

ANALYSIS OF SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHER CANDIDATES' PERCEPTIONS TOWARDS SOME GEOGRAPHIC CONCEPTS THROUGH METAPHORS

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Abstract

This study is a descriptive study based on qualitative research designs prepared to analyse social studies teacher candidates' perceptions towards geography and with which metaphors they express their perceptions. The study group of the research is consisted of undergraduate students who are studying at Süleyman Demirel University, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Department of Geography in the 2015 – 2016 academic year. In determining the participants, criterion sampling method of non-random sampling of purposive sampling method was used, and 142 undergraduate students participated in the research. The research data was collected using "Student Metaphors Questionnaire Towards Geography Concept" which was developed by the researchers of this study. This questionnaire is consisted of 10 items based on expert opinions and relevant literature review. According to the findings of the research the teacher candidates produced 328 valid metaphors related to 10 different categories in the research. These metaphors were classified under 39 different conceptual categories in terms of their common features. When the teacher candidates' metaphors towards geography concept their perceptions towards geomorphology and Geographic Information Systems are at a lower level. They did not have difficulty in producing metaphors in other concepts related to geography.

Keywords: Socialstudies, Teacher candidates, Geography, Metaphor.