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Evaluating the level of primary school students in the light of reading skills

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Abstract---The aim of the current research is to (evaluating the level of primary school students in the light of reading skills), and to achieve this, the researcher relied on the descriptive approach, and a research tool was built, which is the questionnaire, which consisted of (22) paragraphs distributed on six main skills: recognition, pronunciation, understanding, taste, criticism. , the evaluation and put three alternatives for each paragraph (available, available to some extent, not available), and the researcher made sure of the validity and reliability of the tool. , Hashemite District, amounted to (382) male and female students for the academic year (2021-2022 AD) and after applying the tool and unloading the data, analyzing it and treating it statistically with the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS).The researcher reached a number of results, the most important of which are: The level of availability of reading skills for primary school students (fifth grade of primary school) was very poor.

Keywords---evaluation, primary school students, reading skills.

Introduction

First, the research problem

Academic weakness in reading is a reason for failure in other academic subjects. Reading is the basis of every educational process, and a key to all study subjects. It may provide the individual with ideas and information, and inform him of the heritage of the human race. Neglecting reading, not learning it, or weakness in it has very negative repercussions. Dangerous at the level of individuals and societies, as this causes their backwardness alike, which confirms the importance of learning, acquiring their skills, and developing them so that the individual can adapt to life and serve his community in which he lives. The student's success and progress in all academic subjects depends on his reading abilities. It is not a subject with specific content that can be taught separately like most other subjects. Rather, it is an essential part of each of the other subjects, and a means that facilitates many types of learning. It is the natural entrance to learning and has importance. In the elementary school, the primary school fails miserably if it does not succeed in teaching its students to read. (Zayer and Iman, 2014: 488)

Second: The importance of research

Evaluation is an important process for students, teachers, parents, and school administrators or supervisors, from many different aspects. The evaluation process aims to clarify their own goals, so that this helps them to know what is important in order to learn, and works to develop their ability to think critically, and to do actions that will benefit them in the future. The strengths and weaknesses of their children, and provides them with information about the degree of progress made by their children, discovering their abilities and talents, and clarifying the methods through which they can help them. And verifying the strengths and weaknesses of the school curriculum, and clarifying the positive and negative points of teachers, which helps in improving their teaching methods, and comparing the results of the teaching process in a school with the results of the teaching process. O in a second school at the country level then identifies the aspects of the school curriculum that need to conduct research or scientific studies about them. (Al-Dossary, 348: 2004) Evaluating students' academic progress is an essential aspect of the teacher's work in clarifying the student's position in relation to the curriculum and with regard to peers, as well as how he progresses towards achieving the specific goals or desired levels. It is considered one of the important matters for effective teaching and fruitful learning. Indeed, this is a waste of the time of the teacher and the student, and on the other hand, if he introduces a new educational material, but the student does not have the necessary skills to deal with this material, this is also a waste of time, and both cases can lead to frustration of the student and affected by other side effects that contribute In creating problems for the teacher in class management as a result of the factors of boredom or stumbling. (Abu Al-Diyar, 152: 2012)

The importance of the research can be reflected in the following points

- The importance of education in the educational process and its active role in modifying students' behavior according to specific goals.

- The importance of evaluation as a process through which strengths and weaknesses can be revealed, and thus the process of improving and developing the educational process.
- The importance of the primary stage as the basic stage for building the student's personality and his superiority in the later stages of study, especially the fifth primary grade. It is considered one of the important upper classes in the primary stage.

Third / Research Objective: The current research aims to

(Evaluating the level of primary school students in light of reading skills)

Fourth: The limits of the research: The research is determined by the following limits

- Time limits: the second semester of the academic year (2021-2022)
- Spatial boundaries: primary schools in the General Directorate of Education in Babil Governorate
- Cognitive limits: reading skills
- Human Borders: Elementary school students (fifth grade primary) in Babil Governorate.

Fifth: define terms

First/ Calendar Language

The calendar is a language whose meaning is Weighing, estimating, modifying or reforming, we say the people of the thing, i.e. its weight, and the people of the thing, he made it a known value, and the people repel it (mistake), that is, he removed its distortion." (Ibn Manzur, 498: 2000)

Idiomatically

He was known by :(Al-Wakeel and Muhammad): It is "the process carried out by the individual or the group to find out the extent of success or failure in achieving the general objectives included in the curriculum, as well as its strengths and weaknesses, so that the desired objectives can be achieved in the best possible way." (Al-Wakeel and Muhammad, 162: 2005)

Researchers define calendar procedurally

Evaluation: It is a systematic process through which a value judgment is issued about the level of primary school students (fifth grade primary), to identify strengths and weaknesses through the observation card prepared by the researcher for the purposes of the study.

