13th

VESAL

INTERNATIONAL VISIBLE CONFERENCE ON
EDUCATIONAL STUDIES & APPLIED LINGUISTICS

ABSTRACT BOOK

Exchange of Ideas in Turning Challenges into Opportunities: Innovation through Collaboration

VESAL -2023
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13th International Conference on Educational Studies and Applied
Linguistics

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WELCOMING REMARKS

Asst. Prof. Dr. Idris Hadi Salih
Head of Board of Trustees,
Tishk International University

It is a pleasure and privilege to welcome you to this most innovative and forward-thinking venue where you will have time to consider and formulate what higher education will look like as emerging technologies, economy, and policies continue to catapult it into the future. In many ways one's career during this evolving information age seems more like a foot race. We have been challenged to remain relevant in our disciplines and at the same time are compelled to adopt and use current technologies. The changes have been both exciting and profound and have transformed the way we do business. We now have learning environments that include online classrooms, MOOCs, cellphone response systems, and countless other instructional technologies dramatically changing the way in which we interact and engage with our students and deliver education. As professors, administrators and public leaders, what do we need to be thinking about as the academy's core missions of teaching, research, and outreach move into the future? To discuss the core mission of education and language teaching and learning, Faculty of Education at Tishk International University and College of Education at Salahaddin University-Erbil jointly organizes International Visible Conference on Educational Studies and Applied Linguistics (VESAL), which is entering its 13th year of successful organization. The conference has already become a considerable brand and improving year by year. The aim of VESAL 2023 is designed to attract the research communities to promote connections between theory and practice and explore different perspectives on the application of research findings into different practices. I kindly welcome scholars coming from the international and local regions as well as experts, educators, linguists, lecturers and senior lecturers to Erbil, Iraq. The Conference is aiming to open channels, and pave roads of academic collaboration and to bring experiences together with expertise for further innovative thoughts and more creative research. Dr. Idris Hadi is now the Head of Board of

Trustees of Tishk International University since November 2016. Previously he worked as the first Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research in Kurdistan Regional Government – Erbil from 2006 till November 1st 2009. Then he worked as the Minister of Labor and Social Affairs in the first elected government of Iraq – Bagdad between 2005-2006. Dr. Idris Hadi is a founding member of Human Rights organization in Kurdistan region and was elected as the president of the organization from 1991 till 1993. During this time, he has actively participated in conferences, workshops related to human rights, women rights, children rights and joint projects with international Human Rights Watch such as Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, Human Rights organization of UN and other organizations. After that, Dr. Idris Hadi worked as the Minister of Transportation and Communication in the first cabinet of Kurdistan regional government – Erbil in 1992. Then he worked as the Minister of Transportation and Communication in the second cabinet of Kurdistan regional government – Erbil in 1993. Later, Dr. Idris Hadi worked as the Minister of Industry and Energy in the third cabinet of Kurdistan regional government – Erbil in 1996. Then he worked as the Minister of Municipalities and Tourism in the Kurdistan regional government – Erbil in 1998. Dr. Idris Hadi received his bachelor's degree in Sulaimani university/ Iraq in 1976 and his master's degree in Communication Engineering at Leningrad University in 1982, then he received his PhD Degree in Communication Engineering (Technical Science) at Leningrad university in 1985. Dr. Idris Hadi and his family live in Erbil-Iraq.

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

The Organizing Committee of The International Visible Conference of Educational Studies and Applied Linguistics (VESAL 2023) is composed of distinguished academics who are experts in their fields. The Organizing Committee is responsible for nominating and vetting Keynote and Featured Speakers; developing the conference program, including workshops, panels, targeted sessions; undertaking event outreach and promotion; recommending and attracting future Organizing Committee members; working with Tishk International University to select PhD students and early career academics for Tishk International University-funded grants and scholarships for teaching profession as careers; and reviewing abstracts submitted to the conference.

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Dr. Venera Ulker, Head of English Language Teaching Department – Tishk International University, Erbil, Iraq

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VESAL 2023 CONFERENCE THEME

Asst. Prof. Dr. Saeed Omer Ibrahim, Dean of College of Education - Salahaddin University-Erbil, Iraq

Dr. Venera Ulker, Head of English Language Teaching Department - Tishk International University, Erbil, Iraq

The world is changing with increasing speed – the way we communicate, find information and work has been massively transformed in the past decade. Education systems, however, are struggling to catch up with an overwhelming amount of information at students' fingertips. There is a growing need for soft skills such as empathy and creativity; educators at every level are facing the challenge of reinventing the classroom and reshaping the very system itself. During the changing times the educators should rethink and rebuild the executive education that will help the learners to integrate global citizenship and social justice into their lives. A nation that effectively utilizes their resources is closely aligned with the thoughts, concepts, and culture of the individuals who make up the society and with the prudence, foresight, and sincere devotion of those in power. The administrators that are responsible for the level of care given to individuals and their efforts toward becoming a social entity will be an indication of how closely aligned they are with the prophetic principle that "All of you are shepherds, and all of you are responsible for those under your care" and that "being glad with making others happy instead of self-concerns. If the new generations' minds are equipped with the sciences of their time and their hearts are not lit up with breezes from beyond and if they are provided with an ample education, with all their needs fulfilled and all opportunities available for them to succeed then they can look forward to a bright future. These future generations will be able to stand up to every kind of obstacle in the struggle of life, they will be able to overcome – material or spiritual – every kind of difficulty and will never give in to despair. All the hardships that we will have encountered along the way in providing our children with a better education will have been worth it.

CONFERENCE GUIDE

REGISTRATION & ACCESS

You will be able to pick up your registration pack and name card at the Conference Registration Desk. The Conference Registration Desk and Publications Desk will be situated in the following locations (Dedeman Hotel Erbil and Tishk International University) during the conference. When you register for the conference, you will pay the fee for the conference. If you have any questions or concerns, the Education Faculty staff will happily assist you.

Name Badges

When you check in at the registration desk, you will receive a registration pack, which includes your name badge. Wearing your badge is required for entrance to the sessions. You must wear your badge at all times during the conference.

Certificates

Certificates for the Participants will be delivered during the closing ceremony. A certificate for each Presenter will be delivered at the end of his or her presentations. Certificates for Session Chairs and Organizing Committee members will be delivered during the closing ceremony.

Lunch (Day 1: 20th February 2023)

VESAL 2023 is a highly anticipated event held over two days, with the first day dedicated to the speakers and organizing committee at Dedeman Hotel, where they will be treated to a lunch specially arranged for them. The Conference Lunch is a free-of-charge service provided by the conference.

Lunch (Day 2: 21st February 2023)

Lunch on the second day is included in the conference registration fee. Lunch will be provided at Tishk International University, which will serve different local dishes prepared by a talented team of chefs. Lunch service includes an unlimited drinks bar (non-alcoholic), coffee station, and dessert table. Please remember to bring your name badge with you, as this will act as your lunch ticket. Attendees can look forward to a productive and informative experience filled with engaging discussions, networking opportunities, and thought-provoking presentations.

Lunch Time:

Monday, February 20, 2023, from 12:15– 13:15- Dedeman Hotel
Tuesday, February 21,2023, from 12:30 – 13:30- Tishk International University

PRESENTATION GUIDE

Conference Abstracts

The conference abstracts are accessible in hard copy format. The presentation sessions will commence after the opening ceremony on Tuesday morning and are typically arranged into concurrent sessions. Each concurrent session comprises four presentations, with two sets of four presentations scheduled for **Concurrent Session I and Concurrent Session II**, respectively. To ensure equal time allocation for each presentation, the session duration will be divided equally among the presenters. For optimal delivery and interaction, we recommend that an Oral Presentation should last no longer than **15 minutes**, with an additional **5 minutes** for **questions and answers**. Should there be any remaining time in the session, it may be utilized for further discussion.

Online presentations

Online sessions will run throughout the program according to presenters' preferences and availability. Details and links to the presentations are available in the **extended program** shared on the VESAL website.

Equipment

All rooms will be equipped with a computer and IWB pre-installed with PowerPoint and connected to an LCD projector. We advise you to use the computer provided by plugging in your USB flash drive. We recommend that you bring two copies of your presentation in case one fails and suggest sending yourself the presentation by email as a third and final precaution.

Session Chairs

Session Chairs are asked to introduce themselves and other speakers (briefly) using the provided printouts of speaker bios, hand out the provided presentation certificates at the end of the session, and ensure that the session begins and ends on time and that the time is divided fairly between the presentations. Each presenter should have no more than **20 minutes** in which to present his or her paper and respond to any questions. The Session Chair is asked to assume this timekeeping role. Please follow the order in the program, and if for any reason a presenter fails to show up, please keep to the original time slots as delegates use the program to plan their attendance.

Certificates

All presenters will receive a certificate of presentation from their Session Chair or a member of staff at the end of their session.

Publication

The VESAL Organizing committee would like to inform authors that all accepted papers, which meet the journals' requirements and guidelines, will undergo the journals' publication process. The manuscripts will be submitted to either **the Zanco Journal at Salahaddin University** or **the International Journal of Social Sciences & Educational Studies at Tishk International**

University. However, it is important to note that if the manuscripts do not meet the journals' requirements and guidelines, they will be published in **the VESAL book of proceedings.** The final decision on whether a paper will be submitted to a journal or published in the VESAL book of proceedings will be made by the editorial board of the conference. It is essential to emphasize that VESAL is not responsible for any rejection of a paper due to its failure to meet the requirements and guidelines of the journals.

Conference Proceedings

The Conference Proceedings will be published with a DOI number after August 10, 2023, the deadline for full paper submission on the Tishk International University website and can be freely accessed as part of Faculty of Education's research archive. All authors may have their full paper published in the online Conference Proceedings

A Polite Request to All Participants

Participants are requested to arrive in a timely fashion for all presentations, whether on their own or to those of other presenters. Presenters are reminded that the time slots should be divided fairly and equally between the number of presentations and that presentations should not overrun. Participants should refrain from talking amongst themselves and ensure that mobile phones are switched off or set to silent mode during presentations.

VISION & MISSION

In order to enable the knowledge and information accessible to everyone, Tishk International University in partnership with Salahaddin University-Erbil, holds its annual conference on Educational Sciences and Applied Linguistics. The International Visible Conference aims to gather researchers, practitioners, educators, and scholars with interests in any field of teaching explore different perspectives on the application of research findings into different practices. We kindly welcome scholars coming from the international and local regions as well as teachers and prospective teachers to Erbil, Iraq. The VESAL 2023 conference aims to contribute to the region and educators through international experts and researchers. The VESAL 2023 conference plans to

at all levels from around the world. The VESAL 2023 conference is designed to attract the research communities to promote connections between theory and practice and remain open to educational studies, language teaching and/or language-education related topics broadly defined, looking more closely into the current dynamics in the world

between old and new trends, local and global tendencies, progressive and conservative views, stabilization and destabilization patterns, national and global identities It is expected that VESAL 2023 conference will be a magnet for a significant number of front-ranking academics, professionals and policy makers working in the broad areas of Educational Environment.

