The Effect of Teaching Literary Text on Iranian Intermediate EFL Learners' Knowledge of Idioms

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This study aims at providing an insight into the effect of teaching literary text to promote learners' knowledge of idioms. The question this study tries to answer is whether teaching literary text have any statistically significant effect on increasing Iranian intermediate EFL students' idiom knowledge. To find out, first a multiplechoice Quick Placement Test was given to a group of 50 female participants between the ages of 15 and 18 to determine their level and then to randomly both the experimental and control groups of a lower intermediate level; each group consisted of 16 females of the same homogeneity, learning English in a private institute at a lower intermediate level. A multiple-choice pre-test including 20 idioms was given to the learners. Then the researcher among all kinds of literary texts, chose dramatic works to teach the experimental group. So, the experimental group received a 10-session treatment based on teaching two dramas, "the Crucible" and "Death of the Salesman", while the control group followed the traditional method on the basis of repetition and giving examples. Finally, post-test as the same as pre-test was given to both experimental and control group to determine the extent each group's knowledge of idioms had promoted. Then the results of tests were analyzed through computer-assisted program SPSS (version 22). The findings indicated that experimental group performed better in answering to post-test after treatment. Therefore, the results reveal that studying literary text is more effective for learning and understanding idioms than learning only through example and definition.

Keywords: drama, EFL learners, reading, idiom, literature

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