distribution of methods between two groups in posttest (PV= 0/0001).

Conclusions: Lack of awareness is a major contributing factor to contraceptive failures. GHATHER educational program through increase of women awareness effects more use of safe methods and this can be effect on decrease of unintended pregnancy and its side effects.

Key words: Multi-staged Method, Educational Program, reproductive health, GHATHER

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Comparison of Tax Morale of Turkish and Spanish Higher Education Students: The Samples of Sakarya University and the University of Zaragoza

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Abstract

Tax morale, which is defined as an intrinsic voluntary tax-paying motivation, is influenced by many factors such as educational, demographic, economical or socio-cultural background of individuals. The aim of this study is to determine the effects of education on higher education students who are future tax-payers and to make offers which can increase the level of tax morale of individuals and societies in line with these determinations. In this study context, a survey form on tax morale was implemented to the members of two different groups of higher education students who studied tax courses during their education in Turkey and Spain. This study tries to find out the similarities and differences between them. While the theoretical knowledge of tax morale is argued in the first part of the study, the comparison of data from Turkey (Sakarya University) and Spain (the University of Zaragoza) is made in the second part. The similarities and differences between countries are analyzed in the conclusion and consideration part.

Key words: Higher Education, Tax Education, Tax Morale

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The impact from free flow of 11 logistics services provider to Overall Equipment Efficiency in Beverage manufacturing firm in Thailand

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Abstract

This paper investigates the impact from free flow of 11 logistics service provider to overall equipment efficiency: OEE in beverage industrial sector in Thailand. The registered mail had been delivered to 293 factories. The analysis process had used factor analysis to construct factors of free flow of 11 logistics service provider and OEE; in addition, multiple regression analysis had been taken to test the impact from free flow of 11 logistics service provider to OEE. Then, the results of 78 firms show that free flow of 11 logistics service provider can be explained by one factor; OEE can be explained by two factors. Next, the finding suggests that free flow of 11 logistics service provider improves OEE, which greatly advance in availability and performance

efficiency in term of machine operating time and machine speed. Later, this is an opportunity for logistics service providers should highly develop the transfer service in the machine and tooling supply, for which notably improve OEE in beverage manufacturing firms in Thailand.

Key words: Free flow of 11 logistics services provider, Overall Equipment Efficiency, Beverage industrial sector in Thailand

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A Comparative Analysis of Higher Education Financing in Different Countries

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Abstract

Higher education is important for countries for several reasons. It is a significant step for countries in achieving higher levels of development. The quality and efficiency of higher education are necessary to reach a high level of country's human capital. Each country uses a different higher education financing model with a different success rate. While some countries apply mainly private sector financing, others employ higher education systems which are financed by public sectors. The contribution of public sector to higher education financing varies significantly in each country. There have been important developments in higher education systems in many countries recently. As a result of developments in this area, the balance between the contribution levels of private and public sectors to higher education financing has changed. The current study discusses the different applications of higher education financing systems and analyzes the contribution of different actors participating in higher education financing. Higher education financing systems in different countries are examined. The first part of this study focuses on the theoretical framework of higher education services, and the second part provides a comparison of the shares of the actors who contribute to higher education financing in the countries in question. Thus, a comparative analysis of higher education system among countries is conducted. The last part consists of conclusions and recommendations.

Key words: Higher Education Finance, Country Comparisons

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Network Interaction Trends in Higher Linguistic Education

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Abstract

The purpose of this study is to analyze the current situation in higher linguistic education and state the socio-historical conditions of network interaction. This study proposes our understanding of the concept of "network interaction in education", suggests the socio-historical conditions of network interaction development at three levels: the level of society as a whole, the level of education as a field of human activity, the level of direction of training- training of linguists. It highlights major network interaction trends in higher linguistic education: communicative orientation of interaction, globalization and openness, individualization and de-synchronization, variety and variability, polylogue character of interaction. From the outcome of our investigation it is possible to conclude that the higher linguistic education is the most open to the implementation of network interaction. Being aimed at intercultural interaction, involving students and

academic staff with a high level of language skills, it gets significant advantages over other Higher education areas in the process of integration into the global educational space.

Key words: Higher education, network interaction, language training, socio-historical conditions, development trends;

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THE EVALUATION OF PERCEIVED SOURCES OF STRESS IN DENTAL STUDENTS

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Abstract

Purpose: Stress among dental students has been a subject of interest for researchers from all over the world and dental students have been identified as having a high level of stress during their dental training. It is also well established that students' stress levels have implications on their emotional, physical, social and future professional well-being. The purpose of the study was to examine the perceived sources of stress and their associations among dental students enrolled at Baskent University in Turkey. Methods: The modified Dental Environment Stress (DES) questionnaire was administered to all undergraduate students during the 2013-2014 academic year (n=186). The data was statistically evaluated ($p < 0.05$). Findings & Results: The results showed that the DES scores increased over the five-year period and significant difference was found between the preclinical and clinical stages ($p < 0.05$). There were no significant differences in stress perception between genders ($p > 0.05$). Conclusions: The study demonstrated that sources of stress in dental students varied according to their stage in the program and the period of the year.