MISSION

To develop highly-qualified individuals who will contribute to the future of the country by making utmost use of the knowledge gained in fields of science, technology and arts in the light of universal values; offer learning opportunities in the fields of research, education and service for the benefit of the wider community.

JOIN US TO HELP TURN THE TIDE IN EDUCATION

SPECIAL THANKS - SESSION CHAIRS

We, at the Tishk International University Faculty of Education and Colleges of Languages, Salahaddin University-Erbil, would like to recognize the Session Chairs for all of their hard work in coordinating his/her respective Concurrent Session. We know that it is difficult to stop Academicians from presenting the research they love. Thank you for ensuring that the sessions ran on time and smoothly.

Assist. Prof. Dr. Mustafa Altun	Faculty of Education, Tishk International University
Dr. Aziza Kavlu	Faculty of Education, Tishk International University
Dr. Sami Hussein Hakeem Barzani	Faculty of Education, Tishk International University
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Ms. Nawsha Ghalib Sharif	College of Education, Salahaddin University
Mrs. Zheen Hamadameen Abdullah	College of Education, Salahaddin University

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

Conference Agenda | Day 1 | Dedeman Hotel in Erbil	
Hour	**Event**
08:30 – 9:30	Speaker Registration
9:30– 10:25	Opening Ceremony
9:30 - 9:35	National Anthem
9:35- 9:40	Introducing the Conference by **Dr. Venera Ulker**, Head of English Language Teaching Department, TIU
9:40- 9:50	Promotional Videos 1: SUE – 2: TIU
09:50 – 09:55	Speech of the KRG Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research
09:55 – 10:05	Welcome Speech by **Asst. Prof. Dr. Kamaran Yunis**, President of Salahaddin University-Erbil, Iraq.
10:05 – 10:10	Welcome Speech by **Dr. Abdul Samad Salahuddin**, The President, Tishk International University
10:10 – 10:15	Welcome Speech by **Dr. Saeed Omer Ibrahim**, Dean of College of Education – Salahaddin University-Erbil, Iraq
10:15 – 10:20	Plaque Awarding/ Sponsor Speech
10:20 – 11:10	**Keynote Speech I: Prof. Dr. Sahail M. Asassfeh**, The Hashemite University, Jordan
11:10 - 12:15	**Panel Session:** Turning Challenges into Opportunities: Education In KRI.
12:15– 13:15	Lunch (**Dedeman Hotel Erbil**, DINING HALL)
Conference Agenda | Day 2 |TIU/Education Building/#302	
Hour	Event
08:30 – 10:00	Registration
10:00 – 10:10	Opening Ceremony
10:10 – 10:15	Sponsor Presentation
10:15 – 11:15	Keynote Speech II: **Prof. Dr. Himdad A. Muhammad**, Salahaddin University-Erbil, Iraq
11:15- 11:45	Coffee Break
11:45 – 13:00	I. Concurrent Session
13:15 – 14:15	Lunch (TIU, Main Building, DINING HALL)
14:15– 15:30	II. Concurrent Session
15:30 –16:00	Closing Ceremony-Conference Hall (302)

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

The EduLing Dichotomy: Towards the Pursuit of Interconnectedness

Prof. Dr. Sahail M. Asassfeh
Dean of the Faculty of
Educational Sciences, The
Hashemite University, Jordan

Academic institutions have realized recently that disciplinarism creates divisions within academic departments and faculties that impede our comprehensive understanding of phenomena in both sciences and humanities. Bringing this realization to an institution is a must, and transforming this realization into actual practice is quintessential to more context-specific progress. This logic applies to the relationship between language and education which needs to be viewed as complementary. This necessitates answering the question of how interconnectedness can best be achieved in EFL contexts at the level of both research and EFL teacher preparation programs. My presentation seeks to open a discussion in this realm.

Keywords: EduLing, Interconnectedness, language and education

Corpus Linguistics: Applications and Limitations in the Digital Era

Prof. Dr. Himdad A. Muhammad
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This digital era is known for the excessive use and dependence on technology which has come into all walks of life and disciplines, including language study. A study of any linguistic phenomenon or issue based on a collected corpus of linguistic material via technology is usually referred to as corpus linguistics. Corpus-based study (CBS) or Corpus Linguistics (CL) is the study of language as expressed in corpora of real-world text. It is an empirical discipline based on the observation of actual data.

CL has been considered an operational framework in language study rather than an independent field of study. CBS aims to investigate specific linguistic constructs, the way they are found in various contexts and the functions each acquires. The current trends in corpus linguistics in the digital era prove the existence of utilizing machine-readable texts as reliable resources, the raw material to depend on for studying specific linguistic issues and phenomena.

CL has multiple applications in the language study field, yet it also has some limitations. This paper highlights the successes of CL/CBS in the EFL/ESL context and then the limitations will be presented along with step-by-step solutions. It also attempts to present other domains where CL could be beneficial.

Keywords: Corpus linguistics, digital era, EFL/ESL

CONFERENCE PANEL SESSION

PANEL SESSION

The VESAL 2023 conference is set to host a panel session on the 20th of February with the title "**Turning Challenges into Opportunities: Education in KRI**". The panel session will feature a diverse group of panelists with extensive experience in the field of education in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) as follows:

Panel session chair:

- **Prof. Dr. Kawa Abdulkareem Sherwani**

Panelists:

- **Prof. Dr. Sahail M. Asassfeh,** Dean of the Faculty of Educational Sciences at The Hashemite University in Jordan
- **Prof. Dr. Himdad A. Muhammad**, Lecturer at Salahaddin University-Erbil in Iraq
- **Dr. Karmand Abdulla Hamad**, Dean of the Faculty of Education at Soran University in Iraq
- **Mr. David Wafula Waswa,** Lecturer at Tishk International University in Erbil, Iraq

The panel session will focus on the challenges facing education in the KRI and how these challenges can be turned into opportunities. The panelists will discuss a range of issues, including the need for better teacher training, the importance of incorporating technology into the education system and how to address the current challenges.

The panelists will share their experiences and insights on how to address these challenges and improve the quality of education in the KRI. They will emphasize the importance of collaboration and partnership among universities, government agencies, and non-governmental organizations to bring about positive change.

Overall, the panel session is expected to provide a valuable platform for sharing knowledge and ideas on how to overcome the challenges facing education in the KRI. The panelists' expertise and experience will offer valuable insights and strategies for turning challenges into opportunities and creating a brighter future for education in the region.

ABSTRACTS

Private Universities in the Kurdistan Region: Economic and Political Drivers and Inhibitors

Abdurrahman Ahmad Wahab
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Private universities mushroomed in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) after 2003. Two overarching goals led to their inception: responding to the high demand for university diplomas and offering the higher educational sector a new educational model. Both these goals emerged because of the increased number of high school graduates and the lack of capacity in and low quality of the existing public universities. The policy framework that allows the private universities to operate in the KRI has shaped them as private businesses in the higher educational sector, the growth of which is associated with the region's economic and political dynamics.

By critically analyzing the political, economic, and sociocultural drivers of the private universities in the KRI, this study argues that the KRG's policy framework for private universities is flawed because it incentivizes an instructional model that will never equip graduates to participate locally and on the international stage. The instructional university has been translated into a business-first model that minimizes cost and maximizes quick profit within a political economy that supports and is supported by powerful economic and political elites.

Data for this report has been obtained through a desk review of KRG policies and semi-structured interviews with private university students, professors, owners and administrators, political party leaders, KRG policymakers, and private sector businesses in Erbil, Sulaimani, and Duhok. A roundtable discussion that included key stakeholders in the sector was also conducted at the American University of Iraq, Sulaimani to support this study.

Keywords: private university, educational policy, KRG, political economy

The Effect of Intensive and Extensive Listening on Iraqi Students' Listening Comprehension and Working Memory

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Listening comprehension is one of the significant skills in the field of language learning. In this regard, intensive and extensive listening has been highlighted to assist learners in improving their listening. In intensive and extensive listening, learners are assessed during the course. This study investigated the impact of intensive and extensive listening comprehension on Iraqi EFL students. The participants were 84, all of them males and aged between 16 and 17. The participants were randomly assigned to the intensive group (n=28), extensive group (n=28), and control group (n=28) students too. Due to random selection, the intensive group received audio-only listening materials for 10 sessions, the extensive group received different samples of listening materials for 10 sessions too, and the control group did not receive. All the participants were asked to complete the Oxford Placement Test (OPT) and also take the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) and Digit Span Test (DST) before and after the intervention. The findings revealed that the mean of the intensive group was higher than the mean of the extensive and control groups. Considering the results of data, the finding suggested the working memory is compared in three groups of extensive, intensive, and regular. Overall, results indicated that the effect of intensive group was higher than the mean of the extensive and control groups. Finally, the correlation between working memory and the two variables (intensive and extensive listening) separately shows intensive and extensive listening and working memory had a weak correlation.

Keywords: Listening comprehension, working memory, intensive and extensive

Influence of Using Quizizz Platform on Student Motivation in English Language Classes

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The rapid advancement in technology has exercised a favorable impact on every aspect of our daily lives from conducting our business transactions to the way we handle communication. As technology has surrounded us, its integration with education is truly inevitable. It offers students innumerable online resources, prompts them to search for relevant information, and allows them to oversee their learning. The use of educational software can facilitate learning by clarifying complex topics through pictures, animations, or videos. One such platform that can promote instruction and learning is Quizizz educational platform that engages students through its gamified motivational tools. This article seeks to explore and analyze the impact of using the Quizizz platform on university students' intrinsic motivation toward language learning. To this end, as a research tool, a survey was designed and administered to university students who are mandated to take an English language course as per the requirement of their curriculum adapted in their respective departments. The preliminary results indicated that there was a significant relationship between using the Quizizz platform in language classes and students' motivation.

Keywords: Technology, language learning, Quizizz, student motivation

Dimensions of Literacy: Multiliteracy

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The dimension of literacy has been described in language and literacy programs for years, especially four sizes always illustrated, such as speaking, listening, writing, and reading (Bainbridge et al., 2017). The last two, representing and viewing, have always been explained for better pedagogical understanding. Representing has been illustrated as a multimodal text for communication about an idea, such as how to draw a picture, or a picture book, or make a computer graphic etc. Educators have always created spaces for students to explain their representation and viewing. It can be done by drawing, painting, creating a picture textbook, or a picture book. Therefore, the creation of a picture textbook has been illustrated as students' representation through which they demonstrate surrounding by colour, graphics, and environmental scenarios. This is how they represent their learning, skills, and culture to others in the classroom. Viewing and representation by creating a picture book or picture textbook build relations among the dimensions of literacy. These dimensions help students write, learn, and create pictorial images as classroom learning requirements. Literacy thus has been defined as multiliteracy throughout six dimensions that always help students understand many pedagogies, such as constructing meaning. The article's objective is to focus on understanding multiliteracies in the context of six sizes, which can help the educator create a curriculum in the classroom for elementary learners through many narratives, such as making a picture book for early literacy etc. The outcome of the article has illustrated pedagogical theories through literacy learning that can help students for learning in the classroom. The methodology has been conducted through documentary analysis, mainly emphasized in a chapter called, Introduction to Language and Literacy Education of the book Constructing Meanings Pedagogies for Literacies K-8 7th edition (Bainbridge et al., 2017). The feature question is how does a picture book illustrate multiliteracies for pedagogical development in the context of students learning?

