We certify that we have read the thesis submitted by Saman Ahmed Hasan entitled “Teachers’ and Students’ Perceptions towards Improving Vocabulary through Using Short Stories in the EFL Classroom” and that in our combined opinion it is fully adequate, in scope and in quality, as a thesis for the degree of Master of Arts.

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**DECLARATION**

I hereby declare that all the information in this document has been obtained and presented in accordance with academic rules and ethical conduct. I also declare that, as required by these rules and conduct, I have fully cited and referenced all materials and results that are not original to this study.

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**ABSTRACT**

**TEACHERS’ AND STUDENTS’ PERCEPTIONS TOWARDS IMPROVING VOCABULARY THROUGH USING SHORT STORIES IN THE EFL CLASSROOM**

**Hasan, Saman Ahmed**

**MA, English Language Teaching**

**Supervisor: Asst. Prof. Dr. Doina Popescu**

**December, 2013, 138 pages**

The current study aims at investigating teaching vocabulary through using short stories in the EFL classroom in Northern Iraq. The total population that participated in the study consists of 100 male and female students who study short stories during their 3rd grade of learning and 20 literature lecturers in the College of Basic-Education and the College of Education in the Salahaddin University for the academic year 2012-2013.

This study addresses four research questions: What is the role of the short story to improve vocabulary? What strategies do teachers use to improve vocabulary through short stories? What are the teachers’ attitudes towards improving students’ vocabulary through short stories? and, What are the students’ attitudes toward improving vocabulary through short stories? The quantitative data collection tools were used to collect data through two survey questionnaires, one for students and one for instructors. The data were analyzed descriptively by using the SPSS program version 20 to achieve the frequencies, means, percentage and standard deviations of the respondents.

The findings indicated that short stories should be taken into consideration as the most beneficial material to improve vocabulary with compare to novel, drama and poetry in the EFL classrooms. Furthermore, more strategies are necessary to improve vocabulary through studying short stories in the EFL classroom. In writing their course plans, teachers need to concentrate on vocabulary acquisition as one of their main objectives. Also vocabulary acquisition in short stories requires all language skills, so as to develop students’ productive and receptive vocabulary.

***Key words*:** Teaching Vocabulary, Short Story, English as a Foreign Language

**ÖZET**

**YDİ SINIFINDA KISA HİKAYELERİN KULLANIMI İLE KELİME HAZİNESİNİN GELİŞTİRİLMESİ ÜZERİNE AKADEMİSYEN VE ÖĞRENCİLERİN ALGILARI**

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**Kasım , 2013, 138 sayfa**

Bu çalışma kısa hikâyeler kullanılarak Kuzey Irak’ta YDİ sınıflarında kelime öğretimini incelenmeyi amaçlamaktadır. Yapılan bu çalışmaya katılan toplam kişi sayısı 100 kız ve erkek öğrenciden oluşmaktadır. İngilizce bölümündeki, bu öğrenciler kısa hikâye çalışmalarını üçüncü sınıfta yapmaktadırlar. İngilizce öğretimi için başvurulan 20 akademisyen, 2012-2013 yılında Salahaddin Üniversitesi Temel Eğitim Fakültesi ile Eğitim Fakültesi’nde görevli akademisyenlerdir.

Bu çalışma dört soruyu ele almaktadır: “Kelime hazinesinin geliştirilmesinde kısa hikâyelerin rolü nedir?” “Akademisyenler kısa hikâyelerle kelime öğretimini yaparken ne gibi stratejiler kullanmaktadır?”, ‘Öğrencilere kısa hikâyelerle kelime öğretimine yönelik akademisyenlerin tutumları nelerdir?”, “Akademisyenlerin kısa hikâyelerle kelime öğreniminde davranış biçimi nelerdir?’ Bilgi toplama ölçüm araçları iki anketten oluşmaktadır. Biri öğrenciler diğeri de akademisyenler için veri toplamada kullanılmıştır. Veri frekansları, araçları, yüzdelikleri ve katılımcıların standart sapmalarını analiz etmek için SPSS programı kullanılmıştır.

Bulgular, YDİ sınıflarında kelime hazinesinin artırımında roman, tiyatro ve şiire gore, kısa hikâyelerin en iyi malzeme olduğunu ortaya koymuştur. Ayrıca kısa hikâyelerle kelime öğretimi çalışmalarının önemli olduğu ve geliştirilmesi için daha fazla stratejilerin bulunması gerektiği belirtilmiştir. Akademisyenler, ders planlarını yazarken, kelime öğrenimini üzerine daha fazla yoğunlaşmaları gerekmektedir. Aynı zamanda öğrenciler kısa hikâyelerle kelime öğreniminde bütün dil becerilerini kullanmaları gerekmektedir.

***Anahtar kelimeler*:** Kelime Öğretimi, Hikâye, Yabancı Dil Olarak İngilizce.

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**ABBREVIATIONS**

**EFL :** English as a Foreign Language

**ELT :** English Language Teaching

**SPSS :** Statistical Package for Social Sciences

**SD :** Standard Deviation

**M :** Mean

**P :** Significance Value

**MD :** Mean difference

**ANOVA :** Analysis of Variance

**BC :** Before Christ

**L1 :** First language, Native Language

**Sig :** Significance

**St :** Student

**St :** Statement

**N :** Number

**G :** Gender

**C :** College