

PRESERVICE SCIENCE TEACHERS' VIEWS ON EPISTEMOLOGY OF SCIENCE: THE CASE OF ARTVIN

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Abstract

The purpose of this study was to explore preservice science teachers' views about epistemology of science. A total of 99 freshman, sophomore, junior, and senior preservice science teachers in Artvin Coruh University participated in the study. In order to explore preservice science teachers' views about epistemology of science across years in teacher education program, the instrument "Views on Science-Technology-Society" (VOSTS) developed by Aikenhead, Ryan, and Fleming (1989) was administered to them. For this study, we utilized 14-item version of the instrument addressing the epistemology of science. It was translated into Turkish by Dođan-Bora (2005) and validity evidence was established. Data analysis was based on frequencies for each item and participants' answers were categorized as realistic, has merit, and naïve which was suggested by Rubba, ve Harkness (1996). The difference between preservice science teachers' years in teacher education program was compared.

Key Words: Epistemological beliefs, epistemology of science, nature of science, preservice science teachers.