Second: Level: Define it

(Al-Laqani and Ali): It is "a level that is predetermined in a quantitative manner, what each individual is expected to achieve after completing a teaching position or

a number of teaching positions, and through that the learning outcome is judged and the teacher's competence in performing the specified duties." (Al-Laqani and Ali, 2003): 118) The researchers define the level procedurally: the exact limit or amount that primary school students can reach in reading skills as a measure in the text prepared by the researcher for this purpose.

Third: skill

Idiomatically: Define It

(Abu Jadu): It is "a pattern of elaborate performance directed towards the completion of a work or a specific simple or complex task. Skill is mastery that is built with teaching and learning, measured by the coefficients of speed and accuracy. (Abu Jadu, 1998:432)

Fourth: Reading: Known by

(Abdul-Bari): It is "an intellectual and mental activity with which the reader interacts in understanding what he reads, criticizing it, and using it to solve the problems he faces and to benefit from them in different situations." (Abdul-Bari, 2010:34)

Researchers define reading skills procedurally

It is the learner's ability to know, pronounce and understand words, expand experiences and benefit from them in his daily life.

Fifth: Primary stage

The (Ministry of Education) defined it as "the first school stage in Iraqi schools, as students enter upon reaching the age of six, that stage, which lasts for six years, which is the period of education, the compulsory system and the beginning of the basic educational ladder in Iraq, and it is considered as a prelude to the intermediate stage." (Ministry of Education, 2012: 10)

Calendar concept

Educational evaluation, in its broad sense, means an organized process based on measurement by which a judgment is made on the thing to be measured in light of what it contains of the characteristic subject to measurement. The incident in the learner's behavior and determining the degree and amount of this change (Al-Absi, 2009:14)

Calendar goals

There is no doubt that evaluation in the light of the philosophy of the curriculum is a cornerstone in the field of education and has many and varied objectives, which we summarize as follows:

- The educational evaluation seeks to formulate educational goals in a clear and easy way or way, so that they can be achieved without difficulties.
- The educational evaluation seeks to modify and change teaching methods and methods and teaching aids so that they are compatible with the nature of the goals set and help achieve them.
- Evaluation aims to make the teacher and students able to carry out the process of criticism with their positive and negative actions. (Al-Masoudi, et al., 2015: 139-140)

Previous studies

First- Iraqi studies dealing with level assessment

Al-Dauri's study: (2011)

(Evaluation of the level of students of faculties of education, Department of Arabic Language in the use of punctuation marks) This study was conducted in Iraq at the University of Babylon, College of Basic Education. This study aimed to: Evaluate the level of students of Colleges of Education, Department of Arabic Language in the use of punctuation by answering the following two questions:

- What is the level of students of faculties of education, Arabic language department, in using punctuation marks?
- Is there a statistically significant difference at the significance level (0.05) in the use of punctuation marks according to the gender variable?

The size of the research community reached (410) male and female students from the departments of the Arabic language in the faculties of education, and the researcher randomly chose (41) male and female students as an exploratory sample, and the basic sample amounted to (206) male and female students. about it, by placing the punctuation mark in the empty box .The researcher used the following statistical and computational means: Pearson correlation coefficient. Percentage, t-test, chi-square

The most important findings of the researcher

- The poor level of students of the Arabic language departments in the faculties of education in the use of punctuation marks; Because it is lower than the minimum pass score (50%), as it reached (34.529), as disclosed by the test in the spelling text.
- There is no statistically significant difference between the level of male and female students at the level (0.05) in the use of punctuation marks. (Al-Dawori, 2011, 16-180)

Second: Iraqi studies dealing with reading

Al-Qazzaz Study (1984)

(Identify pronunciation errors in the oral reading of fourth graders of primary school, measure their comprehension, and its relationship to pronunciation, and know the differences in pronunciation and comprehension in reading aloud according to the gender variable) This study was conducted in Iraq, and aimed at identifying pronunciation errors in oral reading among fourth graders of primary

school, measuring their comprehension, and its relationship to pronunciation, and identifying the differences in pronunciation and comprehension in oral reading according to the gender variable. The study sample included (240) male and female students chosen randomly from (84) primary schools in the city of Mosul, and (5 students) from each school. For the purpose of achieving the objectives of the study, the researcher prepared two achievement tests to verify their validity and reliability, one of which measures pronunciation in reading aloud, and the other measures comprehension. As for the pronunciation test, it is a text consisting of (200) words that the sample members read and their oral readings are recorded on a recording machine, and then the pronunciation errors are corrected according to the following criteria: substitution, addition, deletion, repetition, cutting the word into its letters during reading, ambiguity of the word and its lack of clarity in While reading, the heart. As for the comprehension test, its questions were formulated from the pronunciation test tool, and when correcting these questions, the researcher assigned an independent score for each of these questions. To analyze the results, the researcher used the following statistical methods: percentage, Pearson correlation coefficient, t-test, and second-degree analysis of variance.

