

AN INVESTIGATION OF SENSORY LEARNING STYLES USED BY KURDISH EFL STUDENTS AT UNIVERSITY LEVEL

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Abstract

The present study is entitled “An Investigation of Sensory Learning Styles Used by Kurdish EFL Students at university level”. Sensory learning style theory postulates that all learners have a preference for receiving and storing information through one or more of the sensory modalities.

The present study aims to verify a set of hypotheses by providing answers to the following research questions: What is the sensory learning style preference of Kurdish EFL University students? Is there any relationship between sensory learning style preference and students' gender? What is the relationship between learners' sensory learning styles and teachers' sensory teaching styles? Is there any relationship between sensory learning styles and students' English language proficiency?

The study is conducted at English departments of the College of Basic Education, College of Education and College of Languages at Salahaddin University in Erbil city, Kurdistan Region of Iraq. A mixed approach of research and two instruments have been employed for data collection.

The research consists of five sections; section one is an introduction to the study, section two presents theoretical background and literature review, section three presents the methodology of the study, section four is the data analysis and discussion of results and section five presents the conclusions, recommendations and future work.

The major findings of the study show that most Kurdish EFL University students prefer visual learning style. In contrast, most English language teachers prefer ‘individual and auditory’ teaching styles. Therefore, there is no matching between the students' learning styles and teachers' teaching styles. Moreover, there are statistically significant differences in visual, auditory, tactile and kinesthetic learning styles for female students. Most importantly, there is statistically significant correlation coefficient between visual learning style and English language proficiency.

Keywords: Education, Learning styles, sensory learning styles, Kurdish, EFL students