Key words:

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Development of the Technical University Students' Civic Consciousness

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Abstract

The article is devoted to the theoretical background and techniques of the youth civic education and discloses the problems of students' civic consciousness and civic qualities formation. The aim of the article is founding out the ways of the educational work efficiency in foreign language classes in high school for the Technical University Students' civic consciousness development. It is confirmed that civic education is closely connected with the historical changes in Russia that require educating a new person able to realize the interests of the state. This makes it necessary to identify and study the content, objectives, forms and methods of Technical

University Students' civic consciousness improvement. The results of the definition and specification of the notion of "civic education" are also introduced in the article.

Key words: civic education, civic consciousness, civic qualities, criteria, skills, levels, content, tasks, forms, methods of civic consciousness development , the civic consciousness and civic qualities formation.

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VOICE TRAINING AND INSTRUMENTS USED IN TURKISH MUSIC CONSERVATORY

Vahide Bahar Yiğit,

Abstract

There are two methods in Voice training in Turkish conservatories as western and Turkish. The voice training system of the world is valid in turkey, too. However, it is different in Turkish music conservatories. traditional turkish music's language and utterance are related with traditional turkish music and its differences affected the course and method. In this respect, voice training in Turkish music is applied with traditional instruments in order to emphasize traditional turkish music system. Hence, piano which is used in classical voice training replaced with Turkish instruments tambour, lute and zither.

This study aimed at detection of the instruments that are used in Turkish music conservatories and their application methods in these courses

Key words:

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PRIMARY INNOVATIONS PERFORMED BY ATATURK IN MUSIC FIELD

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Abstract

The musical reforms started with the foundation of the modern Turkish republic. Musical reforms cannot be handled apart from the other reforms and it makes up one of the important parts of the reforms. Atatürk who has a large information about world history, also knows the nations' freedom is attained not only with the wars but also attained from civilization and arts. Therefore, he gave importance to art and music. He said, "the measurement of the reforms of a nation is related with musical development. everybody can be a deputy or minister even prime minister but cannot be an artist"

In this study, Atatürk's musical reforms in modern Turkish republic will be analyzed.

Key words: Atatürk, music, music education

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The model of competences of specialists working in training groups as integration of professional knowledge, skills, beliefs and values.

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Abstract

Growing interest in the technology of training and increasing of the number of people, conducting trainings, actualize the question: what kind of specialist will realize the technology effectively? In this paper, we propose a model of competences – a complete image of a professional, working in the training group. This model can be a tool for the design of studying courses, for training and retraining, professional development and certification of personnel.

Key words: professional development, professional activity of trainer, training, competence, competency

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Which one, or another? Comparative analysis of selected LMS

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Abstract

This paper deals with the comparative analysis of four types of frequently used LMSs. First, the brief description of each LMS is provided, followed by list of evaluation criteria. Final results of the analysis are presented in the form of table, summarized and discussed in the text, as well as future approaches to LMS developments are mentioned.

Key words:

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German noun compounds at seminar lessons

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Abstract

The article explores some ways of teaching economy and finance students on a higher course. It looks into the problem of German vocabulary. It presents some considerations concerning compounds. All the complexities of that area are the reason why we are introducing some limitations of the issue. They lie in the following three points: a) We only concentrate on one field students' studies; b) we focus on noun compounds only; c) we are concerned with compounds made up only from two components. Material learnt has been gathered by means of the complex excerpt of professional texts. The example items have been selected from about one thousand of dictionary units. The compounds with the highest usage frequency are given precedence over others. Some attention is given to the written forms of compounds, more amount of attention is devoted to semantics of the relevant items. We round of the article with a brief summary of recommendations for further teaching practice. The focus of the article lies in the methodology of teaching the German language, not in linguistics.

Key words: Foreign language, German, noun compounds, eLearning

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A Case Study of Hybrid Teaching with MOOC

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Abstract

Massive Online Open Courses (MOOCs) are growing substantially in numbers and interests in the educational community. At the same time, different with the traditional face to face teaching, MOOC also presents different challenges for the students and the teachers in the learning practice. In this paper, we introduce our experience of applying MOOC into teaching a major course Human Computer Interaction Course (HCI). We present and analyze the design and implementation of this MOOCbased HCI course. Especially, we summary the teaching and learning efficiency, challenges we face, and how we have already solved or possibly to solve them in the future.

Key words: MOOC, HCI, DCA, Online Education, Efficiency, Learning, Platform.