The study reached the following results

The (substitution) error got the highest percentage of the rest of the pronunciation errors in the oral reading. As for the other pronunciation errors, they got lower percentages and were, in succession: - repeating the word once, cutting the word into its letters, adding a letter, deleting a word, deleting a letter, and adding a word The addition of a syllable and the repetition of the word twice, while the following errors occurred: (repeating the word more than twice, deleting a syllable from the word, the heart) had the lowest percentage, which is (1%) for each of these errors. (Al-Qazzaz, 1984, pp. 30-82)

Benefit aspects from previous studies

- Know the sources and literature that researchers used to benefit from in writing theoretical topics related to the current research
- Choosing the appropriate sample size for the current research
- Examine the tools used to measure reading skills.
- Know the statistical methods used in research that use (note card) as a tool for the study
- Determining the curriculum that fits the current study
- The researcher had a clear vision of the previous studies and the method and methods of the researchers in writing the thesis.

Research Methodology and Procedures

First: Research Methodology: The descriptive method was used to suit the nature and data of the study

Second: search procedures:

Research community

The current research community is

- The original community of schools :The number of primary schools in Babil Governorate for the academic year (2021-2022) reached (951) primary schools.
- The original community of fifth grade students: The number of fifth grade students in primary schools in Babil Governorate for the academic year (2021-2022) reached (75,000) male and female students.

Research sample

- Sample of schools:The total number of schools reached (951) schools spread over four districts, and after the adoption of (5%) of the schools, the number of schools representing the studied community became (47) schools.
- Sample of students:The researcher relied on the table developed by Craigysi and Morgan to determine the appropriate sample size at different levels based on the original population size, which is (75,000) and assuming the percentage (5%). (Al-Ma'ani et al., 2012:91)A sample randomly selected (382) male and female students from the basic sample schools (47) schools, who constitute (5%) of the original community of students.

The research tool

Since the research aims to evaluate the level of primary school students (fifth grade primary) in the light of reading skills, and this requires the preparation of an observation card. And record aspects of that behavior or its characteristics. (Abbas and others, 2011: 254)

Honesty

To verify the validity of the tool, the researcher presented the observation card in its initial form and the criteria for its correction to a sample of the 22 experts who specialize in the field of Arabic language and its teaching methods, curricula and general teaching methods.

Stability of the tool

to calculate the stability of the research tool through the iterations that were recorded by the researcher and the observers, and the reliability coefficient between the researcher and other observers reached (79.92), for the skills of the observation form.

Application of the tool

The researchers started applying the search tool on Tuesday (15/3/2022) and ended on Sunday (8/5/2022). The application period lasted seven weeks, with one visit to each school and one viewing for each male or female student for period of (45) minutes. The application is as follows:

- The researcher presented as a visitor
- It explains to the students how to read the aforementioned text, explaining the purpose of reading and the required instructions, and working to provide the appropriate circumstance from a place and time with the help of a recording device and specifying the appropriate time.
- The use of the subject teacher in each school to maintain the integrity of the experiment and its smooth flow
- The researcher's view of the application through the field visit and through the video and audio clips of the students' observation.
- Recording what the researcher noticed about the level of students in the observation form
- Marking the observed level by putting a check mark in the field that corresponds to the student's level for each of the reading skills observed by the researcher.

Third - Statistical means

To process and analyze the data, the researcher used the following statistical methods:

- Pearson correlation coefficient: to find out the internal consistency of the exponent Tamara note.
- Weighted mean: to arrange the paragraphs of the observation form and to know the strengths and weaknesses.
- Cooper's equation: to know the relationship of each paragraph to its field and to calculate the stability of the research tool represented in the observation form.
- Chi-square: to find the validity of the test.
- Weight percentile: the order of the paragraphs in the field

Presentation of the Results

After presenting and interpreting the results of the study, the following conclusions can be drawn:

- The level of primary school students in reading skills was very weak.
- Weakness of Arabic language teachers' interest in the reading skills of primary school students.
- It appeared that the level of primary school students (fifth grade) in reading skills (recognition, taste) was average.
- It appeared that primary school students in reading skills (comprehension, evaluation, pronunciation, criticism) were very weak.
- The content of academic preparation in primary schools did not include the important recent experiences and information in preparing students cognitively.

Recommendations

In light of the results of the current research, the researchers recommend the following:

- The necessity of directing male and female teachers to the importance of reading skills and how to understand them
- Develop a guide (the teacher's guide) to educate male and female teachers on the various reading skills and methods of developing them, and exercises on them.
- Conducting competitions among students in reading skills and honoring the winners.
- Develop the desire of primary school students to attend school libraries and benefit from them and encourage free outside reading.
- Finding a special lesson within the Arabic language lessons, starting from the third grade of primary school, in which it provides training on reading skills.

Suggestions

In light of the conclusions and recommendations, the researcher suggested the following:

- Conducting a similar study to evaluate Arabic language teachers in the light of reading skills.
- Building a remedial program to develop reading skills for primary school students
- Conducting a survey that shows the teachers' point of view of primary school students in the light of reading skills.

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