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**ABSTRACT**

Effects of Using Communicative Activities to Enhance the Speaking Skills of Elementary Students

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This study examines and reports on the effects of using communicative activities to enhance the speaking skills of elementary students studying in the Preparatory School of Near East University. It analyzes the responses of students (n=100) who are currently studying in the Preparatory School and the instructors (n=33) who are currently employed as English language teachers in Preparatory school.

The study addresses five issues: How is CLT (Communicative Language Teaching) implemented in the Preparatory School of NEU (Near East University) and what are the effects of the newly implemented communicative activities on the elementary students’ performance in speaking? What is the role and place of speaking in learning English as a foreign language in the Preparatory School of NEU and what are the students’ and teachers’ opinions about the speaking skill in terms of students’ needs? What are the factors that prevent the elementary students in Preparatory School from speaking? How can elementary students in Preparatory School be assisted to participate more in communicative activities that focus on speaking? And finally, How do students perceive the communicative activities used in the class to enhance their speaking skills? Detailed student and teacher questionnaires, feedback forms and observation forms were used to investigate the effect of using communicative activities to enhance the speaking skills of elementary students studying in the Preparatory School of Near East University.

The findings indicate that it is necessary to use extra communicative activities and materials besides the ones in the students’ books to help and encourage students to use the language accurately and fluently outside the classroom and continue their careers in the real community. Moreover, carrying out communicative activities in the classroom gives an opportunity to the students to act in real life situations and use English accurately and fluently. These activities also encourage them to join in the activities and explain their ideas to their classmates to develop their communication skills.

The findings of this thesis suggest that before designing an English teaching syllabus based on the students’ level, it is important to find out the students’ interest and design activities to develop students’ communication skills in learning English.

**Key Words:** Communicative Language Teaching, Communicative Activity

**ÖZ**

Başlangıç Düzeyindeki Öğrencilerin Konuşma Becerilerini Geliştirmek için İletişimsel Faaliyetlerden Yararlanmanın Etkileri

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Bu çalışma Yakın Doğu Üniversitesi Hazırlık Okulu’nda öğrenim gören başlangıç düzeyindeki öğrencilerin konuşma becerilerini geliştirmek için iletişimsel faaliyetlerden yararlanmanın etkilerini incelemekte ve açıklamaktadır. Çalışma, halihazırda Hazırlık Okulu’nda öğrenim gören öğrencilerin (n=100) ve Hazırlık Okulu’nda İngilizce Öğretmeni olarak istihdam edilmiş okutmanların (n=33) verdikleri cevapları analiz etmektedir.

Çalışma, beş konuyu irdelemektedir: Yakın Doğu Üniversitesi’nde iletişimsel dil eğitimi nasıl uygulanmaktadır? ve yeni uygulanan iletişimsel aktivitelerin başlangıç düzeyindeki öğrencilerin konuşma performanslarına olan etkileri nelerdir? Yakın Doğu Üniversitesi Hazırlık Okulu’nda İngilizcenin yabancı dil olarak öğrenilmesinde konuşmanın rolü ve yeri nedir ve öğretmenlerle öğrencilerin öğrencilerin gereksinimleri açısından konuşma becerisi hakkındaki düşünceleri nelerdir? Başlangıç düzeyindeki öğrencilerin Hazırlık Okulu’nda konuşmalarını engelleyen etkenler nelerdir? Başlangıç düzeyindeki öğrencilere Hazırlık Okulu’ndaki konuşmaya odaklı iletişimsel aktivitelere daha fazla katılma konusunda nasıl yardımcı olunabilir? ve son olarak öğrenciler konuşma becerilerinin geliştirilmesi için sınıfta yararlanılan iletişimsel aktiviteleri nasıl algılamaktadırlar? Yakın Doğu Üniversitesi Hazırlık Okulu’nda öğrenim gören öğrencilerin konuşma becerilerini geliştirmek için iletişimsel aktivitelerden yararlanmanın etkilerinin araştırılmasında detaylı öğrenci ve öğretmen anketlerinden, geri besleme formlarından ve gözlem formlarından yararlanılmıştır.

Bulgular öğrencilere dili sınıfın dışında doğru ve akıcı kullanma ve kariyerlerine toplum içerisinde gerçek yaşamda devam etmek konusunda yardımcı olmak ve onları cesaretlendirmek için kitaplarındakilerin yanı sıra ilave iletişimsel aktivitelerden yararlanmanın gerekli olduğunu göstermektedir. Ayrıca, sınıfta iletişimsel aktivitelerin gerçekleştirilmesi öğrencilere gerçek yaşamda gibi hareket etme ve İngilizceyi doğru ve akıcı kullanma fırsatı vermektedir. Bu aktiviteler ayrıca iletişim becerilerini geliştirmek için onları aktivitelere katılmaya ve düşüncelerini sınıf arkadaşlarına anlatmaya özendirmektedir.

Bu tezdeki bulgular öğrencilerin seviyesine dayalı bir İngilizce öğretim müfredatı tasarlamadan önce, öğrencilerin İngilizce öğrenme konusundaki iletişim becerilerini geliştirmek için öğrencilerin ilgi alanlarını tespit etmenin ve aktiviteler tasarlamanın önemli olduğunu ortaya koymaktadır.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** İletişimsel Dil Öğretimi, İletişimsel Aktivite

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