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The Effective Communication in Teaching. Diagnostic study regarding the academic learning motivation to students

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Abstract

We have proposed to present a theoretical and practical approach to the effective communication in teaching, with the objective of know which are the opinions of teachers on communication skills and motivation of their students in the classroom. It is a descriptive case research with the objective of knows which are the opinions of teachers on communication skills and motivation of their students in the classroom. The study included a total of 245 people from four universities in Romania. The results obtained by analyzing the responses of the subjects included in our sample have showed that group of teachers have the same opinions regarding the competencies of communication. The research findings coming according to recent studies, confirming that without communication, the teaching and learning process will not take place. Therefore, teachers with good communication skills will create a more successful teaching and learning ambience for the students. On the other hand, someone with great communication skills has the potential to influence others and effective communication strategies will lead to success. Communication skills and work motivation have a high influence in the teaching aspect. The teacher's communication style can influence the interest and attitude of the students in creating a fun and learning atmosphere.

Key words: teaching profession, communication, competences, motivation, professional development

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Monitoring and evaluation of One Health projects; lessons from Southeast Asia

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Abstract

We report on monitoring and evaluation (M&E) methods research for One Health projects, based on a project (Building EcoHealth Capacity in Asia) in Southeast Asia. Methods for M&E included development of progress markers, use of pre- and post-workshop and on-line questionnaires, interviews, small group discussions, gap analysis, performance indicators, and SWOT analysis. While most methods were useful for eliciting answers to specific questions, more valuable information regarding usefulness of methods for capacity building (e.g., what changed, how did partners agree to collaborate, how were boundary partners engaged) required a synthesis of information gathered from both quantitative and qualitative methods.

Key words: One Health; project evaluation; project monitoring; Southeast Asia; emerging infectious diseases.

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Comparative study regarding communication styles of the students

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Abstract

The communication style is an indicator of a pattern of a person organises his interpersonal relationships. In fact, the style of communication is a way which shows how the pupils see and judge the information around them. According to these, the teachers, families can improve the interactions. The art of effective communication should not just stop at the correct use of language, but also other forms of communication.

We have proposed to present a theoretical and practical approach about how gender of pupils influences communication, with the objective of preventing conflictual style. The method used is a questionnaire of the Romanian psychologist Solomon Marcus. It includes four styles – aggressive, assertive, persuasive and passive. The participants are 60 pupils, equal numbers of girls and boys, 12- 14 years old, from schools in Bucharest. We used statistical t test to see differences between boys and girls. We also wanted to see if the preadolescents have already a pattern of aggressivity or passiveness. The research findings coming according to recent studies, there is a need among students to create an orientation towards interpersonal communication for success in the future and for the formation of human society. The teacher must realize the importance of communication in their relationships with students and encourage the development of quality communication skills to help children communicate better in the future. Communication skills are very important for the future personality of the young person.

Key words: communication skills, aggressive style, passive style, professional success

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What is the meaning of school readiness for pre-service primary teachers?

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Abstract

School readiness is a complex and crucial process which affects children, parents and teachers. It aims to provide children with smooth transition to first grade. In this process, the primary school teachers' perceptions determine most of the decisions and the practices in the classroom. When it is considered that teachers' perceptions and beliefs are usually shaped during their undergraduate education, pre-service teachers' perceptions related to school readiness may give an idea about their future decisions and practices. Also, in order to provide an insight into their future practices related to school readiness, it is important to understand how pre-service teachers perceive school readiness process. Therefore, this study aims to investigate the perceptions of pre-service primary teachers about school readiness. This study has a basic qualitative research design. Seventy pre-service teachers participated in the study. Data was collected through a semi-structured interview protocol. Word repetition technique was used for qualitative data analysis. Findings of the study will be presented at the "5th World Conference on Learning, Teaching and Educational Leadership."

Key words: pre-service primary teachers, teachers' perceptions, school readiness

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Comparison of Physical Designs of American and Turkish Early Childhood Classrooms

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Abstract

Early childhood period is important for children's cognitive, social-emotional, language and physical development. The quality of physical design of early childhood classrooms is effective for all developmental domains of children. Developmentally appropriate classroom designs will lead good child development. Thus, in this study, it was aimed to assess and compare physical design of American and Turkish classrooms based on National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Early Childhood Program Standards and Accreditation Criteria. The physical design of 8 American and 8 Turkish early childhood classrooms were evaluated and compared by the researchers. An assessment form developed based on NAEYC Early Childhood Program Standards and Accreditation Criteria was used for data collection. In the conference, findings of the analysis will be discussed.

The findings of the study have contributed to the literature on physical designs of early childhood classrooms providing information for early childhood education teachers, schools and teacher education programs. Firstly, examples from American and Turkish classrooms can provide early childhood education teachers with information about the design of the physical environment and explain the importance of this environment. Also, this research may help develop teachers' awareness of the necessity of creating an appropriate physical environment and help them in the management, planning and implications of teaching / learning activities.

Key words: Building and physical design, early childhood institutions, different professionals' perspectives, public and private schools

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