Keywords: Multiliteracy, Picture Book, Collage, Six Dimensions of Literacy, Multimodal Literacy, Constructing Meaning, Skill Development, Children of the World, Pedagogical Monsters.

Investigating the In-Service Teachers' Contents and Sources of Personal Practical Theories

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The present study was conducted to investigate the contents and sources of in-service teachers' Personal Practical Theories. The objectives of this study were to identify the contents of Teachers' personal practical theories, find the sources of these PPTs, and to explore the reflection of these PPTs in their classroom Practices. The research paradigm of this study was pragmatist. The nature of the research was a mixed method. Convergent parallel research design (QUAN+QUAL) was used. For quantitative data collection, a self- made classroom observation checklist and a questionnaire was used, the name of the questionnaire was PPTMS while for qualitative data collection a self -developed interview protocol was used. For quantitative data collection census sampling technique was used and 232 college teachers were selected as sample of the study, quantitative data was collected through questionnaire and the data analysis was done by descriptive statistics (frequency, mean, standard deviation) and inferential statistics (independent samples t-test) was applied. For observation, 10 lectures were attended as a passive observer and the frequency of the items was obtained. For qualitative data collection snowball sampling technique was used and 10 teachers were selected for interviews from 10 colleges. The data was analyzed by doing thematic analysis. Quantitative findings revealed that the majority of the teachers agreed with the contents of the PPTs. Classroom Observations helped the researcher to identify the reflections of teachers' PPTs in their classroom practices. Observation frequency revealed that the majority of the teachers plan the activities for learning a given topic, provide an outline for the class session, show collegiality and serve as facilitator and motivator and observe discipline for effective classroom interaction. Qualitative findings explored that religion, family, field experiences, colleagues, personal learning experiences, workshops; refresher courses, teacher education course work, newspaper, media and internet are the major sources of college teachers' PPTs.

Keywords: contents, sources, personal theories, practical theories

Error Analysis of Written English Paragraphs by Kurdish and Arab Student: A Comparative Study

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Writing is a critical skill that is essential for academic and professional success. It allows individuals to effectively communicate their ideas, thoughts, and information. Good writing skills involve not just the ability to string words together, but also the ability to organize ideas, use correct grammar and punctuation, and convey meaning clearly and concisely. However, in the process of second/foreign language learning learners usually find writing skill the most challenging one. This study compares the errors in a corpus of 40 English paragraphs produced by Kurdish and Arab students. Error analysis is used as a method to identify and classify the errors. The study aims to determine if there are any significant differences in the types and frequency of errors made by the two groups of the students. The study further aims to compare gender in the frequency of the committed errors. The findings of the study can be used to inform the development of language teaching materials and pedagogy for Kurdish and Arab students learning English. Additionally, it can provide insights into the linguistic challenges that these students face in learning the English language.

Keywords: Error Analysis, Written Error, Writing Skill

Pre-Service Teachers' Perception of Project-Based Learning and its Implementation in the Pedagogical Course (Iraqi Case)

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Project-based learning is one of the learning approaches that enhances preservice teachers (PSTs) pedagogical content and professional knowledge. Moreover, PBL helps PSTs to improve problem-solving skills and stay motivated in today's social media distractors invaded world. The purpose of this paper was to investigate PSTs' perception of PBL and its implementation. The study was carried out in a single private university in Iraq – which has a faculty of Education among 5 different teaching departments, involving 156 pre-service teachers. The data were collected through observations, questionnaires, and in-depth semi-structured interviews. The result of this study indicated that PSTs perceive the PBL process mostly positively, but they face several challenges in generating PBL-type projects. participants also stated that the PBL process enhances their problem-solving and collaboration skills. In general, PBL were preferred among PSTs, because they believe that it improves their pedagogical content knowledge through projects which were integrated into their specific field.

Keywords: project-based learning, content, pre-service teachers, soft skills, pedagogy

Investigating Stakeholders' Converging Expectations of Undergraduate English Language Teaching Program

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Students' transition from school to university can be challenging. A significant number of learners attend university with unrealistic expectations that spell trouble for the new cohort. Having realistic expectations, on the other hand, is important for learners as they affect the motivation and performance of the students throughout their studies. Planning and preparedness in this regard by the involved participants in the learning and teaching process are of priority. Hence, this qualitative study is conducted to investigate major stakeholders' expectations (undergraduate learners and lecturers' expectations from English Language Teaching Department). Data were collected from official documents related to the Program Outcomes and by interviewing students and lecturers through four focused groups, each consisting of 6-10 learners from all four grades in Tishk International University-Iraq. The results of the study showed an existing expectation mismatch between both parties along with the program outcomes that cause a variety of problems including poor academic performance, lack of motivation, disengagement, and display apathetic behavior by the learners. It is highly recommended for ELT program designers and lecturers to take students' expectations into serious consideration when developing their programs and planning lessons.

Keywords*: Students' expectations, Lecturers' expectations, ELT program. Undergraduate Students

Do the Grammar Knowledge and General English Proficiency Levels of High School Students Match? A Case Study

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In the modern world, the factors affecting the learning of English by young generations have diversified considerably. Learning the grammatical structure, which is very effective among traditional foreign language learning methods, has fallen into the background in new generations. Therefore, there is a great inconsistency between the general English level of the students and their grammar knowledge. Students who can easily understand while watching any movie fall behind in grammar knowledge. In this study, students will be given a placement test to measure their grammatical knowledge. In addition, a story book at B2-C1 level will be asked to them to read and an exam will be given from this book. In order to further measure the English level of the young learners, there will be a quiz from a movie that is intended to measure their level. Thus, the difference will be revealed. Although grammar falls into the background in learning English, this appears to be a problem in international exams such as the SAT. This study will be done for 10th, 11th and 12th grades at Rise International School in Erbil. Finally, the grades of the students on the SAT English will be evaluated. According to SAT results of these students, 35 students got an average of 450 out of 600 from mathematics and 409 out of 600 from English test. Since SAT English test also requires grammar knowledge, the students got relatively low results from English test. The purpose of this study is to show that their sources of learning English gets rid of grammar, and they have difficulties in official exams because they need grammar knowledge there.

Keywords: Grammar, English Proficiency Level, Placement Tests, International Exams

Exploring Undergraduate Learners' Experiences and Attitudes Toward Academic Misconduct: Prevalence and Prevention

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Many detrimental factors contribute to creating a negative learning environment in universities leading to the prevalence of academic misconduct. The issue of academic misconduct, particularly for unsupervised assessments such as writing tasks, is of great concern to the stakeholders in higher education. The primary aim of the study was to explore undergraduate students' perceptions and attitudes toward academic misconduct focusing on collusion, ghostwriting, and other common forms of misconduct. A mixed-methods design was followed to gather data, including surveys to collect quantitative data on learners' awareness of academic integrity policies. A total of 14 undergraduate EFL learners were recruited from a private university and participated in two focus group sessions to collect qualitative data on learners' perceptions of academic misconduct. The sessions were audio-recorded, transcribed, and analyzed using thematic analysis. The results of the study revealed the status of academic misconduct prevalence amongst undergraduate learners. The study also identified underlying factors that may contribute to the occurrence of some forms of academic misconduct, such as a lack of understanding of academic integrity policies and a lack of consequences for those who engage in such behavior, lack of competence, peer pressure, and lack of time. The study highlights the need for universities and academic institutions to implement effective measures to prevent and address academic misconduct among undergraduate students.

Keywords: Academic Integrity, Academic Misconduct, Ghostwriting, Collusion. Undergraduate Attitudes

The Prospective Role of Communicative Language on the Alumni Competitive Advantage

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Research can be regarded as a valuable tool for academics to study their teaching practices and achieve a deeper understanding of themselves, method of teaching, curriculum, classroom environment. This study attempts to investigate the role of English language as a language of communication in teaching process. Besides, it focuses on learning environments in terms of instruction and programs. A mixed method approach was utilized to collect data. To this end, for the quantitative method 123 participant students (59 males and 64 females) filled out a questionnaire electronically. For the qualitative phase, 12 lecturers in engineering, medical and management specialization were chosen. They were later interviewed about their teaching experiences using English as the language of communication in their own classes including the instruction and programs. The results indicated that students confirmed the imperative impact role of language of communication on their learning environment, as well as their future vacancy chances in labor and their multicultural intelligences. Additionally, the results also identified many advantages behind the implementation of instructions and programs in English language such as improving the teaching staff professionalism, increasing students' learning resources, increasing self-confidence and self-awareness, and supporting student in becoming competitive graduators. However, a number of challenges were also found to hinder the lecturers work such as large class sizes, individual differences, class design and the lack of support from the teaching institution.

Keywords: Teaching process, Learning environment, Competitive Alumni and Language of Communication.

Machine Translation Versus Human Translation: An Evaluation of Kurdish Machine Translation

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Machine translation has made significant progress in recent years, but it still lacks the ability to fully replicate the accuracy and nuance of human translation. This is particularly true when it comes to idioms, which are expressions that have a figurative meaning that is different from the literal meaning of the words used. This study evaluates the effectiveness of Kurdish machine translation, specifically Google Translation and Bing Translation, in translating English idioms. A set of idioms, 277 to be specific, were selected and translated by Google Translation and Bing Translation. The translations were then compared to the same set of idioms translated and published by a human translator. The results of the study showed that human translation was significantly more accurate and fluent than machine translation in translating English idioms into Kurdish. While machine translation was able to provide a basic translation of the idioms, it frequently produced results that were literal and did not accurately convey the intended meaning or tone. In contrast, human translation was able to accurately convey the figurative meaning of the idioms and use appropriate Kurdish idioms as substitutes. Overall, this study highlights the limitations of machine translation in accurately conveying the meaning and tone of idiomatic expressions in language translation.

Keywords: Translation, human translation, machine translation, idiom translation, equivalency in translation.

Students' Opinions about English-Medium Instruction: A Case Study at Tishk International University

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English-medium instruction (EMI) has recently become very popular all over the world. Especially the rapid spread of globalization and the increase in the need for communication have brought English to the forefront as the language of communication. In order to meet this need, educational institutions in many countries, especially at the university level, choose English as the medium language of education. Although this situation is quite attractive, it also renders some problems. The English level of the students who want to study at any English-medium university must be at an academic level because the language of the courses is quite different from everyday English. This leaves some negative effects on students. In addition, there are other difficulties. In this study, students at Tishk International University in Erbil, which provides education in English, were used. Students were asked about the difficulties of English-medium instruction. According to the results obtained from the survey, a significant number of the students have different difficulties. This study draws attention to the different dimensions of these difficulties.

