

Metaphors Production and Comprehension by Qatari EFL learners: A Cognitive Approach

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Abstract

The present study investigates the problems that face Qatari learners of English as a foreign language (EFL) in the production and comprehension of the metaphorical expressions. It aims to reach pedagogical insights related to EFL curriculum design and teaching metaphors. The sample of the study consisted of 40 Qatari students study English courses in the Department of Language and Literature as a requirement for their associate degree at the community college of Qatar. A questionnaire, writing test and interviews were used as instruments of the study. The findings of the study showed that the Qatari learners of EFL encountered difficulties in the comprehension and production of the conceptual metaphors due to their unfamiliarity with the culture of the English Language and their incapability to evaluate whether a statement is meant to be a metaphor or a literal one. Therefore, to raise the EFL learners' awareness of the conceptual metaphors the materials of teaching EFL should focus on the social and cultural dimensions of the language.

Key words: conceptual metaphor, EFL learning, metaphor awareness, metaphorical mapping

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