

EFFECTS OF THE USING VISUAL STUDY MATERIALS ON TEACHING: ANADOLU UNIVERSITY CASE

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Abstract

As a visual component image and text are complementary elements for a book. The aim for using them is to facilitate learning by supporting texts with visual elements. Visual presentation elements, which hold an extra importance due to the nature of textbooks, are gaining increasing significance for distance education course books. Despite the use of technologies such as academic counseling, the internet, CDs, audio-recordings, videotapes, television etc. as teaching tools in distance education, course books still remain as the main teaching material.

For distance higher education students, visual elements are employed to assist their longer retention of the learned material as well as help them understand the information presented in their course books.

This study focuses on students who are currently enrolled in the distance education system of Anadolu University. It analyzes the functions of the visual elements such as tables, figures, graphs, pictures, and photographs in the distance education course books in the light of the survey data obtained from the students studying in the aforementioned distance education context. It should be noted that the proper use of such visual elements requires expertise. Conducted on students by field specialists, periodic research will definitely help find out the ways to ensure maximum instructional benefit from such visual elements.

Keywords: Distance education, visual element/actor, questionnaire, course book.