Keywords: English-medium Instruction, Education, the Effects of EMI

The Implementation of Action Research among English Language Teachers in Kurdistan Benefits, Challenges and Perceptions

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Action research can be regarded as a valuable tool for teachers to examine their teaching practices and achieve a deeper understanding of themselves, method of teaching, curriculum, classroom environment, and their students as teachers lack information about the concept of action research and solving teaching issues systematically. This study attempts to investigate the familiarity of English language teachers in Kurdistan with the concept of action research and its implementation. Besides, it focuses on the use, benefits and limitations of action research from the teachers' perspective. A mixed method approach was utilized to collect data. To this end, for the quantitative method 142 participants (69 males and 73 females) filled out a questionnaire electronically. For the qualitative phase, 11 English language teachers were chosen to take part in a number of training sessions about the concept, procedures and steps of implementing action research. They were later interviewed about their experiences with implementing action research in their own classes including challenges. The results indicated that English teachers in the context of Kurdistan were not familiar with the concept of action research, and if they were, they would not implement it in their teaching regularly. Additionally, the training course was perceived to be beneficial for the teachers to find a systematic tool to address issues they faced in their teaching experience. The results also identified many advantages behind the implementation of action research such as improving teacher professionalism, increasing students' class participation, increasing self-confidence and self-awareness, and applying a student-cantered approach in teaching. However, a number of challenges were also found to hinder the teachers' implementation of action research such as limitation of time, large class sizes, individual differences, class design and the lack of support from parents or the teaching institution.

Keywords: Action research, familiarity, perceptions, advantages, limitations.

Evaluating Titles of MA Theses and PhD Dissertations in Applied Linguistics in Kurdistan Universities

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The aim of this paper is to identify the sub-fields focused on in the title selection of MA theses and PhD dissertations in applied linguistics (AL) at the universities in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) from 2006 to 2021. The subfields will be listed and the titles will be categorized according to these subfields. Then, these titles will be evaluated based on some criteria, and suggestions will be made for further studies in the subfields of AL that have not been explored yet.

To achieve the aims, this paper, first, highlights the history of AL in which its changes and developments are discussed throughout the years along with the research and study of key scholars and pioneers in the field. Since AL has been defined differently according to various linguists and across time, therefore, it is worth providing those definitions in order to conclusively showcase the field. Additionally, a number of well-formed and well-researched categorizations of the sub-fields of AL are presented in order to have grounds to classify MA theses and PhD dissertations that have been conducted at the universities in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. This study will be significant for new research in the field of AL in the region since it will provide encyclopedic information and/or basic grounds.

Keywords: Evaluation, Applied Linguistics, Title Accuracy

Behavioral Engagement in the Task-based Classroom

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One of the essential dimensions of student engagement is behavioral engagement which is defined as the degree of student motivation and attention in the classroom. The objective of the present study is to examine students' behavioral engagement in a take-based classroom. To achieve the aim of the study first, the implication of the task-based approach process goes through three stages pre-task, task-cycle, and after-the-task. The study adopts Exploratory Sequential Design, in which qualitative data is gathered and analyzed in the first phase. Later in the second phase, quantitative data gathers and tests the variable that they have identified in the qualitative data. Two tools will be used to collect data: classroom observation to collect qualitative data in form of opinions based on the observation in the classroom by the teacher. The second student's report will be used to collect the quantitative data. To measure students' level of engagement, the study attempts to use engagement versus disaffection with learning (EVSD): student and teacher report by dr. At Portland State University, Ellen Skinner provides access to the most updated version. The report contains 24 items. The study takes 4 weeks; the task-based method will apply in the classroom in the first two weeks. Students' reports illustrated that students are more motivated to participate in the classroom when they have a task to do. However, with the task-based approach learning outcomes are easily achieved, and students perform better.

Keywords: Students engagement, behavioral engagement, teaching approaches, task-based approaches, critical pedagogy

Students' Level of Achievement in a Flipped Writing Course: A Case Study of the Near East University-Cyprus-Turkey

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The flipped classroom model (FCM) is a teaching model where the places of lectures and homework tasks are reversed. In other words, learning happens at home and homework takes the form of feedback given or tasks done at school. The current study investigated the impact of FCM on the students' level of achievement in a writing course at university level, which was designed according to the FCM principles. A quantitative method approach was implemented through a quasi-experimental study design. 40 students from the experimental EFL writing course took part in the study from the English Language Teaching Department of the Near East University. The data were collected through a pre-post writing test to measure the level of improvement in student' writing skills and the results were compared using paired t-test analysis. The results revealed that the participants' marks in the post-test were significantly higher than those in the pre-test. It is cleared that they have improved not only their writing skills but also their listening skills. They specifically identified the model as a time-saving learning experience. Based on these results, some crucial points emerged like developing qualities for videos, essay evaluation criteria, and implementing the same model for listening course as suggestions for further studies.

Keywords: English as a foreign language, flipped classroom model, writing skill, achievement, quantitative method

Unwanted Student Behaviors and a Combination of Effective Classroom Management Techniques

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Classroom management is a very essential point for educators, and when applied correctly, it strengthens student and teacher relations. It also creates mutual trust and friendly atmosphere in the classroom. This article focuses on effective classroom management techniques and important points that teachers should pay attention to in classroom management. In the first chapter, some classroom management tips have been explained extensively. In the second part, unwanted behaviors from students and the solutions that teachers should implement to eliminate these behaviors are presented. In the last part, a general analysis of the effective methods used in classroom management is made, and the most effective methods are emphasized.

Keywords: Classroom Management, Classroom Management Techniques, Unwanted Student Behaviors

Reflections of Social, Political and Educational Bigotry in "The Chaotic Class (Hababam Sinifi)": A Comparative Cultural Review of the Novel and Its Film Adaptation

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Modern Turkish Republic emphasizes the values about the young and the new. In the making of the new society, the government employed modern linguistic and cultural exercises such as linguistic simplification, nationalization and modernization. However, military intervention in politics and social life has been one of the major elements in hitching political, social and even literary culture. The novel The Chaotic Class (Hababam Sinifi) by Rifat Ilgaz is composed under such a shade of military and traditional censorship, which impacted the main ideas and even the structure of the novel. Ilgaz hoped to transcend the censorship by the aid of other means such as theatre and cinema. That's why, his work is composed in a much more adaptive style to the visual industry. The novel howls with the cries of traditional and military oppression of conservative and militaristic hegemony over a must-renovate social and political system. Ilgaz conveys his discussion over a barely successful yet extremely talented set of students, young stereotypical characters, under the misconduct of regressive education system implemented harshly by the military dictatorship. In the making of its film, one of the greatest achievements was to transcend military oppression through adaptation of the novel. The director Ertem Egilmez produced the box office success film series, dwelling on a more social criticism over the classroom. In the process of adaptation, even though Ilgaz criticized Egilmez a lot, through the film series, Egilmez was successful in conveying the idea of cultural advancement and linguistic purification which had been a controversy until the new millennium. However, Egilmez employed a more socially and culturally critical reading and adaptation of Ilgaz. Thus, the Turkish film industry, Yesilcam, successfully executed its duty of transforming the society thanks to literary background of Turkish culture. This study elaborates on the connections between the film and the literary work in terms of language, social life and education.

Keywords*: Adaptation, Hababam Sinifi, Modern Turkish Culture, The Chaotic class, Yesilcam

The Impact of Multicultural Education on High School Students: A Case Study in Rise International School in Erbil

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With the increasing impact of globalization and some other problems, the world is expected to experience significant immigration waves. Such phenomena lead to more ambiguous political borders and accelerated cultural exchange among societies. Thus, there is a growing demand to include every citizen with different backgrounds into the new social and political context of the future world. In this sense, a growing interest in multicultural education takes place in the countries where minorities and aboriginal inhabitants with different ethnicity appear. Multicultural education aims to provide individuals with the sense of sustainability, environmental awareness and the sense of renaturalization along with multilingualism and multiculturalism. This study examines cultural aspects, archetypical notions and power dynamics in the implementation of education system in an international school in Erbil, especially in subjects of main language, foreign language(s) and history education within multicultural education context. The students' multicultural awareness will be measured through a questionnaire. In this study, qualitative and quantitative data is used together. The students were given a questionnaire about multiculturalism, and the results were put into statistics to evaluate. The findings indicate that students are more motivated in lessons in a multicultural context. They are more aware of their physical environment, yet they refuse some social norms.

Keywords: Multicultural education, cultural education, minorities, foreign language education

Working Memory and Listening Comprehension across Gender among Iraqi EFL Students: Metacognitive Intervention

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Listening comprehension is an important skill in first language acquisition and more important in learning a second or foreign language. In this regard, the metacognitive intervention has been proved to enhance learners' ability to comprehend spoken language. The current study investigates the differences in listening comprehension between females and males preparatory school students in Iraq. Using 150 participants, 75 males and 75 females between the ages of 16 and 18, the current study sought to further distinguish the differences between males and females. In terms of working memory when they received metacognitive intervention. The Oxford Placement Test was administered to standardize their proficiency level in a quai-experemental sample. at the education department of the governorate of Addiwaniya in Diwaniyah, Iraq. The participants were assigned to experimental (N = 150) and control (N = 150) groups. The experimental group received 11 sessions of metacognitive intervention, while the control group followed the traditional approach without receiving the pedagogical cycle. Before and after the intervention, all participants were required to complete the Digit Span Test (DST) and International English Language Testing System (IELTS) listening tests. The results of gender different paths of cognitive development in students can have a =fundamental effect on the listening skills of "developing children, young and adults.

Keywords: listening comprehension, metacognition, working memory, gender differences.

The Contribution of Field Dependence/Independence to Receptive/Productive Vocabulary Learning of Iranian EFL Learners

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Vocabulary knowledge has unanimously been reported to be the central component of language. Despite the multitude of studies on vocabulary, the issue of receptive/productive vocabulary is still far from clarity. On the other hand, the issue of individual differences, specifically Field Dependence/Independence (FD/I), is among important but controversial areas of investigation in English language learning and teaching. While it is asserted that language pedagogy should be the same for all types of learners, it has been proved that when pedagogy is individualized, the teaching effectiveness increases. The thrust of this study is, then, to look into the impact of learning styles in general and Field dependence/Independence in particular on the receptive/productive lexical performance of Iranian EFL learners. It aims to examine whether or not FD/I learners perform differently on receptive and productive vocabulary tests. To achieve this, first, Iranian EFL learners are first given the Group Embedded Figure Test (GEFT) to determine their learning style; and second, they will be put into two groups based on their performance on the GEFT. They will then be asked to take a receptive and a productive vocabulary test to see if FD and FI learners perform differently on these tests or not. The findings of the study can substantially contribute to better understanding of learners' individual preferences for vocabulary learning. The pertinent implications are also discussed.

Keywords: Field dependence; Field independence; GEFT; Receptive vocabulary; Productive vocabulary; EFL learners

Exploring EFL Students' Perspectives on Foreign Language Speaking Anxiety: A Tertiary Study

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Anxiety is the subjective feeling of fear, hesitation, and nervousness with stimulation of the autonomic nervous system. It negatively affects language learning because anxiety has interfered with many types of learning. Anxiety also is one of the most highly assessed variables in psychology and education. Psychologists differentiate several types of anxiety. One of them is language anxiety, which is one of the significant areas of language learning and teaching. Language anxiety occurs while speaking a foreign language. It has consequences for learning the language.

