The Extent of the Realization of the Objectives of the Lower Basic Stage Curriculum: A Case Study of Jordanian EFL Sixth Grade Students.

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Abstract

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The aim of this study is to determine the extent to which the objectives of the lower basic stage English curriculum are achieved. For the purposes of this study, the researcher developed two instruments. The first was a language ability test which consists of three parts to evaluate the four language skills and a set of language functions. The second instrument was a questionnaire distributed to the teachers of the lower basic stage which asks about the teachers’ views about the realization of the objectives of the lower basic stage English curriculum.

This study attempted to answer the following questions:

1. What is the students’ overall performance on the Language ability test as a whole?
2. What is the students’ performance on each component of the Language ability test?
3. What are the teachers’ views about the realization of the objectives of the lower basic stage English curriculum?
4. Are the teachers’ perceptions of objectives realization consistent with the test results?
In this study, the researcher utilized two populations: the population of students and the population of teachers. The students' sample consisted of 400 female sixth grade students of Irbid First Directorate of Education. The teachers' sample consisted of 50 female Action Pack teachers of Irbid First Directorate of Education during the academic year 2005/2006. The students' results in the language ability test and teachers' responses to the questionnaire were analyzed using these statistical measurements: frequencies, means, percentages, overall mean, and standard deviations.

The findings of the study have revealed the following:

- the students have an average level language ability.
- from the teachers' point of view the objectives of the lower basic stage English curriculum are usually achieved.
- there is a significant and strong correlation between the teachers' opinions and students' performance on the language ability test about the realization of the lower basic stage English curriculum.

In light of these findings, the researcher presented a set of recommendations to educational researchers and Jordanian Ministry of Education.
Key words: