Sudan University of Science and Technology

College of Graduate Studies

College of Languages

Investigating EMI Teacher Educators' Perceptions of Reflective Practice and Their Roles in Preparing Reflective Practitioners

الممارسة المتدبرة: تقصي إدراكها من قبل مدربي المعلمين الذين يستخدمون اللغة الإنجليزية كوسيط للتدريس و دورهم في إعداد ممارسين متدبرين

A Thesis Submitted in Fulfillment of the Requirements for the degree of PhD in English Language (Applied Linguistics)

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2017

Quranic Verse

" ... and they reflect upon the creation of the heavens and the earth:

'Our Lord, You did not create this in vain, glory to You,

so protect us from the punishment of the Fire"

(The Holy Quran, Family of Immran, 3: 190-191).

Dedication

To my father with love and gratitude …

Acknowledgement

This work would not have been achieved without the support of others whose time, effort and support were greatly appreciated.

I would like to thank Dr. Mahmoud Ali, my supervisor, for his guidance, continuous support and constructive feedback from which I have learnt a lot. He has also been a source of insights and useful resources throughout the journey.

Special thanks and gratitude are also due to my colleagues at the Emirates College for Advanced Education who agreed to take part in this study for their time, cooperation, and, especially for their perceptions and thoughts.

Finally, I am grateful to the SUST College of graduate Studies staff for their kindness and support**.**

Abstract

In recent years, reflective practice has come to be in the centre of the educational zeitgeist. Yet, its perception and application by educators is a phenomenon worthy of exploration. This study aims to uncover the idiosyncrasies regarding English as a Medium of Instruction (EMI) teacher educators' understanding of reflective practice, and their roles in nurturing reflective practitioners. Eight EIM teacher educators were participants in this study. To come to grips with this social reality (educators' perception of RP), qualitative data were generated via semi-structured interviews, observations, and institutional document analysis. Data were analysed within the interpretive paradigm to form a narrative that helped capture responses to the research questions. The themes emerged (Self-awareness, Conceptual Understanding, Scaffolding, and Topical Pedagogies) showed that participants revealed understandings of reflective practice and of their roles that was relevant to literature and were indicative of teacher educators' propensities to help prepare prospective reflective school teachers. The study recommends that: reflection should span other layers such as myco and micro levels; enhancement of heutagogy through providing more time, space and effective structure; and more emphasis on critical reflection that does not confine itself solely to the mico context. Further research is suggested into the application of reflective practice through a longitudinal study to provide more in-depth insight into reflection with regards to its developmental process in student teachers.

المستخلص

اتسم مجال التعليم في سنواته الأخيرة بشيوع فكرة "الممارسة المتدبرة"، وهي فكرة تعني التدبر و التفكر في التجربة و من ثمّ تحويلها الى خبرة و تطور. إلا أنّ هذه الظاهرة لم تحظ بمُدارسة و بحث كافيين يسبران غور فهم و تطبيق التربويين لها. يهدف هذا البحث الى دراسة أنماط فهم و تطبيق الممارسة المتدبرة من قبل التربويين الذين يستخدمون اللغة الإنجليزية كوسيط للتدريس. شارك في هذه الدراسة ثمانية تربويين في مجال تدريب المدرسين الذين يستخدمون اللغة الإنجليزية كوسيط للتدريس. و استُخدم في دراستها المنهج التفسيري لجمع و تحليل البيانات؛ و هو منهج يناسب نمط هذه الدراسة التي تهدف الى سبر فهم المشاركين لهذه الظاهرة و طريقة معالجتهم لها. تمّ توليد المعطيات من خلال أدوات ثلاث: المقابلات شبه الممنهجة و تحليل الوثائق المؤسيسية و الملاحظة. و أشارت النتائج (ملخصة في المواضيع التالية: الوعي بالذات، التصور المفاهيمي، التسقيل، و بداغوجيا الموضوع) الى أن المشاركين في الدراسة قد أبانوا عن فهم للمارسة المتدبرة و لدورهم في تطبيقها ينمّ عن توجهات و ميول يساعدان على إعداد مدرسين قادرين على تطبيق الممارسة المتدبرة في أدائهم. أوصت الدراسة: بتوسعة دائرة التدبر لتشمل كل من الذات و الإطار الثقافي–الإجتماعي–السياسي الأعم؛ و حفز الهوتاغوجيا (التعلم الذاتي) من خلال توفير زمان و فضاء أوسع و هيكلة فعالة؛ و كذلك التركيز بصورة أكبر على التدبر الناقد و هو الذي لا يتوقف فقط عند التدبر في الإطار الملاصق مباشرة لعملية التعلم. و أخيراً، دعت الدراسة الى مزيد بحث يتناول عبر دراسة مطوّلة مسار تطور الممارسة المتدبرة لدى الدارسين أنفسهم.

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List of Abbreviations/Acronyms

ADEC: Abu Dhabi Educational Council

C: Cranton (author)

CD: Compact Disc

EAD: Emirate of Abu Dhabi

ECAE: Emirates College for Advanced Education

EMI: English as a Medium of Instruction

Hab: Habermas (author)

HCT: Higher Colleges of Technologies

ICT: Information and Communications Technology

IELTS: International English Language Test System

K: Kreber: (author)

Mc: McAlpine (author)

Mez: Mezirow (author)

NSM: New School Model

NTU: Nanyan Technological University

OECD: Organization of Economic Co-operation and Development

Ph.D.: Doctorate of Philosophy

R.: Researcher

RP: Reflective Practice

UAE: United Arab Emirates

UN: United Nations

USB: Universal Serial Bus

ZPD: Zone of Proximal Development