This study examines EFL students' perspectives on foreign language speaking anxiety at the Faculty of Education-Tishk International University. The study tends to answer the following questions: Are students anxious about speaking in class? If so, why do students have this feeling? When they feel uncomfortable? How does the teacher help them cope with language anxiety?

An online survey was designed to find out the reasons for anxiety about speaking in a foreign language. The survey was sent to the 100 Education Faculty students. The questionnaire consisted of four sections. Demographic questions were asked in the first segment. In the second phase, students were asked if they agreed or disagreed with twenty-two statements about language anxiety. Students were requested to rate how anxious they were throughout speaking class in the third section. The participants also were requested to select the instructor behaviors that helped to lower language anxiety in the final segment. Results of the analyses of data showed that speaking in a foreign language in front of the class is exclusively the source of anxiety. Furthermore, the instructor's role in terms of being relaxed and positive during error correction can highly decrease language anxiety.

Keywords: Language Anxiety, Speaking Class, Psychology, Foreign Language, Language Teaching

The value of soft skills in a world dominated by AI: why human qualities are more critical than ever

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Due to the rapid expansion of artificial intelligence (AI) in the modern workplace, there is an increasing concern about the potential for automation to replace human jobs. While AI can perform specific tasks more efficiently or accurately than humans, it cannot replicate the complex social and emotional interactions central to many occupations. In this context, the value of soft skills, such as communication, collaboration, problem-solving, and emotional intelligence, becomes even more apparent. These personal qualities and attributes are uniquely human and are difficult to automate or replicate with AI. As a result, they can complement AI and help humans work effectively alongside it. This essay explores the importance of soft skills in a world dominated by AI and argues that they are more vital than ever for professional success. It will also examine how higher education institutions can support soft skills development in their students, including through experiential learning opportunities, project-based assignments, and extracurricular activities. In addition, the study will provide examples of universities that have successfully incorporated soft skills development into their programs, highlighting best practices and innovative approaches. Ultimately, the goal is to provide a comprehensive overview of the role of soft skills in the modern workplace and to demonstrate the importance of investing in their development.

Keywords: emotional intelligence, soft skills, artificial intelligence, AI

Computer Assisted Language Learning and Professional Development

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In the age of globalization, Computer Assisted Language Learning and Professional Development programs based on this approach became famous. Computer-assisted language Learning (CALL) is an approach to teaching and learning in which the computer and computer-based resources such as the Internet, online programs, and digital applications are used to present, strengthen and evaluate material to be learned. It is an interactive way of education that helps learners attain their goals of learning, at their own pace and ability. This way of education is not only limited to teaching / learning procedures of language, but also to the professional development of language teachers too. This study, being a case study, is based on the practical experience of language teachers in teaching and learning of different languages and their professional development. In this study, classroom observations and follow-up informal interviews were conducted with the participant teachers. The study observed the usefulness of CALL at all stages such as presentation, practice, production and feedback in language teaching /learning. From the point of professional development, the study looked how online programs help language teachers develop professionally. The significance of this study is in highlighting the importance of Computer Assisted Language Learning and Professional Development programs, their relationship, and their benefits on the learners. The results of this study has proved that, Computer Assisted Language Learning and online Professional Development programs are highly useful in higher educational institutions. It also concludes that, the course on Computer Assisted Language Learning is needed for the students of undergraduate programs as this approach widens its scope from language teaching and learning to the search for and the investigation of applications in the field and to online Professional Development programs.

Keywords*: Computer Assisted Language Learning, Professional Development

Competency-Based Approach in EFL Speaking Classes: An Analysis of Teachers' and Students' View at Soran University

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In recent years, it can be noticed that Communication Language Teaching (CLT) has become one of the common approaches in English as a second language (ESL) and English as a foreign language (EFL). The main purpose of this method is to make students develop communicative competence rather than skilled in grammatical structure. Students' knowledge of communicative skills is still not up to the expectations, as seen by their struggles in examinations, tests, and job interviews. CBLT is an example of a Competency-Based Education (CBE) method, an educational trend that emphasizes learning objectives or outputs in the construction of language programs. CBE focuses on what learners are supposed to accomplish with the language, regardless of how they learn. The competencies viewpoint is centered on outcomes rather than inputs to learning (Richards, 2014). The research aims at exploring Soran EFL teachers' understanding of the Competency-Based Approach (CBA), its underlying principles, and classroom procedures or (types of using activities in the classroom). Also, the study aims at investigating students' views of the CBA.

The research tries to answer the following questions:

1. To what extent do EFL teachers at Soran university understand the principles of CBA?
2. What are the student's perspectives on CBA?

The study includes both quantitative and qualitative research methods. The tools used for data collection include teachers' interviews and student questionnaires. The sample of the study consists of 2 teachers and 50 students randomly chosen first and second years of the English Department- Faculty of Education at Soran University.

Keywords: Competency-Based Approach, Speaking, Competency, Competence

Assessing the Quality of Kurdish-English Translation Generated by Google Translate

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Rapid advancement in technology has brought about new changes in human life. Teaching languages and translation studies are no exceptions in this respect. Google Translate is one of these new versions of machine translation in which two languages are translated. As Kurdish has recently been added to this system, the current study aims to assess the quality of English-translated texts from Kurdish so as to pinpoint the most common types of errors occurring in translation products and specify the way the system might be employed in the translation process as a supportive means. For this purpose, the study makes use of several English-translated texts from Kurdish. Moreover, by relying on the Guide Sheet of Na (2005) and comparing the English-translated texts from Kurdish made by human interference with the same texts translated by Google Translate, the researchers are able to identify the errors and the way the system might be integrated. The research study finds that grammatical errors are the most repeated types of errors, and the system is only reliable when it is used as a supplementary tool. Finally, the study ends with a conclusion and list of references.

Keywords: Assessing, English, Google Translate, Kurdish, Text.

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Investigating Achievements of Post-Covid Generations: A Case Study at Tishk International University

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During the outbreak of Covid-19 crisis, online education was used as an alternative to continue education. However, online education had negative effects beyond what was expected. During the process, the boredom of the students, staying away from face-to-face communication and having to sit in front of the computer for long hours greatly reduced the efficiency of the education. It is possible to see the negative effects of this, especially in the low level of English of the students in the later periods. In universities with English-medium instruction such as Tishk International University, the low English proficiency level of this generation students has also affected their other courses. Students who studied the preparatory class online during the Covid 19 period are currently attending the second and third grades. The English level of these generations and their success in other courses will be investigated in this study. For this purpose, the grades of these students after they transitioned from online education during Covid 19 to in-class education will be compared with other classes and the opinions of the instructors on this issue will be consulted. For this, a questionnaire will be applied to the instructors and their opinions will be obtained through the interview method. Thus, attention will be drawn to the educational problems of post-covid-19 generations. This study hypothesizes that online education affected the students' achievements adversely.

Keywords: Post-Covid 19 Education, In-class Education, Students' Achievement

The Students Perception Towards the Use of Icebreakers, Warmers, and Energizers in EFL Classrooms: A Tertiary Study

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This study examines the perceptions of the first-year students of English Language Teaching Department at the Tishk International University towards the use of icebreakers, warmers, and energizers in the classroom. The research aims to determine the effectiveness of these activities in promoting student engagement and participation, as well as their impact on the overall learning experience. Data was collected through surveys and interviews and analyzed using quantitative and quantitative methods. The results of the study indicate that the majority of students have a positive perception towards the use of these activities, finding them to be beneficial for creating a relaxed and comfortable learning environment, promoting interaction and collaboration among classmates, and increasing motivation and interest in the language. The study suggests that incorporating these activities into EFL classrooms can enhance the student learning experience and promote a more dynamic and interactive classroom environment.

Keywords: icebreakers, warmers, energizers, EFL, ELT

Perceived Stress and Anxiety Among University EFL Students in KRI During COVID-19

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This paper explores differences in 233 learners' foreign language online classroom anxiety in online English as Foreign Language (EFL) classes during the first pandemic lockdown in the spring of 2020. For this purpose, the quantitative data were collected via an online Google form containing 35 items. The results showed that most of the EFL learners had a moderate Online Foreign Language Classroom Anxiety (FLCA) level. The most influential factors that caused Foreign Language Classroom Anxiety (FLCA) were the unexpected questions teachers were asking students during the online classes. Therefore, students' anxieties were highly significant while practicing the foreign language, and they were not prepared to practice it with their peers during online classes.

The Role of Epistemic Curiosity in Increasing Students` Grammar and Speaking Competence: A Study on Foundation English Students at Tishk International University

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Epistemic curiosity is a constant desire to acquire knowledge in various domains. A growing interest has been noticed to implement epistemic curiosity-based instruction at educational institutions. Likewise, a wealth of research has been conducted to measure the effects of epistemic curiosity-based instruction on students' English proficiency. However, a gap has been observed in the literature to measure the effects of epistemic curiosity on students' speaking and grammar achievement rates in Iraq at a tertiary level. To this end, current study was carried out to measure the effects of epistemic curiosity-based instruction on students' grammatical and speaking competence within a span of 12 weeks. Fifty freshman Foundation English course students who studied at TISHK International University in Erbil, Iraq were chosen by employing cluster sampling method in 2021-2022 Academic Year. The participants aged between 18 and 23 were chosen from 10 different departments ranging from dentistry to civil engineering. Control group students followed a traditional instruction, whereas the students in experimental group expanded their learning by doing thorough research on the internet about assigned topics. The data were collected via two exams, a questionnaire and an interview in line with a mixed methods design study. Subsequently, quantitative data were analyzed with SPSS 23, whereas qualitative data were analyzed with MAXQDA software program. Based on the findings in independent samples t test, it was revealed that students' grammar and speaking marks increased significantly in experimental group, whereas the progress was not significant in control group. Similarly, questionnaire and interview findings show that epistemic curiosity-based instruction raised students' motivation and satisfaction levels. Additionally, they attested that being curious promoted their learning, so they developed a habit towards learning by discovery. The implications of this study can lay the foundation for the stakeholders of education who consider implementing an epistemic curiosity-based instruction at educational institutions.

Keywords: Epistemic curiosity, English proficiency, grammar, speaking competence

English as a Foreign Language (EFL) Learners' Perspectives on Vocabulary Learning through Reading and Listening Skills

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Many learners of English as a foreign language may encounter difficulties in terms of acquiring new vocabulary items. These difficulties could be owed to the various forms, meanings, usages of words, and lack of exposure to the words of languages explicitly. Language skills in general and the two receptive skills of reading and listening in particular are of the most important value in enhancing new lexical items. The present study was aimed at investigating the EFL students' perspective on vocabulary learning via reading and listening skills. In doing so, 49 undergraduate Kurdish EFL learners were the subjects of the study who were third year students and they were from the Department of English Language-Faculty of Education at Koya University. To collect the data, a questionnaire of 14 items for both listening and reading skills was administered. The results showed that the participants' attitudes were positive in vocabulary development through reading and listening skills. It was also found that there is no significant difference between both genders and age groups in vocabulary learning.

