

A Comparative Study Between Students in Grade Six and Seven Regarding the Optimum Age of Starting to Learn English in Iranian Schools

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This study was designed to investigate and compare students in grade six and seven regarding the optimum age of starting to learn English in Iranian schools. To achieve the objective, the participants of the study were selected among 120 starter EFL learners at Nikan EFL Institute in Khomam, Guilan. Sixty students were selected, 30 of them studying at grade six school aged 12 and 30 other studying at grade seven school aged 13. A starter level English test was used as pretest to measure the general English knowledge of the students. Then all the participants finished usual EFL institute semesters. Attending the classes of the institute was imagined as the treatment of this study. Then QPT was held to see which group did better in increasing their overall English knowledge. Then the results of each group were compared and analyzed through SPSS. According to the results, learners starting at younger age (12 years old) performed better during the test. The findings obtained lead to some pedagogical implications which are beneficial for teaching and learning. Curriculum and materials developers, course and syllabus designers, learners, teachers, and teacher trainers are among those who can use the findings of this study to improve the condition and status of language teaching in the context of Iran.

Keywords : Optimum Age ,Iranian students , learning English language

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