

DO GOOD LANGUAGE LEARNER BEHAVIORS LEAD TO STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT ?

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Abstract

The purpose of this study is to clarify the question of whether or not good language learner behaviors really lead to students success. For the purpose of this study, School of Foreign Languages at Hacettepe University was selected as the setting of the study. One elementary level class with 19 students was selected to conduct the research. In order to collect data, a list of good language learner behaviors evaluated by the teacher of the selected class from the most important (5) to the least important (1) was used. Using this list, the teacher observed her students for about one month and recorded her observations on the frequency lists which had scales from 1 to 5; 1 being "almost never" and 5 being "always". At the end of one-month observation, the lists on which the frequency of students' display of good language learning behaviors were recorded were collected from the teacher and the results were transferred into tables. Along with the frequency lists the scores that students made on the exam were collected from the teacher. Data analysis was carried out through percentages. Tables were prepared to present the results and the frequency of subjects' display of good language behaviors was given along with the grades that subjects received on their exam. The importance of this study stems from the fact that it helps illuminate the extent to which the behaviors of good and efficient language learners have an impact on their success in the foreign language being learned. Thus, students and teachers, taking the results into account, will be able to take a closer look at the probable effects of efficient language learning behavior on the student achievement. It was found in this study that the findings of the study supported the first hypothesis formulated for the study, which states that learners who exhibit good language learner behaviors will be more successful in the end than those learners who do not exhibit good language learner behaviors.

Key Words: Language learning, learning behaviors, achievement, foreign language learning