Keywords: EFL, perspective, vocabulary, reading, listening, skill

The Attitudes of Kurdish University Students and Teachers towards American and British English and the Factors Associated with their Attitudes

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English, similar to any other language, possesses different varieties in all the circles mentioned by Kachru. However, two of them, American English and British English are considered the major ones. As observed, there exists a strong preference for American English on the students' part and a strong preference for British English on the lecturers' part, although this proposition has not been confirmed by prior research. Therefore, the present study was an attempt to understand and explore Kurdish university students' and teachers' awareness, preference, and attitudes towards the two major varieties of English that are situated within the Inner Circle of Kachru's model through a self-reported questionnaire adapted from previous studies. More importantly, the study tackled the factors that influenced their attitudes toward either of the aforementioned accents through a second self-reported questionnaire inquiring about the reasons why they preferred one accent over the other. The sample included 102 Kurdish university students and 49 university teachers from the different universities of Iraqi Kurdistan. The data analysis confirmed the assumption that the majority of Kurdish university students were positive about American English. They particularly described it as clearer, more standard, and more prestigious. Nonetheless, the majority of Kurdish university lecturers were positive about British English, considering it superior, more pleasant, and more international. As for the reasons, although their responses were various, the study listed the order of the factors that influenced their choice of accent. Thus, the study concluded that students' attitudes and teachers' attitudes towards English accents contradict that might affect the teaching/learning process.

Keywords: Attitude, university students and teachers, American English, British English.

The Influence of Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS) on Undergraduate Students' Academic Performance, Anxiety, and Their Quality of Life

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Undergraduate Students are vulnerable groups suffer from various health and mental problems such as eating disorders, obesity, depression, anxiety, and stress, which have been linked to IBS. Irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) is a chronic disease of the lower gastrointestinal tract. It causes several painful abdominal symptoms that can affect an individual's life and cause emotional and psychiatric comorbidities. In this study, 357 students participated in a cross-sectional study to investigate how IBS symptoms affect anxiety levels, quality of life, and academic performance in undergraduate students. The IBS was assessed by Rome III criteria, and the Birmingham IBS Symptom Questionnaire. Anxiety was assessed using the Beck Anxiety Inventory and quality of life using the IBS-QOL Questionnaire. The results showed that diet, lifestyle, and cultural habits are critical factors affecting students' health significantly. IBS prevalence was 16%, with females having a higher prevalence than males. It has been found that the student's academic performance is affected significantly by their physical and mental health which affects their grades. Students who suffered from IBS were majority from medical departments with high levels of anxiety and had a low GPA of CC. In addition, the majority reported having a quality of life below average and insufficient knowledge about IBS. Both positive and negative correlations were found between the demographic variables. However, levels of anxiety and quality of life were positively significantly correlated. The finding indicates that several factors are affecting the academic performance of undergraduate students and their development. Undergraduate students might suffer from anxiety and stress that will affect their quality of life and academic performance due to their health condition. IBS incidence in undergraduate students could be caused by diet, anxiety, and posttraumatic stress disorder. This condition not affecting only their academic performance, but also affects their social lives and their characteristics.

Keywords: Anxiety, Academic, Life, Performance, Quality, Students.

Individual and Social Educational Messages in a Foreign Language

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Language teaching, which is not limited to a specific subject or field, has the opportunity to touch many aspects of students' lives. Even mother tongue teaching does not include subjects as comprehensive as foreign language teaching. Foreign language teaching touches everything from waking up in the morning to everywhere a person can go and everything a person can do. In short, it touches everything a person can experience with their senses or ideas. A field with such a wide scope in life also makes great contributions to the education of students. There is no age limit to learning a foreign language, as it is never too late to learn something about life. It has been observed that people of all ages all over the world are generous with both time and money when it comes to learning languages. This shows the importance placed on foreign languages. This study aims to attract the attention of researchers to this aspect of foreign language teaching by trying to place the gains and values that are universally accepted in the individual and social field into foreign language education, and to reveal more work in this field by conducting studies. Additionally, it aims to contribute to the training of students by making use of the feature of foreign language education, which has a wide opportunity to give a message to students in terms of its subjects. This research is a qualitative study prepared based on data obtained from examining books prepared for foreign language teaching and studies on social values and human upbringing.

Keywords: Foreign Language, teaching by giving a message, Foreign language teaching by giving a message

The Influence of Kurdish Culture on English-Kurdish Written Translation

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Translation plays a vital role in crossing different cultures and communications. It is one of the essential, fundamental, and appropriate ways in transmitting culture, yet it has some limitations such as censorship and indeed culture itself. It is an interdisciplinary practice with texts of different types and properties. Due to its ideological and conceptual significance, it is important for translators to be familiar with pertinent knowledge about culture and how it is displayed in translation. One of the most important approaches to translation is the socio-semiotic or cultural approach. In other words, translation is not limited to the meaning of sounds, words, grammar or rhetoric but it goes beyond mere correspondences to cultural assumptions and value systems that generate different worldviews, which is specific to each culture. The purpose of this paper is to highlight various problematic areas in translation which arise from cultural differences that are part of the two languages. Specifically cultural difficulties in translating written texts from English into Kurdish. It also attempts to approach some of the cultural aspects in written translation through discussing different examples related to the components of culture. The researcher wishes to make readers obtain a better understanding of culture and its significance when translating written texts. Therefore, cultural approach alongside with other approaches will be taken into consideration in the process of translation. The researcher, hence, tries to answer the questions of how gender and identity impact translation in relation to culture, most particularly, in the case of translating written texts from English into Kurdish. With an awareness of tradition, one must consciously consider the chronology, explicit meaning, developments in related fields, historical and religious context of the source text. Finally, it is important to call up the same reaction that the source text is intended to evoke and not introduce new words that are irrelevant to the language people use.

KEYWORDS: Culture, Cultural Approach, Cultural Issues, Censorship, Kurdish Culture, Translation Approaches, Written Translation.

Investigating Academic Procrastination among University Students

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Academic procrastination has been a common problem among university students and has had a negative impact on their academic performance and overall well-being. This research study examined the prevalence of reasons for academic procrastination among university students at Tishk International university in Kurdistan Regional Government of Iraq. 82 second-year students of different ages, departments, and cultural background were involved in the current study. The Procrastination Assessment Scale--Students (PASS; Solomon & Rothblum, 1984) was adopted to assess the prevalence and reasons for student procrastination. Results revealed that major key factors affecting students to procrastinate are fear of failure, task aversiveness, destruction, and difficulty in time management, whereas other academic functioning components such as perfectionism and lack of clear goals, had minor effect on students' academic procrastination.

Keywords: academic procrastination, prevalence, time management, procrastination

"I'm a Woman Phenomenally": Black Women Empowerment in Selected Poems of Maya Angelou

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As an African-American female writer, Maya Angelou depicts the strength and power of black women and protests against the misconceptions and the prejudice of the white. Black women are perceived by the white to be less smart and attractive than the white. Although, Angelou resists the mistaken stereotypes regarding black women to be ugly and weak. In her poems, Angelou presents strong and confident black women who can stand for their rights and be, at least, as equal as to the white women. She is a great defender and supporter of women's rights. The fact that she is a black woman makes the study deeper as her poems present an oppressed woman and a subjugated black person who disallows the inequalities and stands up for her rights. Thus, this paper, through a multiracial-feminist theory, attempts to scrutinize Angelou's "Still I Rise" and "Phenomenal Woman" which reflect the empowerment of black women.

Keywords: Empowerment, Black women, Maya Angelou, *Phenomenal Woman*, *Still I Rise*.

The Invigilators' Behaviors in the Exam Halls and Its Effect on Students' Performance

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One of the exam halls essential personals are the invigilators, their behaviors will affect the exam flow. Due to that invigilator need to be very cautious of all their behaviors and interactions with the students in the exam halls. The students can be distracted from their exams due to anything that happens inside the exam halls. The aim of this study is to investigate the effect of invigilators behaviors inside the exam halls according to the student's perception. This paper used a mixed method for data collection. A survey and a computer assisted interview were the tools used to collect data from 92 participants from Hawler and Sulaymaniyah cities in Kurdistan Iraq. The results from SPSS program showed that the invigilators behaviors in the exam halls do make a deference according to the student's perception. The effect of some other variables like gender, stage, number of invigilators in an exam hall, and the type of the exam hall has been investigated.

Keywords: Invigilation, assessment, student assessment, student performance

EFL Teachers' Cognition on Market Needs and Their Pedagogical Practices in EFL Classroom

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Recently, a broad view is highlighted among the educators and those in charge in the pedagogical fields stating that the universities should be the place where the individual students are enriched with the knowledge and skills that the 21-century market requires. As teachers have a crucial role in providing the market with the skillful and knowledgeable students, so the teachers are required to have knowledge concerning various aspects including: what the market requires from their graduates in the 21st century and what effective pedagogical practices are necessary to follow in order to fulfill those requirements. In line with that, the aim of this paper is to delve into the EFL teacher's cognition, knowledge and believes, concerning what the market requires from the graduates and what pedagogical practices they follow in their EFL classes. For that, this study targets 16 EFL teachers at the English departments in three different public universities collecting qualitative data using semi-structured interviews and class observations. Additionally, a contextual analysis has been done collecting data from 6 private schools and 4 non-governmental organizations in the three major provinces so as to find out which skills and competences do they look for in the English language department graduates and what do they need those skills and competences for. Based on the available data, some conclusions are drawn and the references are documented.

Keywords: pedagogy, market needs, EFL, EFL teachers, 21st century skills

Struggle to Preserve Kurdish National Identity in Hiner Saleem's
My Father's Rifle: A Childhood in Kurdistan

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This study focuses on Hiner Saleem's (2006) autobiography*, My Father's Rifle: A Childhood in Kurdistan*, to show the discrimination experienced by Iraqi Kurds as a minority under the rule of the Iraqi government, as well as their struggle to preserve their ethnic identity, during the two decades of the second half of the twentieth century. *My Father's Rifle: A Childhood in Kurdistan* depicts a major period of time as well as a section of an event in the life of Iraqi Kurds. Postcolonial studies, which examined the discourse of identity and cultural practices on minorities, was one of the theoretical subjects that surfaced in autobiography in the 1970s and 1980s. Saleem's autobiography, written at the turn of the century, is an attempt in the field to depict the Kurdish people's effort to preserve their identity. While Saleem, the narrator, writes to chronicle his life experiences and investigate a certain time period in his life, he also chronicles the history of the Kurds during that time period.

Keywords: Kurds, Kurdish national identity, postcolonial literature, autobiography, ethnic studies.

Formal Education System and Skill Development: A Case study of Iraq

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The eighth goal of sustainable development is to promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and productive employment and decent work for all including men and women. The world economic forum estimates that by 2025 around 85 million jobs may be displaced by a shift in the division of labour between human and machines. Digital transformation is rapidly changing the skills needed for the youth for getting employment or to start a new business of their own. In this context, does the formal education system, in Iraq, provide the people with the required skills and training they need to perform their jobs well or to start a business or help them to find employment? The main aim of this research is exploring the answers of the respondents from Iraq using the world values survey data of seventh wave which was conducted between 2017 to 2022. The research also analyzes the variances based on education level of 1200 respondents from Iraq. The research hypothesis is to explore whether any statistically significant relationship exists between the skills variables and the moderator variable Education level of the respondent's Cross tabulation, Fleiss Kappa and Chi^2 Test were used for analysis. The results of the Chi^2 Test performed show a moderate to small effect. The findings of the research contribute for the policy makers to explore the future scope for skill development in Iraq through education planning.

Keywords: Formal Education, Education planning, Skill Development, Education level

Justification of Parental Violence – A Cross country analysis Evidences from World Values Survey- Variances based on Gender, Age and Education

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Every Society experiences violence in some way or other. Domestic violence is one of the most common and neglected violence. Research proves that domestic violence has significant short- and long-term impacts on children's physical, emotional, cognitive, behavioral and social developmental processes. Some international studies have shown that 80-90% of children around the world have been physically punished within the family. In this regard the researchers aim to explore to what extent the parental violence is justified across the nations around the world taking the data from the seventh wave of values survey conducted during 2017 to 2021 in around 51 countries. The research also aims to explore the variance based on gender, age and education. SPSS version 26 was used to analyze the data. Mean values, Mann- Whitney U Test and Kruskal Wallis test were the tools used to explore the variance based on gender, age and education. Among the 86,820 total respondents from 59 countries, 41,245 were male respondents and 45,575 female respondents. The major finding includes there is statistically significant variance exists between male and female respondents as well as different age groups and education levels of the respondents. There was inverse relationship between age group and education level with the justification of violence. The research concludes that male respondents justify more than the female respondents, younger age justify more than the older age of the respondents and the lower educated respondents justify more than the higher educated group. The research has implications for some policy making through recommendations.

Keywords: Parental Violence, Gender, Age, Education, World Values Survey

Three Main Characteristics of an Ideal Teacher

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This literature review aims to investigate and examine the basic characteristics an ideal teacher should have. Teaching is an important component of education, and teachers are the main individuals of education. This literature review investigates three main characteristics of ideal teachers that are essential and fundamental to education. The sequence of these three characteristics is passion, commitment, and role-modelling. These three characteristics of teachers have been analyzed because there have been several studies on teaching, but there hasn't been any research incorporating these three traits. In reality, as a result of the studies, it has been observed that the teachers that invigorate education and leave a lasting impression on their students have these three qualities and can shape a country's future.

Keywords: Committed Teacher, Ideal Teacher, Passionate Teacher, Role Model Teacher

Assessing Knowledge Beyond the Classroom

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This research aims to investigate the existing practices in assessment of students' knowledge and skills outside the classroom locally and internationally, to find out the students' preferences/perception of the assessment conducted outside the classroom, and to provide recommendations for the teachers to make assessment more valid, dynamic, and practical. The target audience is undergraduate students and university lecturers. A mixed method research was chosen for this study – a survey, distributed to students and teachers, and observations during the lectures. The findings reveal that the applied assessment mainly focuses on the performance inside the classroom.

Keywords: validity, reliability, assessment

Waiting for Godot in Iraq

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Many scholars have written papers on various aspects of Samuel Beckett's play *Waiting for Godot*, but the purpose of this paper is different. The researcher attempts to study the play through the eyes of a Kurdish scholar living in Iraq's Kurdistan Region. *Waiting for Godot* was written between 1948 and 1949, and after nearly 75 years, there are many clues from the present that tell us that we still live in the Modern Age and that all of the themes highlighted by Beckett in his play and during his epoch are still relevant. In this paper, the researcher will apply some of the characteristics of modern literature found in *Waiting for Godot* to today's society and the events that have occurred in Iraq and Kurdistan over the last forty years. Furthermore, this study will address traits such as waiting, hope, loss of faith, futility, disillusionment, the world as a wasteland, absurdism, and existentialism as traits that can be found in our contemporary world by using examples from Iraq's recent history and proving the points with quotes from Beckett's masterpiece and events that occurred after the 1980s until today. Finally, the researcher employs a variety of approaches to make his points, including historical, moral, and reader response criticism.

Keywords: Absurdism, Beckett, English, Godot, Iraq, Kurdistan, Literature, Modern, Waiting.

Education During the Pandemic: Teachers' Stories of Resilience and Success

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The COVID-19 pandemic has brought unprecedented challenges to education, forcing teachers to adapt to remote and hybrid learning models in which requires integration of new technologies in order to save the academic year and continue providing instruction to the students. This study explores the experiences of teachers during the pandemic, specifically focusing on their resilience and successes. To do so, through a series of interviews that would be conducted with a significant number of teachers at Tishk International University, the study highlights the challenges faced by teachers, including the need to adapt to virtual instruction and the balancing of work and home responsibilities. Despite these challenges, the study also highlights the ways in which teachers have been able to find success, such as through the use of innovative teaching strategies and the development of strong relationships with students and colleagues. Ultimately, the study illustrates the resilience and adaptability of teachers during a challenging and unprecedented time, and the ways in which they have been able to continue providing high-quality education to their students. Thus, the study aims to provide visible insights into educational system through the depiction of such stories of resilience and success.

Keywords: Covid-19, resilience, face-to-face teaching, online teaching

Investigation of High School Students' Perceptions of Gender Differences: A Case Study

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In addition to the strict division of labor in traditional societies, gender differences were particularly outstanding. Accordingly, the jobs that women and men would do according to their gender in traditional societies were clearly stated. There are many situations in which perceptions of gender difference are expressed in the form of stereotypes. It is possible to understand this especially from the professions that many people see as suitable for men and women. However, modern times and many factors affecting cultural change have radically altered these perceptions in younger generations. It is hypothesized in the study that the perceptions of the gender discrimination began to be neutralized with the effect of many factors and the stereotypes were largely lost. In order to evaluate this, a questionnaire was applied to high school 10th, 11th and 12th grade students about their perceptions on this issue and the results were evaluated. Accordingly, it has been observed that these differences have largely disappeared.

Keywords: Sex and Gender, Gender Differences, Stereotypes, Gender Discrimination

Factors that Hinder the Development of EFL Learners' Speaking Skill

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Nowadays, the wide spread of the English language has led to the importance of mastering four skills of the language, in particular the speaking skill. Despite the importance of the speaking skill, a large number of EFL learners still have issues in communicating and using the language whether inside their classrooms or in their daily lives. Hence, a quantitative study was designed to investigate the factors that can impede the improvement of the speaking skill of EFL learners. The study included 92 participants from Tishk International University (TIU) studying in Education, Pharmacy, Nursing, and Medical Analysis faculties. The results of the questionnaire showed that motivation, personality, attitudes towards English language teachers (AET), classroom environment and instructional media (CEIM), and attitudes towards English language (ATEL) have a significant difference towards the improvement of the speaking skills. The results of this study will be beneficial for teachers to focus on these factors and improve their teaching methods in ways that help the learners to improve their speaking skill.

Keywords: Factors, Speaking, Improvement, Hinder, EFL learners

The Concept of Education and Culture in Multicultural Societies

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Multicultural education is a social concept in which certain and known aspects of cultural change as an indicator of being different are given to students in the social environment, at school and even in the classroom, in societies that contain different cultures. A new way of conceptualizing discrimination in multicultural settings is emerging. In this case, the presence of ethnic groups, which are clearly visible due to socioeconomic differences, together with factors such as skin color, mother tongue with which they communicate, religious and national values, reactions and behaviors in the face of events, shows the need for special education. The existence of ethnic groups that are clearly differentiated due to socioeconomic differences along with skin color, mother tongue, religious values and behaviors, along with all these and other factors, is the difference in the need for a 'special education'. As a result of this training, it emerges as a new way of conceptualizing the discrimination practiced in schools. As a result of this, whether we want it or not, discrimination based on cultural difference comes to the fore in multicultural and multilingual societies. Gender and class differences distinguish those belonging to different cultural groups from dominant societies. Even if they are different, they continue their lives together in a logical way. In this study, we will present multicultural education in precisely different ways from the perspective of a discipline such as anthropology education (a sub-discipline of the general body of social and cultural anthropology). The analysis of different ways of understanding multicultural education will be carried out through the basic concept of cultural and social anthropology, the concept of culture.

Keywords: Cultural change, religious and national values, ethnic groups, cultural education

The Characteristics of Passionate Educators and Their Role In Education

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The teaching profession is described in various ways, including being a mentor, shaping a nation's future, serving as a parent figure, exhibiting patience, demonstrating productivity, and setting a good example. These factors play a significant role in shaping the fate of society. The study examines the concept of passion in teaching, identifying the traits and characteristics of passionate teachers. Results reveals that enthusiasm, desire, effort, dedication, and commitment are the key elements of passion in teaching, which are crucial for a successful education and academic success for students. This study is helpful for both new and experienced teachers seeking inspiration, as it highlights the importance of passion in teaching, which helps bring various professions to life. The results suggest that a teacher's passion has a significant impact on the future of a nation as they prepare students for a successful future.

Keywords: Dedicated Teacher, Passion and Education, Passionate Teacher, Passion for Teaching

Bilingualism and Its Impact on Language Development: Teacher's Perspective and Opinion

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A bilingual is an individual who is able to speak, read, write and think in two different languages. Bilingualism is considered a challenging achievement in language learning, the difficulties that learners face include language fluency delays, language mixing, and dominance of one language over another language. Being bilingual at a young age facilitates language development; bilingual learners are more able to develop their languages than monolingual learners. A bilingual learner's brain has better attention and capacity, they can see the world differently than others, and it gives them the impression that they have two different personalities. The purpose of this study is to discover how bilingualism aids in the development of young learners' languages and the effects of bilingualism on language development. The research employed a questionnaire survey to gather teachers' perspectives and opinions. The results indicated that teachers generally believe that young learners benefit from acquiring a second language early on and that their first language will not be forgotten.
Keywords: Bilingualism, A bilingual, Young Learners, Foreign Language, First Language, language development

Second Language Learning Word Complexity in The Simplification Movements in Turkey in the Period of Ataturk (1923-1938)

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The enlightenment and modernization movements that western societies entered after the 18th century gave birth to the nation states, which were a political unit in the next period. There are three most important concepts that nation states focus on: the land they live on, a common language, and a common religion. In this context, the language issue came to the fore and became one of the main issues that were addressed in the founding of the modern Turkish Republic. After the alphabet reform in 1928 during the Atatürk period, the simplification movements in the language accelerated, especially when the words in the folk language were placed in official Turkish. However, over time, this movement went beyond its purpose and ended with the introduction of the Sun Language theory by Atatürk. Atatürk, who wanted to stop this movement based on scientific data, started to use Turkish before the simplification after 1936.

Keywords: Turkey, Atatürk Period, Second language, Simplification in Language, Turkish

Pre-service Teacher Training Assessment: Capstone Project vs. Thesis

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Capstone projects and theses are both types of assessments used to evaluate student learning and progress in teacher training programs. Both capstone projects and theses are used to evaluate student learning and progress, but they have different focuses and requirements. The choice between the two depends on the goals and objectives of the program and what the program wants to assess in its students. The study aims to explore the potential of using a capstone project as an alternative to a thesis in a Faculty of Education. Through the systematic review, it compares the procedures, requirements, and assessment methods of the capstone project with those of the thesis, to determine which option would be more beneficial for the program and its students.

Keywords: capstone, thesis, assessment, pre-service teacher education

A Stylistic Analysis to Selected Love Poems

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Language and literature have a strong relationship that is studied and investigated in the field of Stylistics among others. Generally, stylistics is the combination of linguistics and literary studies. The aim of this research is to explore the ways in which language has been used in the selected poems as an attempt to discover the identity of the poems through the use of language's distinctive features employed by the writer. The remarkable and visible words employed by the poets in the selected poems enhance the real transference of the poets' messages of love. As a result, the present study is hoped to be of great benefit to students in the field of language and literature who also have an interest in stylistics. It also inspires them more on how to analyze texts using the levels of stylistics among other analyses used in this work.

The analysis includes lexical elements only to show the real meanings of love. The analysis also puts forward the properties and functions of the stylistic elements used throughout the poems. One of the major conclusions arrived at is the fact that the poet achieved making a memorized impression on readers and influenced their emotions by using precise and suitable lexical elements to convey the message of love and highlight the theme of the poem.

Keywords: Stylistic Analysis, Love, Lexical Elements.

Conference Extended Program

HALL NO. 207 11:45 –13:00	
Concurrent Session I	
Chairs of Session:	**Asma Abas Brime** **Abdurrahman Ahmad Wahab** **Rawand Sabah**
PRESENTER(S)	TITLE OF PRESENTATION
Rawand Sabah Diyar Fakher Muhamad	Assessing the Quality of Kurdish-English Translation Generated by Google Translate
Abdurrahman Ahmad Wahab	Private Universities in the Kurdistan Region: Economic and Political Drivers and Inhibitors
Liva Adil Shareef	The value of soft skills in a world dominated by AI: why human qualities are more critical than ever
Shohidahon Nurmatova	Investigating Academic Procrastination among University Students

HALL NO. 208 11:45 –13:00	
Chair of Session:	**Arev Mirza Istefo Murad** **Aziza Kavlu** **Adem Daskan**
PRESENTER(S)	TITLE OF PRESENTATION
Parishan Haji Ahmed	Competency-Based Approach in EFL Speaking Classes: An Analysis of Teachers' and Students' View at Soran University
Bnar Abdulrazaq Aziz Soran Mustafa Kurdi	Machine Translation Versus Human Translation: An Evaluation of Kurdish Machine Translation
Soma Nawzad Abubakr	EFL Teachers' Cognition on Market Needs and Their Pedagogical Practices in EFL Classroom
SERDAR DAYAN	Individual and Social Educational Messages in a Foreign Language

HALL NO. 209 11:45 –13:00	
Chair of Session:	**Basima Othman Mahmood** **Behcet Celik** **Fatimah Saadi Ali**
PRESENTER(S)	TITLE OF PRESENTATION
Sultana Begum	Formal Education System and Skill Development: A Case study of Iraq
Zeynel Polat Sema Kevser Yanar Zahide Kebire Polat	The Concept of Education and Culture in Multicultural Societies
Habip Bedir	Unwanted Student Behaviors and a Combination of Effective Classroom Management Techniques
Sara Jamal Mohammed Faraj	English as a Foreign Language (EFL) Learners' Perspectives on Vocabulary Learning through Reading and Listening Skills

HALL NO. 210 11:45 –13:00	
Chair of Session:	**Pakhshan Ismaeel Hamad Pakhshan** **Reman Sabah Meena** **Hiwa Fouad Ali**
PRESENTER(S)	TITLE OF PRESENTATION
CHANAR A. GHAFOUR ALBARAZANCHI	The Implementation of Action Research among English Language Teachers in Kurdistan Benefits, Challenges and Perceptions
Reman Sabah Meena Hiwa Fouad Ali Gashbin Khalid	Perceived Stress and Anxiety Among University EFL Students in KRI During COVID-19
Bnar Abdulmajeed Ghafour	The Prospective Role of Communicative Language on the Alumni Competitive Advantage
Saban Kara	The Role of Epistemic Curiosity in Increasing Students` Grammar and Speaking Competence: A Study on Foundation English Students at Tishk International University

HALL NO. 212 11:45 –13:00	
Chair of Session:	**Alan Anwer Hassan** **Soran Mustafa Kurdi** **Zeynel Polat**
PRESENTER(S)	TITLE OF PRESENTATION
Shokhan Mohammed Fatah	"I'm a Woman Phenomenally": Black Women Empowerment in Selected Poems of Maya Angelou
Lanja A. Dabbagh	A Stylistic Analysis to Selected Love Poems
Soran Mustafa Kurdi	Struggle to Preserve Kurdish National Identity in Hiner Saleem's My Father's Rifle: A Childhood in Kurdistan
Yadgar Faeq Saeed	Waiting for Godot in Iraq

HALL NO. 214 11:45 –13:00	
Chair of Session:	**Muhammad Abdulwahab Aziz** **Unal Ulker** **Soma Hassan**
PRESENTER(S)	TITLE OF PRESENTATION
Yunus Yildiz Recep Bilgin	Investigation of High School Students' Perceptions of Gender Differences: A Case Study
Dilveen Abdulsttar Sadiq	Behavioral Engagement in the Task-based Classroom
Dara Karim Mahmood Fatimah Rashid Hasan Al Bajalani	Evaluating Titles of MA Theses and PhD Dissertations in Applied Linguistics in Kurdistan Universities
Hakan Bilgin	Reflections of Social, Political and Educational Bigotry in "The Chaotic Class (Hababam Sinifi)": A Comparative Cultural Review of the Novel and Its Film Adaptation

Chair of Session:	Rebin Abdulkadir Aziz Ahmed Ariwan Kanar Zirak
PRESENTER(S)	TITLE OF PRESENTATION
Aroona Hashmi	Investigating the In-Service Teachers' Contents and Sources of Personal Practical Theories
Ali Abdulameer Hossein Bozorgian	The Effect of Intensive and Extensive Listening on Iraqi Students' Listening Comprehension and Working memory
HAYDER JABBAR KADHIM Hossien Bozorgian	Working Memory and Listening Comprehension across Gender among Iraqi EFL Students: Metacognitive Intervention

Concurrent Session II

HALL NO. 207 14:15– 15:30 Concurrent Session II	
Chair of Session:	**Shirin Kamal Ahmed** **Reman Sabah Mina** **Zeynel Polat**
PRESENTER(S)	TITLE OF PRESENTATION
Reman Sabah Mina Soran M. Kurdi	The Students Perception Towards the Use of Icebreakers, Warmers, and Energizers in EFL Classrooms: A Tertiary Study
Baren Rebar Khalil Hewa Fouad Ali	Investigating Stakeholders' Converging Expectations of Undergraduate English Language Teaching Program
Zeynel Polat Ibrahim Can Yanar Zahide Kebire Polat	Second Language Learning Word Complexity in The Simplification Movements in Turkey in the Period of Ataturk (1923-1938)
Sawsan S. Al- Rawi Mohamed Sadeq Al-Ibrahim Ahmad Hamdy Ibrahim	The Influence of Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS) on Undergraduate Students' Academic Performance, Anxiety, and Their Quality of Life

HALL NO. 208 14:15– 15:30	
Chairs of Session:	**Nawsha Ghalib Sharif** **Aziza Kavlu** **Unal Ulker**
PRESENTER(S)	TITLE OF PRESENTATION
Unal Ulker	Pre-service Teacher Training Assessment: Capstone Project vs. Thesis
Aziza Kavlu	Pre-Service Teachers' Perception of Project-Based Learning and its Implementation in the Pedagogical Course (Iraqi Case)
Alpaslan Toker	Influence of Using Quizizz Platform on Student Motivation in English Language Classes
Sarkawt Muhammad Qadir	Kurdish University Students' and Teachers' Attitudes Towards English Accents: American English and British English

HALL NO. 209 14:15– 15:30	
Chairs of Session:	**Zheen Hamadameen Abdullah** **Mustafa Altun**
PRESENTER(S)	TITLE OF PRESENTATION
Recep Bilgin	Investigating Achievements of Post-Covid Generations: A Case Study at Tishk International University
Hakan Bilgin	The Impact of Multicultural Education on High School Students: A Case Study in Rise International School in Erbil
Bunyamin Celik Recep Bilgin	Students' Opinions about English-Medium Instruction: A Case Study at Tishk International University
Mustafa Altun Hind Mahmud Muhammad	Bilingualism and Its Impact on Language Development: Teacher's Perspective and Opinion

HALL NO. 210 14:15– 15:30	
Chairs of Session:	**Nawsha Ghalib Sharif** **Behcet Celik** **Kanar Zirak**
PRESENTER(S)	TITLE OF PRESENTATION
Behcet Celik	Do the Grammar Knowledge and General English Proficiency Levels of High School Students Match? A Case Study
Shango Mohammed Hoshman Mohammed Tofiq	The Influence of Kurdish Culture on English-Kurdish Written Translation
Turgay Kucuk	Three Main Characteristics of an Ideal Teacher
Zainab Nizar Karam Mowafaq Muhammed Al Kassab	Factors that Hinder the Development of EFL Learners' Speaking Skill

HALL NO. 212 14:15– 15:30	
Chair of Session:	**Adem Daskan** **Sami Hussein Hakeem Barzani** **Hewa Fouad Ali**
PRESENTER(S)	TITLE OF PRESENTATION
Sultana Begum Aziza Kavlu	Justification of Parental Violence – A Cross country analysis Evidences from World Values Survey- Variances based on Gender, Age and Education
Adem Daskan	The Characteristics of Passionate Educators and Their Role In Education
Yara Basim Sami Hussein Hakeem Barzani	Education During the Pandemic: Teachers' Stories of Resilience and Success
Bita Nzar Noor Hewa Fouad Ali	Exploring Undergraduate Learners' Experiences and Attitudes Toward Academic Misconduct: Prevalence and Prevention
Awat Brqi Sami Hussein Hakeem Barzani	Error Analysis of Written English Paragraphs by Kurdish and Arab Student: A Comparative Study

HALL NO. 214 14:15– 15:30	
Chair of Session:	**Venera Ulker** **Fatimah Saadi Ali** **Soma Hassan Hussein**
PRESENTER(S)	TITLE OF PRESENTATION
Venera Ulker	Assessing Knowledge Beyond the Classroom
Fatimah Saadi Ali	Students' Level of Achievement in a Flipped Writing Course: Near East University-Cyprus-Turkey
Soma Hassan Hussein	The Invigilators' Behaviors in the Exam Halls and Its Effect on Students' Performance
Kanar Zirak Haseeb Chicho	Exploring EFL Students' Perspectives on Foreign Language Speaking Anxiety: A Tertiary Study

HALL NO. 215 (Online Session) 14:15– 15:30	
Chair of Session:	**Ahmed Ariwan** **Kanar Zirak**
PRESENTER(S)	TITLE OF PRESENTATION
Meretguly Gurbanov Gurbangul Myradowa Serdar Atayev	Computer Assisted Language Learning and Professional Development
Kamal Heideri	The Contribution of Field Dependence/Independence to Receptive/Productive Vocabulary Learning of Iranian EFL Learners
Ananda Majumdar	Dimensions of Literacy: Multiliteracy

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